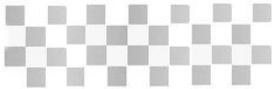


SPRINT SERIES

TOYOTA  **2012**

Event Report - Round 3 Barkston Heath 12th August 2012

The 2012 Toyota Sprint Series found itself back in familiar territory for round three, Barkston Heath in Lincolnshire hosting a round for the eighth time in the series history. Popular amongst drivers and spectators alike, it's tight, twisty nature with smooth tarmac allowing competitors the only real opportunity to compare lap times from previous years. Has driver technique improved? Have car modifications made a difference? According to previous years the answer would be yes on both counts, but here was another opportunity to find out.

After the weather chaos of recent months, thankfully the weather gods chose to have a weekend off, and the whole weekend was blessed with gorgeous sunshine and high temperatures.

It was encouraging to see several first time entrants for this round, not least of which was Autocar's Steve Sutcliffe, double entered in a standard GT86, and also sharing the new Fensport GT86 which had already undergone several modifications in the month between delivery and the cars debut at Barkston.



Results in class order:



Class F Street – Up to 1.0

The little iQ of Sally Ingold made a welcome return to the series, but this time Sally had allowed her partner Jas Halsey (above right) to pilot the car. Normally Joe Tapply (above left) would be found in Class A3 Pro, but sadly a gearbox failure on Saturday meant a non start for his supercharged Celica. Undeterred, Joe showed his commitment to the series by returning home and bringing a totally standard Yaris back to do battle with on Sunday.

Jas soon realised better suspension and geometry along with a race seat would have helped his cause, but settled in well on his first sprint, and first time driving a front wheel drive car competitively. His last run was his fastest with a 74.21. Joe realised the little 1.0 litre needed a totally different driving style to his normal mount, but enjoyed it immensely to end up with a 71.51 on his seventh run to seal the class win.



Class D Street – Up to 1.6 Normally Aspirated

Matthew Tyson (above) made his second appearance in the series and the first of 2012 in his AE111 Corolla. After posting identical times in his first two runs, Matthew found over a second on his third run, and a further 1.3 seconds on his seventh run to win the class with a 62.76.



Class D Pro – Up to 1.6 Normally Aspirated

With Guy Bentley and Rob Peirson absent for this round Neil Chillingworth (above) had things all his own way in Class D-Pro. Neil still pushed hard in his MR2 though, and improved by nearly three seconds between his first and seventh runs. A 60.39 was his reward resulting in 22nd overall.



Class C Street - Over 1.6 Normally Aspirated

Making it's UK track debut, a standard red GT86 was bought along by Toyota GB for Steve Sutcliffe to share with Adrian Smith (above left) to use as a comparison against the modified Fensport example. This will of course be reported in more detail in forthcoming issues of Autocar magazine.

Dan Quinn's normally aspirated Supra (above right) looked positively huge parked next to the GT86, but as normal Dan drove brilliantly, threading the car through the tight confines of Barkston with very consistent times.

Adrian and Steve traded very close times all day long, enjoying themselves immensely in the superb handling, balance and braking of Toyota's long awaited new sports car.

Although being more than adequate for road use, both drivers soon found the limit of the tyres that come supplied on the car, but proof of endurance was in the fact that Adrian's fastest time was set on his seventh run, and Steve's on his eighth.

Adrian just managed to pip Steve by a mere .23 of a second, a 58.41 claiming the class win. Steve's valiant 58.64 ensured second place, and a highly respectable 60.14 for Dan claimed third in class.



Class C Pro- Over 1.6 Normally Aspirated

Six competitors in five cars made up Class C Pro.

The new Fensport GT86 (above left) was of course claiming the limelight, but how would it fare against series regulars David Holland's MR2, Paul Thomas's Supra, Jeff Lotts (above right), Stephen Ellis's and Steve Walker's Celica's? As at Blyton, Stephen got the upper hand over David, Stephen's 62.00 and David's 64.93 both set on their last runs. Jeff and Paul enjoyed an incredibly close fight all day, nearly every run seeing them trade positions. It was anyone's guess who would come out ahead, but Jeff just came out on top by an incredible .03 of a second.

Fensport had received their GT86 just 4 weeks prior and it had undergone various modifications including Toyo 888's mounted on Ultralite wheels, a nice weight reduction through stripping out, series sponsor Superpro bushes, a coilover kit, carbon rear wing and mirrors, and a race battery and seat amongst many other alterations, it was interesting to see how the modified GT86's lap times would compare against the standard car. Had Fensport ruined or improved an already brilliant car?

The first timed run gave an instant answer.... four seconds faster! Adrian and Steve would enjoy another enthralling dice over the eight runs. Leaving the traction control switched on on his fifth run was the only blot on Adrian's copybook, as he held the upper hand over Steve to beat him by 0.89 of a second to claim not only the class win but also secure the overall victory.



Class B Street

The ever cheerful Vit Seebaluck (above) was the lone entrant in Class B Street, his EP91 Starlet Glanza looking immaculate as always. Vit again gained confidence as the day wore on, improving his times by 1.46 seconds between his first and seventh runs resulting in the class win and 25th overall.



