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LOTUS:10

& Clubman Notes



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Features:

Morgan Park
Phillip Island EMR
Evora Cup



Morgan Park Sprints

6-7 Mar 2010 by Joe Arico.



Mike doing some mowing

The Queensland Super Sprint Series is underway for another year at Morgan Park Raceway. The weekend of March 6th and 7th couldn't come fast enough for new comers and regulars alike. Lotus was represented well with competitors spread over 4 groups.

For a few of us, the week-end started on Friday afternoon with a practice session on the short circuit - the circuit that was used for the whole week-end. Garry Pitt, Jason Patullo and myself were the first to arrive followed by John Flynn, Rob Stevens and Geoff Noble. Garry, Jason, John and Rob were all scrubbing in new tyres and I was just trying to learn the track before running against the clock on Saturday for the first time. Geoff was making preparations for what turned out to be another flawless performance. Rain threatened on Friday but never came....

We awoke to a wet day on Saturday and super sprint virgins Wade Greensil and myself were feeling a little nervous. Our first outing on a wet slippery track! Great! Wade had not driven the track at all so it was a real baptism of fire for him!

We tip toed around the track for the first 2 runs in wet conditions. Garry was quickest in first run with a time of 3:38.4 followed closely by Jason 1.5 seconds behind. Rob Stevens took third followed by John Flynn, myself and Mike Goodfellow.

The tables turned in second run with Jason ahead of John Flynn by over 10 seconds with Gary coming in 3rd after a "moment" at turn 1. He was not alone, Mike spun on the first lap and did some mowing and I followed 2 laps later. Rob also had a spin although he selfishly did not contribute to the ground keeping at Morgan Park, deciding he would just spin it on the black stuff.

By the third run the track had gone from wet to damp making for an "interesting" drive. Rob decided he would back his car through the esses while Jason was in hot pursuit. When Jason arrived at the scene after cresting the hill at the entry of 4 he was somewhat surprised to see the wrong end of an Elise pointing at him! Some quick actions by the flag marshal (very quick!) and hasty action from Rob averted any potential dramas and the run continued. Garry finished quickest followed by Jason and John.

That was Saturday over. It was time to get out of our wet shoes, grab a shower and get a meal.

Fine "Scottish" weather prevailed early on Sunday with plenty of misty rain to greet us on our first run. Conditions were quite slippery as expected. Jason topped the time sheets, followed by Rob with Gary not far behind.

After nothing but wet runs all week end, we welcomed the return of



Rob exiting turn 6



Joe at speed



some real grip on a dry track the second run on Sunday. As expected times tumbled with Jason pipping Gary by a couple of seconds setting a time of 2:51.3 with Rob coming in third.

The track had been dry for most of the 2 hours prior to our final run but there was a shower about half an hour before we hit the track. I think we were all expecting it to be quite slippery but surprisingly there was plenty of grip out there. Gary set the quickest time with a 2:53.4 followed closely by Jason with yours truly in third. I would be impressed with myself, but by this time both John and Rob were no longer with us...

I wouldn't be doing this article justice if I didn't mention our other Lotus brethren that competed in the other groups

Greg Bray brought his recently restored Lotus 61 for the week-end. We all drooled over the quality of his workmanship – the car is a true credit to his skills. He and Peter Boel in his rebodied Lotus 23 represented the mark well, performing well in their group. Peter was quickest on a number of runs and his car sounded fantastic.

Wade Greensil did very well in his M100 Elan, especially considering he had never driven the track before. He managed to finish second on his first run in very wet conditions!

Finally, Geoff Noble in his Honda powered Elise and John Barram in his Lotus 7 represented the mark in their group. Geoff drove away from the field on all his runs and John put in a very smooth drive to finish 3rd on a number of his runs over the week end.

The highlight of the week-end was the 2nd run on Sunday when Geoff Noble and Geoff Nothdurft (in his Farrel Clubman style race car) battled on a drying track. Noble went out on R-spec semi slicks and wet setup. Nothdurft was on slicks. Noble was under pressure by the 2nd corner with Nothdurft clearly having more grip. Despite huge pressure from Nothdurft, Noble drove flawlessly making no mistakes to stay ahead. Nothdurft set the fastest time but the dice had the crowd on the edge of their seat and giving plenty of applause. It was thoroughly enjoyable to watch.

