



Event Report, Round 2, Barkston, Sunday May 4th 2008

The Toyota Sprint Series 2008 championship contenders headed to Barkston, a purpose built smooth tarmac, narrow and twisty sprint track for round 2.

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 record field of 53 starters gathered in the paddock, in anticipation of the day's competition. Joining the field for the rest of the season were 5 Auris SR180 diesels, driven by a mixture of Journalists, representing Banzai, Japanese Performance, Max Power and Redline magazine. The cars were entered by Toyota GB and everyone was keen to see how both the cars and drivers would perform.

The weather could not have been better, dry and sunny, and perfect for sprinting. The mornings untimed practise runs were soon dispersed and the competition was definitely on. The first 3 timed runs saw everyone trying very hard, there was talk of a few showers in the afternoon, so these times could well count as the fastest.

Class F (1.0L), Paul Thomas in the 1.0 class was up to his usual tricks, his 67bhp Aygo was flying round the circuit, using only first and second gears for the whole lap, Paul was showing a few of the bigger cars the way round.

Class E (Diesel) With 6 drivers battling it, all in identical Auris SR180s, it was soon apparent this was going to be a close battle. Chris Rees took the lead, albeit by a hundredth of a second over Steve Neophytou, with Joe Clifford only 4 tenths behind.

Class D (under 1600cc NA) Yet another 3 way battle with David Brooks in his rear drive starlet, edging out a slim margin of 4 tenths over Phil Cutler in his MR2 MK1, and followed closely by Jo Walker in her MR2 MK1 just over a second behind.

Class C (over 1600cc NA) Patrick Mortell made a welcome return to Barkston and was straight on the pace in his MR2 MK2, setting a blistering 57.49 on his very first run, followed by Jeff Lotts in his Celica with a 59.9.

Class B (Under 1600c forced induction) Barrie Newsome was going well in the dry conditions, his Starlet turbo finding better traction than at the previous round, he held a 1.2 sec advantage over Pete Grimmer in his similar Starlet.

Class A2 (Over 1600c forced induction limited modifications) Simon Marsh in his MR2 Turbo was showing his intentions from the start with 57.3 to lead Otis Hayes in his Celica GT4 by just over a second, both drivers had their sights on the A1 class and an overall win.

Class A1 (Over 1600c forced induction), Adrian Smith in his Corolla GT4 set a 54.1, but was keeping a close eye on Darren Deavall and Phil Reeve, both in Celica GT4s and just over a second behind.

After a staggered lunch and a few tweeks to the cars, some banter between the drivers and spectators saw the field head for their afternoon runs. Run 4 remained dry, but a light shower of rain dropped most of the times on run 5 by a second or 2, runs 6, 7 & 8 were dry and virtually everyone went even faster.

Class F, Paul Tomas, the sole runner in the 1.0 once again set his sights on much more powerful machinery and the Aygo was punching above it's weight, beat no less than 14 other cars. Paul went on to set a 64.25 lap and took home the Hard Charger award for his efforts.

Class E (Diesel) Chris Rees increased his lead over Steve Neophytou to 0.7 sec, with Joe Clifford 3rd in class, only 0.1 behind. The Auris is certainly proving itself as very quick car, finishing 32nd overall.

Class D, David Brooks and Phil Cutler were pushing their 4age engines to the limits, with David just beating Phil by 0.1 of a second. The 2 drivers also finished an excellent 12th and 13th overall.

Class C, Patrick Mortell's very first run of the day was the fastest in class C, and enough to keep Jeff Lotts in 2nd. Patrick finished a very creditable 7th overall.

Class B, Barrie Newsome carried on his charge to lead Pete Grimmer by nearly a second.

Class A2, Simon Marsh in his MR2 Turbo was swapping tenths with Otis Hayes in his Celica GT4. Both were trying very hard and were determined to upset the class A1 drivers. Simon, on his very last run, set an incredible 54.99 which was just enough to beat Otis's time of 55.39. Both drivers very nearly got their ultimate reward, Simon went on to finish 2nd overall and Otis was 3rd overall, beating all but 1 class A1 car.

Class A1, Adrian Smith in the corolla GT4, knuckled down and adjusted the Corolla's suspension to dial out some understeer, it worked well and the little car was flying, setting a best time of 53.44 on his way to 1st overall. Darren Deavall in his GT4 was 2nd in class with a 55.73 and took 4th overall. Phill Reeve in his Celica followed closely behind Darren and set a 56.35 on his way to 5th overall. Barry Charters in his Celica GT4, was also getting faster and faster all day, his best time was on his last lap, a 56.71.

- 1st Overall; Adrian Smith, Corolla GT4
- 2nd Overall; Simon Marsh, MR2 Turbo
- 3rd Overall; Otis Hayes, Celica GT4
- Class A2 Winner; Simon Marsh, MR2 Turbo
- Class B Winner; Barrie Newsome, Starlet Turbo
- Class C Winner; Patrick Mortell, MR2 NA
- Class D Winner; David Brooks, Starlet 4AGE Rwd
- Class E Winner; Chris Rees, Auris SR180 Diesel
- Class F Winner; Paul Thomas, Aygo 1.0
- Hard Charger Award; Paul Thomas, Aygo 1.0



Barkston, Round 2, Summary:

The 2nd round of the championship has really raised the bar. The competition and driving standards have been raised yet again. With new class winners and A2 cars now challenging for the top spot, the championship is wide open.

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.

Roll on round 3 at Teesside on the 14th June.

Full Results can be found at

<http://www.toyota-sprint-series.com/forums/viewtopic.php?f=32&t=239>

Many pictures from the event can be found at

<http://www.toyota-sprint-series.com/forums/viewtopic.php?f=32&t=235>

For General information on the sprint series please visit

<http://www.toyota-sprint-series.com/forums/index.php>

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