



Caterham Graduates Racing Club News Croft, Mallory Park and Cadwell Park July 2020

Croft Circuit - Saturday and Sunday 11/12 July

It was great to be back racing at long last, with most drivers admitted to being slightly "rusty" and a consensus that e.racing was no substitute for the real thing!

We think it fair to say that the meeting went very well, apart from Craig Atkins' (Sigma 135 No. 81) unfortunate off at Tower towards the end of the last race. Craig won't be back for Mallory, but he and Darren Holdcroft (Sigma 135 No.75) are working hard to get the car ready for Cadwell Park in two weeks.



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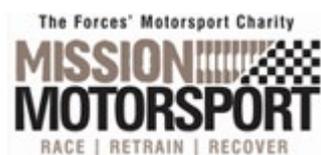
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It was a pleasure to welcome our four first time drivers - Ray Ryder in a Classic (ex Graham Smith, Paul Gardner car), Adam Cottrell in a Sigma 150 (we believe our youngest ever racing member – 16-year-old ex-karter), and David Read and Callan Jones in Sigma 135s. Well done to you all.

Mark Inman joined us in the Sigmax class and immediately impressed with a fifth in class in Race 2. We also welcomed seven new members racing with us for the first time in the Sigma 135 Class; Dan Clayphan, Neal Evans, Ian Fortescue, Simon White, James McCall, Alastair Currey and Gideon Wilkinson.

The racing was dominated by Leeds based Henry Heaton, winning all three races, driving the CTS Motorsport Sigma 150 hire car. Henry was "warming up" for his second season with Caterham Motorsport in his 420R. I'm sure we all look forward to seeing how he goes in that at Cadwell in a couple of weeks.



Harry Senior was unlucky, having qualified as the fastest Sigmax for all three races, securing P.2 on the grid, he failed to take the start of the first race due to a gearbox/clutch issue.

Heroic efforts by PT Motorsport technicians in the time that remained on Saturday were to no avail, so an overnight dash to Snetterton (a 420-mile round trip!) was called for to pick up a part held by the other PT Motorsport crew supporting drivers at that meeting.

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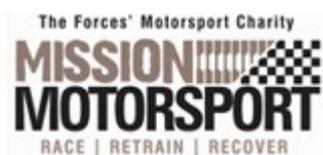
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As racing was not due to start until just past mid-day on Sunday (due to local restrictions), everyone took it easy and had a leisurely Sunday morning, apart from the PT Motorsport technicians who had work to do.

In case the Sigmax couldn't be fixed in time Harry asked to run another car (a Sigma 150) for race 2 and 3 and went out at mid-day to do three laps behind the safety car to satisfy MSUK requirements. That proved to be a wise decision, as the Sigmax, after a new gearbox and clutch, still wasn't right.

So, Harry started both races from the back of the first part of the grid, i.e. before the Classic class, and had impressive drives through the field, securing P.2 finishes in both races and second in the Sigma 150 class to Henry Heaton.

We knew lap records would be hard to come by, having been set on our last visit to Croft, a year earlier, on the grippy new tarmac.

Notwithstanding that, Dan Clayphan (No. 73), below, (who presented similar pronunciation challenges to former Club members Michael Apostolides and Zoltan Csabai) was very happy with his new lap record of 1:33.969 in the competitive Sigma 135 class, set as he chased after triple class winner James McCall in Race 2.



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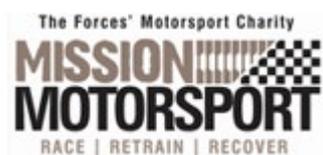
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Driving standards were in the main good, and no formal requests for investigations have been received at the time of writing. Respect was shown to our novices, and only a few isolated incidents were drawn to the attention of Andy Molsom (Sigmax No. 20) and Marc Noaro (Sigma 135 No.68) from the CGRC Driving Standards Team. These were dealt with by way of informal chats, and no further action was taken.

The incidents involved weaving and blocking, and an unsafe rejoin. There were also a number of opportunities to clarify what is acceptable regarding overtaking moves, so reducing the potential for contact in future.

Track limits were regularly exceeded on the exit of the Jim Clark Esses on the run down to Barcroft. Perhaps there wasn't a marshal available to spot the infringements – please don't rely on that going forward!

The new arrangements for this season with no formation lap, and a green flag lap commencing from the assembly area, worked well, with drivers arriving on the right side of the grid. There was an issue with Race 2 when the assembly marshals incorrectly told Matthew Willoughby in P.3, to take Harry Senior's vacant position in P.2. We also didn't get a full green flag lap for one of the races, when the cars were sent down the shortcut to the grid after Tower corner. BARC apologised for these issues.

Social distancing worked reasonably well in the paddock; however, most of the drivers forgot about it in parc ferme – it must have been the adrenaline rush! Hopefully, we can improve on that at Mallory Park.

BARC's pre-event social distancing arrangements work well, and no one missed pushing their car to scrutineering first thing on Saturday morning before the curfew was lifted. However, it has to be said; many did miss the usual banter with Keith Marchment, our long-standing eligibility scrutineer. Normal service is due to be resumed at Mallory Park.

Result sheets were not available due to the COVID restrictions, and we are looking at alternative arrangements so we can supply results at Mallory.

