

Oulton Park Gold Cup Meeting

The final Front engined championship race

(August 25th & 26th 2012)

The Gold Cup meeting is one of the biggest events of the year at the magnificent Cheshire parkland circuit.

Andrew and Gil took the cars up on Friday and set up the Team Bond 'camp' with flags and awnings.



Qualifying

Both Gil and I were pleased with our qualifying positions. I was 3rd and Gil 6th overall. Stuart Roach 2nd and an amazing time was set by Simon Goodliff to put him on pole, with perhaps a record front engined time of 1:59.96. Derek Walker, a veteran of Oulton Part was having engine problems but still managed 4th. Our qualifying session was dry between the very mixed weather.

Although Simon went unbelievably well he had a problem with his rear brake drum. The car was dismantled and the drum repaired overnight, ready for a quick assembly job on Sunday morning.

Race day

The paddock was full and our own little display of Bond flags, information banner and cars created lots of interest. We all took time to show the cars to other enthusiasts and explain the idiosyncrasies. There was a constant flow of people fascinated by the unique layout of the cars.

The start

I was lined up behind the pole sitter, Simon Goodliff and keen to make a good start. As the lights went out we shot forward towards the first corner. I passed Simon but others passed me. I think I was 5th coming out of Old Hall corner. It was extremely close as we all tried to recover our original positions. Stuart Roach just shot off into the distance. Simon passed me and took off in pursuit. I passed Derek Walker to take 3rd, lapping a second faster than qualifying. After just 4 laps Simon retired with a gearbox problem, leaving me to inherit 2nd place. I had no chance to catch Stuart as he was circulating in 1:59.6 seconds, 2 seconds faster than me. After a rather lonely race I finished 2nd.

Gil also lost places at the start, but had a great race passing Bill Grimshaw and Keith Roach. Gil then spent the remaining time pressurising David Hall (BMC Huffaker) but was unable to get passed. Gil finished 4.2 seconds behind David in 4th position overall. Pretty good for a 1000cc car.

Oulton Park turned out to be Team Bonds best joint result. 2nd and 4th

Overall Winners

1st Stuart Roach (Alexis MK2) 2nd Andrew Tart (Bond 002) 3rd David hall (BMC Huffaker)
4th Gil Duffy 1st in Class B1 (Bond 001)

Next Race

Goodwood