

Race Results



Date	29 th & 30 th October 2011
Location	Mallory Park – Sidecar Festival
Conditions	Saturday: Dry,Cold,Sunny - Sunday: Wet,Cold, Drizzle
Passenger	Stephen Cowin

Saturday - F2 (B) Class Race	
Lap	Time
1	1.09.952
2	1.03.805
3	1.05.157
4	1.04.418
5	1.04.924
6	1.05.760
7	1.06.085
8	1.07.369
9	1.06.093
10	1.07.046
Best Ave lap Speed	78.426

Saturday – Open Class Race	
Lap	Time
1	
2	1.07.359
3	1.04.130
4	1.04.326
5	1.03.844
6	1.03.625
7	
Best Ave lap Speed	78.648

Sunday – F2 (B) Class Race	
Lap	Time
1	1.16.887
2	1.11.308
3	1.12.280
4	1.12.096
5	1.11.198
6	1.11.536
7	1.11.263
8	1.11.883

9	1.11.253
10	
Best Ave lap Speed	70.283

Sunday – Open Class Race	
Lap	Time
1	1.14.176
2	1.09.818
3	1.13.467
4	1.14.097
5	1.14.015
6	1.12.854
7	1.13.205
8	1.12.666
9	1.12.251
10	
Best Ave lap Speed	71.672

Summary	
Quickest Lap	1.03.625
Slowest Lap	1.16.887
Best Ave lap Speed	78.648

LAST YEAR 2010	
Quickest Lap	1.03.562
Slowest Lap	1.18.100
Best Ave lap Speed	78.700

Race Report

Time of Reflection



(Image by Derek Donsworth)

The big aims for the weekend were to try to get near 1.00.00 lap time, to be at the top of the B final, to try to pick up a trophy. Well you know what happens to plans!

Having travelled down on the Thursday, we spent our first night ever in a hotel. "That would never happen in the old days" I hear the hardened Sidecar teams say. Well we deserve it, plus two of us were full of colds and the prospect of 3 nights under canvas or in the back of a van was just not an option. Also when you have an A la cart menu to choose from (Steaks and Apple crumble) and a bar and a big fire and the Team Chef says she's having the night off. Hotel it is. Having found this lovely location the Team is however considering spending the three nights next time and just rolling up for racing... whatever next.

Friday was spent dashing to the Super store stocking up on provisions, and setting up camp having received some insider information from our marshal friend Philip Clayton that we could get into the track at lunchtime. Awaiting the arrival of Geordie Paul reserving his location and setting up various sizes and colours of tents. Ending up with a Team Oscar village. So a very warm hot curry and rice was the order of the evening. Before headed to the bar in our thermals or in some cases tights (Debs A.) for our night camps. A lot of joviality, and a lot of heat was created. One team member actually lost her tights and was under threat that they may appear at anytime hanging from the grandstand. A very cold night was spent under canvas, but most eventually fell asleep listening to giggles and a very strange noise from a hand held tool from one multicoloured tent, with pint pots stacked up in neat rows.

Last year there was an A and B race in the F2 class with about 20/22 racers in each. This year with so many entries there was an A, B, and C finals. Not knowing this fact and not prepared to sand bag to be just in the C final we went out well prepared, and in qualification according to our trusty time keeper Tony we did some really consistent times around 1.04 mark both in the F2 class and the Open. Initially we were disappointed to be in the B Final because the competitors we had close races with last year were in the C Final. But then thinking about it, No that's where we are in the Sidecar world in the Top 40+ and don't be ashamed of being at the bottom of the B Final.

The Team Oscar camp was buzzing, some of the Team had witnessed an overtaking manoeuvre coming out of Gerrards and into Edwina's, some say three sidecars involved some say four. All we know is there was a gap and I wasn't hanging around to be pushed about at Edwina's. A banana and a quick drink with some time to get breathe back. Time to meet new fans and sponsors "The Tiplers" Paul ,Sean, Lee, Lisa, Katie, Sophie, Elliott and Liam and have some pictures taken.

The race schedule was punishing both on the Saturday and Sunday, the B final was just before the Open so it was complete 10 laps into pit lane back out, up to holding area, warm up lap and back round for another 10 laps each time.

The F2 Class race for us was pretty non-eventful, we tried hard, overtook a couple. Never quiet having the confidence yet to put it in 6th and drive it round Gerrards but it's coming. Finished out of starters. Having witnessed a horrific accident going into the hairpin on the first lap of the Open a break stood back on the start grid was a welcome. Spotting Jason and Chris and the Tiplers on one side of the track and Tony on the other. (Oh and out of the mouths of babes the youngest Liam apparently calls Stig – Stick . Obviously the young fan club took great pleasure in seeing Oscar on the grid and informed all around in hearing distance that Oscar was there.) The marshal gave us some good news that both driver and passenger were ok. So race heads on the grid took up locations and off we went, not a great start but steady overtaking one into Gerrards and an F1 on the exit. Yippee!!!! Come on Oscar! Keep it tidy, no you are no tired, keep away from those rumble strips. Back into parc ferme to congratulate the Open winners. The F1's were truly like rocket ships, awesome. Having climbed back on to Oscar to leave the paddock you can imagine our total disbelief when they called out Stig's name and mine as 2nd place 600cc Open finishers and the class was won by fellow Isle of Man competitors Karl Bennett and Lee Cain. Get in there! The surprise of the trophies was evident in Team Oscar because none of the team had photos of the presentation.