Mark Carter's (Classic No.85) excellent detailed race report is now available in the Comp Info area of the website, and can be accessed here -

https://www.cgrc.uk/docs/2020717_CGRC%20Race%20Report%20-%20Round%201%20-%20Croft.pdf

And the full TSL timing results for Croft are here -

<https://www.tsl-timing.com/file/?f=BARC/2020/202821gra.pdf>

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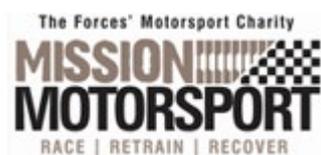
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Croft marked the start of the Club's agreement with our new official photographer, Jon Bryant of www.SnappyRacers.com. Here's a message from Jon, recently posted on CGRC Facebook Community page:-

Hi everyone,

Whilst I know quite a few of you I thought I better introduce myself as the season is underway! I'm Jon of [SnappyRacers.com](http://www.SnappyRacers.com) and I've joined the paddock this year to act as official photographer.

I've been a full time professional photographer for 6 years now and taking photos trackside since 2006. This is what I do for a full time job so it's kind of important to me and my mortgage that I do it well.

I've been the photographer for the Caterham Motorsport championships since 2014 as well as numerous other championships, Autosport, Motorsport News, Motorsport, Top Gear and - dare I admit it - had my work in the Daily Mirror too.

The board have beaten me up enough that you drivers get a better deal than any other championship that I cover by some significant margin. The main model of you acquiring these images is through an up front season package which means the images automatically arrive with you on a bespoke Dropbox link the week after each event.

Your whole season of images is then only £265. That covers every event and gives you a minimum of 30 images from each event, all at hi-res and all watermark free. A weekend by weekend deal is available for just £50 per weekend too.

Whilst you had a Fake Jon stand in for Croft you have my smiling face for Mallory and most of the rest of the season so I will be walking the paddock introducing myself and signing people up to the season package. But don't run away when you see me, be nice to meet you!

If you're already sold then drop me a line to jon@snappyracers.com or send me a message.

Thanks to those already signed up and look forward to getting on board properly at Mallory and Cadwell!

If you'd like to maximise the number of images of you or have any queries, then let him know in advance on jon@snappyracers.com or 07720 441456.

As you will see Fake Jon is rather good and a full set of some 150 images can be found on the SnappyRacers website here:-

<http://www.snappyracers.com/galleries/caterham-graduates-croft/>

They can be purchased individually in various formats.

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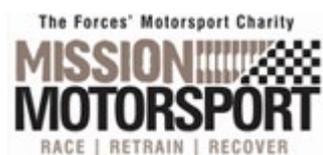
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If anyone has observations on the Croft meeting, and suggestions for improvements, please contact any one of the Executive Directors - details at the end of this note.

Looking forward to Mallory Park – Sunday 29 July

We are likely to end up with between 22 – 24 entries for Mallory, resulting in everyone having three races on a mixed grid along with free practice and qualifying.

We welcome first-time racers Myrton Wood, and Alaric Barney in the Sigma 135 class. Alaric is following Callan Jones' example of taking his ARDS test a few days before and is borrowing James McCall's winning car from Croft - they must be good friends!

Adam Cottrell and Callum Jones return for their second race meeting with us, and we welcome back Guy and Harry Cramer for a shared drive in Harry's Sigmax.

Full details will follow in the Mallory Briefing note that will be issued in the next few days.

Looking further forward to Cadwell Park - Sunday 2 August

We are two weeks away and have only **17 entries**. However, the race schedules suggest we might have a problem with capacity(?), with **43** saying either Definitely (17), Very Probably (12) and Don't Know (14).

If you wish to race at Cadwell, please enter ASAP as the grid capacity is 34, and we have guests wanting to enter. As this is a BRSCC meeting, entry is via the CGRC system here:-

<https://bookwhen.com/cgrc#focus=ev-s5uh-20200802000000>

Could Racing Members please let us know their intentions by amending their race schedule accordingly - access is via the Members Area on the website - <https://www.cgrc.uk/default.asp>

While you are in your race schedule, please check the other meetings for the rest of the season.

Other News

Pembrey – Saturday and Sunday 3/4 October

Only 17 Racing Members are currently indicating they will definitely or very probably enter. With this number the Club will make a significant loss, so we may need to cancel. We draw this to your attention now, as the Club needs to decide by mid-August.

In considering whether you should enter, you should be aware that with a keen interest in the three other meetings after Cadwell (Snetterton 200, Oulton Park International and Silverstone International), it is very likely that we will need to ration spaces.

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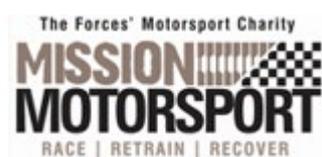
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This will no doubt disappoint some members, who may not be able to race as much as they wish. So, you may want to consider entering Pembrey?

While we can't guarantee the weather, it's a great circuit, and it's going to be the best value racing this season at £395 for Free Practice (15 mins), Qualifying (20mins) and 3 Races (20, 25 and 25 mins), a total of 105 minutes track time.

Testing on Friday is also very reasonable at £110 for a half-day and £180 for a full day, for BARC members AND we share the meeting with the mad 1000bhp BTRA Trucks!

Please let us know your intentions via your race schedule before 15 August; the Club will then decide whether to go ahead with the meeting or cancel.

Best regards

CGRC Executive Directors

Barry White - chairman@cgrc.uk

Peter Marsh - treasurer@cgrc.uk

John Benfield - competitions@cgrc.uk

Andrew Outterside - commercial@cgrc.uk or membership@cgrc.uk

19 July 2020

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