The stage was set for a full on battle between the two Geoff's for the final run of the day. Geoff (Noble) changed to a dry setup and slicks but unfortunately he had an electrical fault and was a non starter. Bummer...

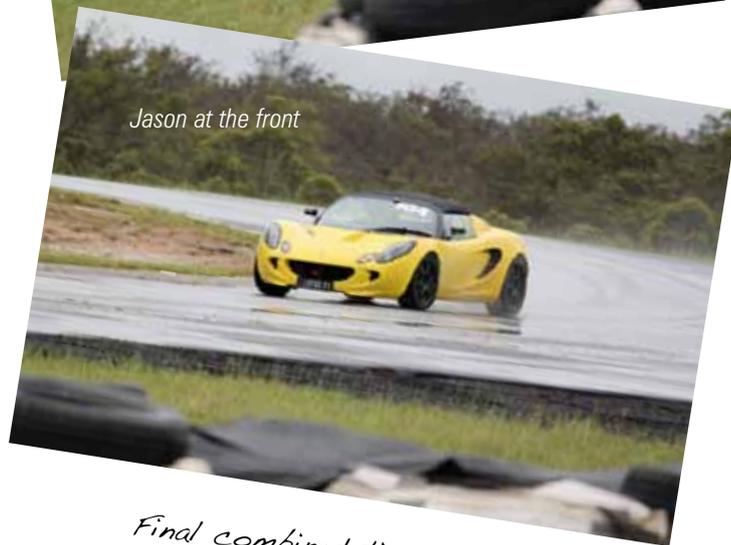
Not only did Geoff have a broken car but he also ended up with a broken lady with Maree pulling her Achilles tendon in a rush to notify the starters that Geoff was on his way down pit lane when it looked like the car was alive for a brief moment....hope you're OK Maree....

On a personal note, this was the first time I experienced my Elise in its natural habitat against the clock. I am so impressed with the times these little cars can do in a relatively standard state. I am a beginner and managed 8th overall (out of 86 cars) on the third run on Saturday and I can assure you all that at this stage it is more car than driver!

Looking forward to the next round on the long track!



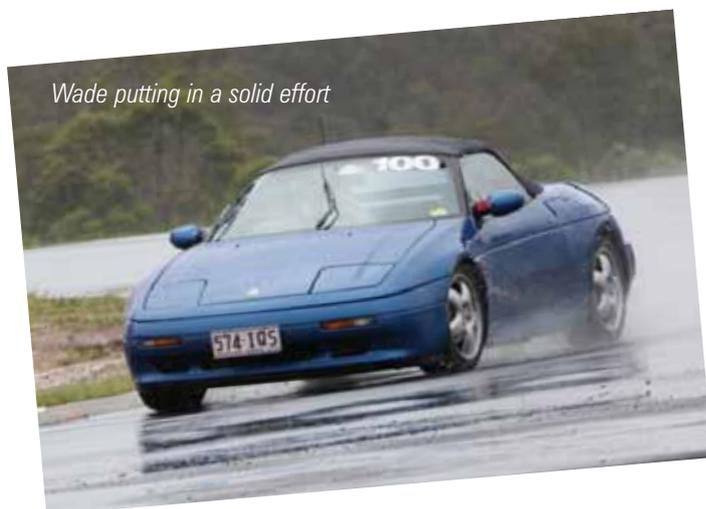
Gary pushing hard



Jason at the front

Final combined times for the week-end:

Competitor	Car	Time
Geoff Noble	Lotus Elise (4/PE)	2:41.415
Jason Patullo	Lotus Elise	2:51.332
Garry Pitt	Lotus Elise	2:53.360
Robert Stevens	Lotus Elise	2:56.679
Peter Boel	Lotus 23	2:57.126
Greg Bray	Lotus 61	3:02.729
Joe Arico	Lotus Elise	3:05.386
John Barram	Lotus 7	3:14.720
John Flynn	Lotus Elise	3:24.626
Mike Goodfellow	Lotus Elise	3:25.215
Wade Greensil	Lotus Elan M100	3:54.338



Wade putting in a solid effort