Class B Pro – Up To 1.6 Forced Induction

Husband and wife pairing and Series stalwarts Phil and Vix Cutler's trusty supercharged MR2 (above) made up Class B Pro. Vix put in a series of consistent times, only 1.46 seconds separating all of her eight runs. It was Phil who won the class however, a 56.89 on his fourth run netting him a brilliant 11th place overall, putting him above some much higher powered machinery.



Class A3 Street – Over 1.6l Forced Induction

Class A3 Street consisted solely of black ST205 Celica's.

Di Turner's example (above right) found a 3.51 second improvement between her first and seventh runs, a 58.91 ensuring third in class and 17th overall.

Another to enjoy a titanic scrap were the Crabtree brothers, John and James (above left). Here were another two who would trade best times throughout the day, both drivers posting their best times on the eighth and final run. John just grabbed the win with a 57.49, sealing 12th overall, James's 57.83 claiming 13th.



Class A3 Pro – Over 1.6l Forced Induction – Modified

Ziggy Dykes bad luck continued for Barkston, a bike accident leading up to the event rendering him a non starter. Every member of the series wishes Ziggy a speedy recovery, and hope to see him and his ingenious MR2 back in action soon.

Steve Lawson (above right) was one of many to benefit from driver training the previous day, his beautifully prepared 3SGTE powered MRS being closer to the pace than ever before.

Winner of the previous event at Blyton, Iain Gard (above left) was keen for a repeat result, and was once again very fast. Steve's 55.88 gave him an excellent 6th overall, but once again Iain came out on top, a 54.61 posted on his seventh run handing him the class win and still very impressive second overall, splitting the two GT86 drivers.



Class A2 Street - Over 1.6 Forced Induction

David Moore (above) was the only entrant in Class A 2 Street, his nice Castrol liveried car being a welcome addition to the series. The only blip in the day came on run four, every other lap David did was an improvement over the last, gaining 3.52 seconds between his first and last runs. A Class win and 18th overall was his reward.



Class A2 Pro – Over 1.6 Forced Induction

Making his first appearance this year, it was good to see the return of Alex Meade's lone Supra in Class A2 Pro. He was joined by the usual suspects, Barry Mason's ST185 Celica

benefiting from a new suspension package, Neil Latham's rapid 3SGTE powered MK1 MR2 (above right), and the Servicetune ST185 Celica of Nigel Levinson and Andy Bunney (above left).

A rather inconsistent day time wise saw Alex record a 58.09 on his fifth run, ensuring fifth in class. Nigel was unexplainably unable to match his second run time of 56.77, leaving the way open for Barry, Neil and Andy to fight out the class win. Barry was the slightly more consistent than Neil, but just lost out by .16 of a second after Neil posted a 56.21 on his seventh run. This left Andy a well deserved winner, showing how he continues to make excellent progress as a driver the more he competes. A 55.48 on his fifth run handed him the class win and a brilliant fourth overall, only .04 behind Steve Sutcliffe in third.



Class A1 Pro Over 1.6 Forced Induction

The "Big Banger" class that is A1 Pro had a new addition in Lee Rogerson, sharing Christian Timm's MR2 Turbo (above right).

Lee acquitted himself well, and despite missing three mid day runs, set a 63.41 on his last run to finish third in class. Christian was also on the backfoot after missing two runs himself, but still posted a 56.15 on his last run to finish a creditable seventh overall. But it was the much improved Andy McCormack who grabbed the class spoils by .55 of a second, also claiming fifth place overall.

Results – Simplified:

