

THE WESTMORLAND MOTOR CLUB LTD

FOUNDED IN 1910 AS THE WESTMORLAND MOTOR CYCLE CLUB

Affiliated to the ACU
Registered with the RAC
President: PS Duff MBE

Registered Address: 218 Burneside Rd, Kendal
Company Registration No. : 651924 England

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PRESS RELEASE – for immediate use

REPORT ON BARBON SPEED HILL CLIMB; SATURDAY MAY 15th 2004

A capacity crowd at Barbon was treated to some spectacular driving as the British Hillclimb Championship circus moved up to Cumbria last weekend.

Track and weather conditions were just perfect for an assault on the four-year-old outright hill record of 20.86 seconds set back in 2000 by David Grace. Current Championship leader Adam Fleetwood posted two runs below this, earning himself one of the coveted Barbon Stars as he took it down to 20.51 seconds in the first of his two fastest-12 runs, clearly fully at home in the big V8 Gould.

Post-run data revealed that the faster cars were attaining nearly 140mph on the main straight after the exit from the very fast Richmond bend and Graeme Wight Jr was using every bit of the narrow ribbon of tarmac and some of the grass to try and close the gap to Fleetwood. Still running the glorious-sounding Opel-based Cosworth V6, Wight Jr has a significant horsepower deficit that he hopes to rectify when he wheels out his new V10 machine later in the season. Put a date in your diary now for the same weekend next year – a V10 on full-chat up the hill will be a sound to tell the grandchildren about for years.

The top two didn't have all of the fun and Willem Toet (the BAR F1 team's aerodynamicist) was consistently quick and held third spot in both Championship run-offs. In his new carbon-fibre chassis OMS, Trevor Willis may have only had 2-litre Vauxhall power behind him but still mixed it with the much larger cars and survived a scary moment at the exit to Richmond when he ran wide onto the grass at what will have been over 100mph, recovering brilliantly to cross the line with damage only to his elapsed time.

It's a busy weekend for the Championship contenders as they all pack up after Barbon to head straight over to Harewood in Yorkshire for Rounds 6 & 7 the next day.

In the remaining classes, the story was remarkably similar where a further three records fell: Class 12's 12 year old record finally tumbled to Phil Cooke in the Suzuki Hayabusa motorbike-engined Force with a time of 22.77 seconds; the Class 14 record from May 2000 went to Graeme Wight Jr with a time of 20.95 seconds and Broughton in Furness driver, Peter Speakman, lowered his own Class 15 Historic/Sports racing record set just last year to 31.69 seconds.

Adding a new dimension to the crowd's enjoyment this year was a huge lorry-mounted LED screen which relayed the startline activity to the Lafone hairpin crowd at the top of the hill. The

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organisers, Westmorland Motor Club, were delighted with the response to this innovation and are looking at the possibility of it becoming a regular feature at Barbon.

The next event at Barbon will be on Saturday June 19th for sports, saloon and racing cars with the motorcycles, 3-wheelers and racing Quads having their own meeting on Saturday 31st July.

END

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