



Event Report, Round 1, Waterbeach, Sunday March 16th 2008

The Toyota Sprint Series 2008 championship got off to fantastic start. Even the bitterly cold wind and heavy rain could not dampen the competitor's enthusiasm. The event was run by track day specialists Javelin with support from Toyota GB, Blitz-UK, Fensport, Prolex-UK, Toyo Tyres and Turbo Dynamics.

A very technical track had been laid out the day beforehand; featuring a mix of medium length straights leading into various tight sections. As well as long sweeping bends which when wet were certainly a great test of car and competitor. The dominant weather on the day only served to enhance the layout further.

An excellent turnout of 41 competitors started the morning's first practise runs and judging by the various spins with even the 4wd cars having traction problems, the track was extremely slippery. With many novice drivers having never sprinted before, the conditions were certainly like being thrown in at the deep end! One driver, David Brooks in his rwd 4age starlet was certainly having fun as well as entertaining the spectators with his sideways antics.

After each competitor had completed their 3 timed runs, it was time for lunch and a study of the timesheets, which were throwing up a few surprises.

Class F (1.0L), Paul Thomas in the 1.0 class Aygo was going much faster than the 67bhp car would suggest and embarrassing quite a few higher power cars.

Class D (under 1600cc NA) Phil Cutler in his MR2 MK1 held a 1 second lead over David "sideways" Brooks in the rear drive starlet.

Class C (over 1600cc NA) Tim Cogman held a healthy 3 second lead over his nearest rival. His fwd Celica posting faster times than quite a few 4wd's too.

Class B (Under 1600c forced induction) Tom Dyke in his Supercharged MR2 was leading by over 5 seconds. The Mr2 was showing great traction in the wet conditions.

Class A2 (Over 1600c forced induction limited modifications) had 19 competitors fighting for honours, Otis Hayes in his Celica GT4, pulled out a 1.5 second gap over Barry Sheldrick's GT4.

Class A1 (Over 1600c forced induction), Darren Deavall in his Celica GT4 posted an incredible 1:04.8 to give him a 0.8 second gap over Adrian Smith in his Corolla GT4.

After lunch and sprint times were digested, there was some frantic activity by various teams in the pits. The weather was changing, dry tarmac was starting to appear and there was much debate over tyres, tyre pressures and suspension settings.

Adrian Smith was muttering something about Darren Deavall's times, and was heard saying "if you can't beat him join him" in reference to changing his tyres to match Darren's Toyo R888's. Quite a few others were also changing over to "dry" type tyres as well.

As soon as the afternoon sessions were started it was obvious the dry tyres were the correct choice, with all the drivers who had made the change, reporting back with improved handling and lap times. The track conditions were definitely improving with every run, and many "in class" battles were resumed.

Class F, Paul Tomas, the sole runner in the 1.0 class, set his sights on much more powerful machinery and the Aygo was certainly well driven beating no less than 6 other cars.

Class D, both Brian Bales and David Brooks made the best of the drying conditions. Brian took 2nd in class, whilst David tamed the rear end of the Starlet and was fastest in the under 1600cc class as well as finishing 13th overall, an outstanding result on his first ever event. David also picked up the Hard Charger Award.

Class C, was the closest battle of the day, Tim Cogman just edging out Rajan Nahr by 0.37 seconds, both driving Celicas, they were followed very closely by Mike Rawlings in his V6 MR2.

Class B, Tom Dyke in his supercharged MR2 held on to his early lead and Pete Grimmer tried his best to catch him but suffered with traction problems in the slippery conditions and had to settle for second in class in his Starlet Glanza Turbo.

Class A2, The top three in class A2 were setting some incredible times which were hot on the heels of the A1 cars. Simon Marsh (MR2 Turbo) was 3rd in class with a very creditable 1:05.73, although no trophy is awarded; he was the fastest 2wd car on the day. The 4wd boys better watch out if it dries up!

Barry Sheldrick took the fight to Otis Hayes in the afternoon, They both drive Celica GT4's and had been fast all day, but Otis had a couple of spins, and with only one run left Barry was a mere 0.2 seconds off. It was all to play for going in to the final session and it was Otis who produced a stunning 1:03.14 lap on the very last run, giving him a lead of 1.7 seconds, to take 1st in class and a very creditable 3rd overall.

Class A1,

After Darren Deavall's lunchtime lead of 0.8s, it was up to all the other all the other drivers to catch him up. Adrian Smith in the Corolla GT4 had changed to dry tyres at lunchtime and stiffened the Corolla's suspension; it was now handling much better and he set off in pursuit of Darren's lead, Both cars were going much faster in the drying conditions, Darren posting a best time of 1:02.89, but was not quite enough to beat the flying Corolla which recorded a best run of 1:00.21 to take the top honours.

- 1st Overall; Adrian Smith, Corolla GT4
- 2nd Overall; Darren Deavall, Celica GT4
- 3rd Overall; Otis Hayes, Celica GT4
- Class A2 Winner; Otis Hayes, Celica GT4
- Class B Winner; Tom Dyke, MR2 Supercharger
- Class C Winner; Tim Cogman, Celica 2.0GT
- Class D Winner; David Brooks, Starlet 4AGE Rwd
- Hard Charger Award; David Brooks, Starlet 4AGE Rwd



Waterbeach, Round 1, Summary:

The first round of the championship has really set the scene for the following 4 rounds. Unlike the weather which was truly atrocious, the first round was hailed a great success by all the competitors. Everyone really enjoyed themselves, and the competition was fierce. Battle recommences with round 2 at Barkston on the 4th May.

We would like to thank Javelin Trackdays for their professionalism and smooth operation of the day. Also Thank you to all our sponsors for making the championship a reality.

Adrian Smith – 1st Overall



Darren Deavall - 2nd Overall



Otis Hayes – 3rd Overall & Class A2 winner



Tom Dyke – Class B winner



Tim Cogman - Class C winner



David Brookes – Class D winner



Paul Thomas – Class F winner



Full Results can be found at
<http://www.toyota-sprint-series.com/forums/viewtopic.php?f=29&t=177>

Many more pictures from the event can be found at
<http://www.toyota-sprint-series.com/forums/viewtopic.php?f=29&t=174>

Competitors own write ups can be found at
<http://www.toyota-sprint-series.com/forums/viewtopic.php?f=29&t=179>

For General information on the sprint series please visit
<http://www.toyota-sprint-series.com/forums/index.php>

Thank you to our Sponsors

2008 Toyota Sprint Series is sponsored by