Lunchtime break was one of the saddest moments that happens in racing, heads bowed down by those who knew but didn't want to say. News filtered through to the paddock that in the morning in the F2 race A Legend in the passenger world Dave Wells had died due to injuries sustained. I had only met Dave once

and that was at the Southern 100 this year, he was a gentleman with some very wise words of encouragement. Which I am sure he has brought to many teams throughout his racing career. The sidecar world along with Team Oscar sends our deepest sympathies and sincerest condolences to Sarah, Di, Roy, Rose, all family, Friends and all at Hanks Racing.

Jason and Chris made it over the bridge and found we had reserved a location for the "Music Bus".

Having checked Oscar over and refuelled, Stig and myself agreed to only race the Open class in the afternoon. But it wasn't to be, with 30 mins to go we tried to start Oscar up and he had a flooded carb. A few gentle taps with a 4lb lump hammer didn't do the trick either. So with Allan Langtons help the carbs were off, fiddled with tapped and back on, but the call to the holding area had gone. It just wasn't meant to be that we raced in the afternoon. Janet had spent most of her day preparing a very welcome Ham and lentil soup, which went down really well and some even left for breakfast. However some of Team Oscar preferred cold ravioli and spaghetti but they know for next time eh Jason. The evening was spent listening to some very silly French trumpet player and awful singing. But the company was great, beer flowed and happy times resumed. Normal Tom Foolery after a few beers, Julies tent that was unoccupied was picked up and moved to a more secluded area. There was talk of putting it right on the track in the grass at Edwina's, but fearing a racing incident and being kicked out of the meeting the lake area was the decision. So you can imagine the looks on our faces when she returned in the morning wanting to know who had packed up her tent..... Not us was the cry..... well we hadn't. We had only moved it. Good sport Julie. Julie had her ups and downs at the weekend to, spat out at the esses in practice after spinning and then getting rear ended. Father Fagan checked over at the hospital for injury to his arm but all good. No racing Saturday but did get out Sunday, only to spin not any fault of theirs but the foam barrier at Edwina's was in their way. They did get a well-earned finish in their final race on the Sunday.

To our dismay it had rained heavy overnight and the track was soaking, so decision not to go out in practice was made. Having no rear wet tyre, only and intermediate made the morning racing difficult. The back end was all over the place coming out of the devils elbow, plus great care was needed in and out of Edwina's. The lap time reflected the conditions. Plus when we were into the third lap of the Open and just starting to feel our way Oscar decided to have problems. He was over fuelling, well sounded rich, no power; I just could not work it out. The gauges were right, no mechanical sounds as the problem..... what was going on. Oh just get to the finish and get the signature... then we will have a look. Stopped in parc ferme, Janet at the ready with the bottles of water. The situation became clear, the huge nut where the lambo sensor goes was clearly out of the exhaust and very fortunately lying in the under tray. That would count for the sound difference and performance. The exhaust end can was shaken apart with rubbers hanging off as well.

So after the presentation a quick repair job and straight down pit lane to take part in the memorial lap for Bill Currie and Kevin Morgan and Dave Wells. I know you say woman are soft but I can tell you all a lot of visors were down so folks couldn't see the tears. The respect for these three gentlemen was clear to see from riders, passengers, marshals, race officials, photographers, medics, and race fans right the way around the track.

After getting back to camp and a few hugs from friends whom had made it down to see the racing. Stig reminded me with a stick that I had promised not to do the afternoons racing! And he was right, I was full of a cold, we were both tired, we had two signatures and a trophy why push when we didn't need to prove anything. Pack the van, watch some great racing and say goodbye to friends till 2012 was the order of the afternoon and drive up the motorway safely and catch the overnight ferry home. After having the usual roast dinner at the Toby Inn on the way up and then stopping at the last pub before the dock, new land lord and lady made all the teams from the Isle of Man very welcome. That awful wait before boarding was very pleasurable. Tell folks to get in there and have a cuppa or a pint support them they are really nice people.

As always it would just not have been possible without the team and in no particular order big hugs folks, Tony, Janet, Debs A., Geordie Paul, Jason, Chris, Philip and Derek not forgetting Stig of course.

Congratulations to all the Teams from the Isle of Man, picking up trophies for 1sts, 2nds, and 3rds in race classes. Not bad for a little Nation.

Till next year folks, Team Oscar will be back at the Festival with some unfinished business for sure.

End of Season report to follow shortly.

