



SPRINT SERIES

TOYOTA  **2008**

Toyota Sprint Series – Round 3 – Teesside – 14/06/2008

Teesside Autodrome was host to the Toyota Sprint Series for Round 3 of the Championship. The event was run by track day specialists Javelin with support from Toyota GB, Blitz-UK, Fensport, Prolex-UK, Toyo Tyres and Turbo Dynamics.

An impressive field of 46 varied Toyota's made the trip north to compete in the first of 2 rounds to be held at this impressive venue.

With scrutineering and sign on complete, the cars headed out for 2 practise runs, to be followed by 8 timed runs. Most drivers were soon reporting a lack of grip but everyone seemed to love the technical layout of the circuit.

The first pair of runs, saw the celicas of Darren Deavall and Barry Sheldrick in first and third with Si Marsh's MR2 in second place. Adrian Smith took a cone out on both runs and failed to record any time at all, which demoted him to last overall, much to the amusement of his championship rivals.

The battles throughout the classes were just as intense, the varied classes were entertaining the spectators all evening long.

For the 2nd pair of runs, as car no 1 arrived at the startline, the heavens opened. The competitors could see it was only a heavy shower but nearly all (Where was Supra Barry?) took to the track for some wet practise.



Adrian's Corolla (above left) actually managed to avoid the cones this time round and was the fastest in the 2 wet sessions, but still trailing Darren's (above right) dry times by 3 seconds.

Their battle continued in to the night as runs 5-8 passed there were only a few tenths between them. Darren would pull a tenth or 2 then Adrian would catch him, only for Darren to go faster again. Both cars were on the limit and it was all down to the very last run, when Adrian matched Darren's fastest time of 49.36 exactly. As Darren's fastest time was set earlier in the day, he deservedly took 1st Overall.



Class A2, Simon Marsh (above), was the pacesetter in this restricted turbo class. Once again he was worrying the higher power cars of class A1, Simon worked hard all day, adjusting suspension and improving the car, a spin on run 7 proved his commitment, his best time of 50.30 took him to 3rd overall. Barry Sheldrick (GT4) was also going extremely well and was second in class with a 51.17, great time and good enough for 4th Overall.



Class B, Barrie Newsome (above left) took Class B honours after another day long battle with Pete Grimmer(above right), both in similar Starlet Turbos. Barrie set a 54:7, just 2 tenths faster than Pete, and also went on to finish an excellent 12th overall.



Class C, Jeff Lotts (above left) was back for this round and immediately set the pace in his front wheel drive 2 Litre Celica GT, followed by Rajan Nahr (above right) in his 1.8 version. Jeff finished 1st in class and 8th Overall, with a blistering time of 53:06, a fine drive yet again.



Class D, A very close battle was fought all day between Phil Cutler (above), Garrick Abrahamson and Jo Walker all driving similar MR2 MK1's. Only 4 tenths of a second separated them, and Phil went on to take class honours and 19th overall with a 55:51 second lap.



Class E, Chris Rees (above) was yet again the pace setter in class E, much to the amusement of Stavros, with his new reprogrammed Auris, Stav was a full 5mph faster along the back straight but unable to match Chris's pace in the corners. Chris also went on to finish a very creditable 11th overall with a time of just 54.36 proving just how quick the combination of Chris and the Auris diesel is.

Summary:

Judging by the friendly pit lane banter, smiling faces and packed prize giving, Round 3 was a huge success, Teesside is certainly a great venue and the TSS were made very welcome. Darren Deavall's win has certainly opened up the championship at the sharp end, but equally important are the amazingly close battles throughout the field.

MR2's, Celica's, Supra's, Lexus, Corolla's, Auris, Starlets, Sera.....If you like Motorsport and Toyota's then the Toyota Sprint Series is the place to be....

The next Round is at RAF Woodbridge in Suffolk on August 17th, Spectators are welcome to come along, for further information please see <http://www.toyota-sprint-series.com>

Photos can be found here
<http://www.norwichphoto.co.uk/tss/r3/>

More photos here

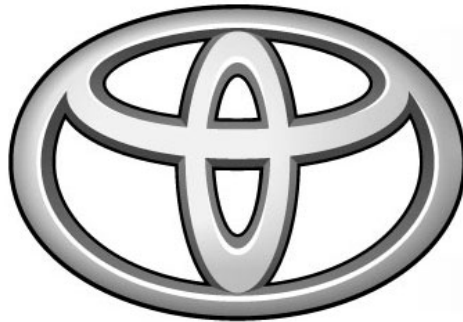
<http://www.toyota-sprint-series.com/forums/viewtopic.php?f=33&t=303&hilit=>

Competitors own reports can be found here

<http://www.toyota-sprint-series.com/forums/viewtopic.php?f=33&t=309&hilit=>

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