1st Overall: Adrian Smith – GT86R

2nd Overall: Iain Gard – ST205 Celica GT4

3rd Overall: Steve Sutcliffe – GT86R

Class A1 Pro Winner: Andy McCormack - ST165 Celica

Class A1 Pro Runner Up: Christian Timms – MR2 Turbo

Class A2 Pro Winner: Andy Bunney – ST185 Celica GT4 David Moore

Class A2 Pro Runner up: Neil Latham – MR2 Turbo

Class A2 Street Winner: David Moore – ST205 Celica GT4

Class A3 Pro Winner: Iain Gard – ST205 Celica GT4

Class A3 Pro Runner up: Steve Lawson – MR2 Roadster

Class A3 Street Winner: John Crabtree – ST205 Celica GT4

Class A3 Street Runner up: James Crabtree – ST205 Celica GT4

Class B Pro Winner: Phil Cutler – MK1 MR2 SC

Class B Pro Runner up: Vix Cutler – MK1 MR2 SC

Class B Street Winner: Sai Seebaluck – Starlet Glanza EP91

Class C Pro Winner: Adrian Smith – GT86R

Class C Pro Runner up: Steve Sutcliffe –GT86R

Class C Street Winner: Adrian Smith – GT86

Class C Street Runner up: Steve Sutcliffe –GT86

Class D Pro Winner: Neil Chillingworth – MK1 MR2

Class D Street Winner: Matthew Tyson – Corolla AE111

Class F Street Winner: Joe Tapply – Yaris

Class F Street Runner up: Jas Halsey - iQ



Toyota Sprint Series
Overall Results

Barkston Heath ·
12-Aug-12

Pos	No	Class	Name	Best Time	Run							
					One	Two	Three	Four	Five	Six	Seven	Eight
1	86	C-P	Adrian Smith	54.55	55.63	55.28	55.34	54.55	60.66	54.80	55.77	54.55
2	22	A3-P	Iain Gard	54.61	VOID	56.10	60.85	55.66	55.01	54.67	54.61	VOID
3	87	C-P	Steve Sutcliffe	55.44	55.85	55.85	55.44	56.02	56.37	56.11	56.19	56.02
4	16	A2-P	Andy Bunney	55.48	57.42	56.27	56.12	55.63	55.48	56.22	55.85	57.41
5	6	A1-P	Andy McCormack	55.60	57.75	56.72	57.19	56.68	55.60	63.02	55.77	58.10
6	23	A3-P	Steve Lawson	55.88	57.99	56.13	55.88	56.33	56.11	56.03	57.50	56.37
7	5	A1-P	Christian Timms	56.15	57.81	57.29	56.75	NR	NR	57.38	56.45	56.15
8	14	A2-P	Neil Latham	56.21	59.23	58.43	59.29	56.80	56.94	57.37	56.21	56.70
9	17	A2-P	Barry Mason	56.37	58.41	56.87	56.56	56.37	56.78	VOID	56.58	58.93
10	15	A2-P	Nigel Levinson	56.77	57.15	56.77	57.48	57.91	57.05	56.91	57.58	56.98
11	41	B-P	Phil Cutler	56.89	57.83	58.57	57.76	56.89	57.13	VOID	57.22	VOID
12	32	A3-S	John Crabtree	57.49	61.93	59.95	60.02	58.72	58.38	58.57	58.04	57.49
13	31	A3-S	James Crabtree	57.83	60.06	60.23	58.83	59.60	58.49	59.35	58.37	57.83
14	57	A2-P	Alex Meade	58.09	61.91	68.71	NR	58.51	58.09	60.57	58.43	73.67
15	88	C-S	Adrian Smith	58.41	60.58	71.17	58.98	58.86	60.33	59.17	58.41	58.57
16	89	C-S	Steve Sutcliffe	58.64	59.54	60.45	58.76	VOID	VOID	59.63	58.96	58.64
17	33	A3-S	Diane Turner	58.91	62.42	60.70	60.20	59.59	59.68	59.29	58.91	59.78
18	20	A2-S	David Moore	59.25	62.77	61.80	61.36	61.85	60.22	60.12	59.74	59.25
19	55	C-P	Jeff Lotts	59.39	61.33	61.31	60.50	61.93	60.61	59.39	60.74	59.77
20	52	C-P	Paul Thomas	59.42	61.69	60.98	61.21	60.44	60.27	60.33	59.85	59.42
21	62	C-S	Dan Quinn	60.14	62.49	61.60	60.43	60.68	60.25	61.37	60.27	60.14
22	65	D-P	Neil Chillingworth	60.39	63.43	62.83	61.55	61.84	61.31	61.10	60.39	VOID
23	42	B-P	Vykki Cutler	61.18	62.50	62.64	61.18	61.37	62.35	62.41	61.66	61.44
24	53	C-P	Stephen Ellis	62.00	64.93	63.41	63.51	62.59	62.58	VOID	62.99	62.00
25	46	B-S	Sai Seebaluck	62.63	64.09	64.48	63.57	63.90	62.93	63.38	62.63	VOID
26	71	D-S	Matthew Tyson	62.76	65.40	65.40	64.09	63.89	63.68	63.49	62.76	63.59
27	7	A1-P	Lee Rogerson	63.41	64.73	63.44	NR	NR	NR	63.88	64.12	63.41
28	54	C-P	David Holland	64.93	68.51	72.65	68.13	67.47	66.08	65.66	66.56	64.93
29	24	F-S	Joe Tapply	71.51	76.22	74.83	74.67	72.95	NR	73.27	71.51	71.91
30	77	F-S	Jason Halsey	74.21	81.09	78.86	79.05	77.58	76.19	75.39	76.01	74.21



Barkston Summary:

Although familiar to everyone involved in the series, Barkston is never short of surprises.

This year history was made by the UK race debut of the new Toyota GT86, sensationally winning the event overall on its debut in the hands of Adrian Smith. Steve Sutcliffe also showed further proof of how good the car is by finishing third overall. This win was the first by a rear wheel drive car, the first for a Class C entrant, and the first for a normally aspirated engine in the series.

This event also proved how driver confidence and speed improves with each round. Testament to that is how driver's times get better year upon year at the same venue, without any further car improvements.

Barkston will also be remembered for the closest times between competitors, hundredths of a second now making the difference between winning or losing.

Numbers may remain static, but the quality, competitiveness and stature continue to grow, whilst maintaining the friendly nature the series has always been so proud of. Only two rounds remain this season, so please encourage your friends to come and see what those involved are so proud of.

Next Round: Croft September 16th



Event report by **TSS Tim**

Photo's courtesy of Brian at brian@saidro.com

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