

Nottingham Sports Car Club Speed Championship 2016 - Final Roundup

Having completed 18 rounds of the NSCC Championship by the end of August, the first part of call for September was MIRA with MAC, where the top 2 contenders for the NSCC title battled the conditions as much as each other. Standing water and changing conditions caused a number of incidents and 2nd placed Gavin Neate was fortunate not to do more damage to his Peugeot 106 during some rally-cross style demonstrations in front of the control tower. No photography allowed, unfortunately! It was declared a wet round and both Gavin and front runner Gordon Peters (Nissan 350Z) gained 20 points for winning their respective classes, so there were no changes in overall positions. In fact MIRA was the last event for both of them, effectively declaring their innings and sending the message 'catch us if you can'.

Round 20, by contrast, was a glorious sunny day on the Harewood Hill. Andrew Rollason was clearly determined to close the gap to the top 3, but remained in 4th place, despite setting a new PB in his Class SA Ford KA. Steven Wright in the marvellous Mk1 Escort, was another one to improve on his previous Harewood performance and Steven Tomlinson in his Subaru Impreza Type R scored solid points to move above Dave Purdy in the NSCC table. Meanwhile, Dave managed to squeeze under 70 seconds, a personal goal, in the multi-coloured Manta.

The final weekend of the Championship at Anglesey was also a tale of contrast, with a wet and windy Saturday on the National Circuit, followed by a fantastic sunny Sunday on the International GP Circuit.

Neither Gordon, nor Gavin were at Anglesey and after Harewood, no-one could catch them in the Championship, so their places were assured without even turning a wheel. That left the rest of us to fight it out for 3rd and below.

There were just seven of us on Saturday (trying to be magnificent!) for round 21, sliding our way around 2 laps of the National layout. Although not in the Championship, our competition secretary Steve Miles deserves a special mention, as he won the British Sprint Championship top 12 run-off on Saturday. He also secured the BSC 2 litre class title and finished 5th overall in their Championship, his best season to date.

Saturday was a wet one, with both myself and Andrew Rollason able to gain the maximum 20 points from the wet round. Matt Turner also scored well, to maintain his 3rd spot in the Championship, but I was closing in...

After a damp start on Sunday, the Anglesey circuit dried out and Andrew went on to beat his target time, but despite his best efforts, he dropped to an admirable 5th in the Championship.

3rd position went right down to the wire between myself and Matt. We both improved our times on the final runs of the day and finished, separated by just 0.05 of a point. Matt improved enough on the final run to take 3rd in the championship and I had to settle for 4th.

Matt also took the honour of the Harry Driver Trophy, for the fastest NSCC driver throughout the year.

That means Life Member Gordon Peters is the very worthy 2016 NSCC Speed Champion in the notorious Nissan 350Z GT, followed very closely by last year's champion, Gavin Neate.

The Classic Car award goes to Rodney Ellis in his superb Lotus Elan and we are pleased to give the Highest Placed Novice award to enthusiastic newcomer Hamish Gibson in his EVO 9.

The NSCC is committed to running events for members and competitors, we are very pleased to announce that the 2017 Championship will include 4 NSCC

organised rounds. A double header at Curborough in July and a double at Blyton Park in September (to replace the sadly demised Thoresby Park weekend). The NSCC are also pleased to announce that the 2017 Championship will be sponsored by On-Track, the track day and motorsport event directory.

Full NSCC Championship results:

Pos			Class	Car	Points
1	Gordon	Peters	1C	Nissan 350Z GT	160.91
2	Gavin	Neate	1A	Peugeot 106	159.01
3	Matt	Turner	3F	Westfield Mega R1	154.60
4	Stephen	Morrison	2E	Lotus Elise S1	154.55
5	Andrew	Rollason	SA	Ford KA	152.68
6	Paul	Webb	3F	Aries Locost	136.26
7	Richard	Abraham	2A	Caterham Roadsport	125.81
8	Tim	Burrill	3B	Peugeot 205 GTi	116.21
9	Robert	Smith	3B	Peugeot 205 GTi	110.44
10	John	Clarke	2A	Caterham S3	103.79