

Snetterton Autosport **3 hour Historic Race Meeting 9th 10th June**

This turned out to be a wonderful meeting, Team Bond were all concerned that it would be another wet race, the forecast was mixed and Snetterton is well known for horizontal rain. We were all surprised when we walked out of the hotel into the sunshine. Signing on and scrutineering had been completed on Saturday afternoon, so we had little to do before our 9.00 am qualifying session. The Snetterton 300 circuit is nearly 3 miles long and features a series of technical bends in the 'infield' as well as retaining the original fast bends for which Snetterton is famous. Andrew had not driven this new layout before; Gil had driven it only once so there was a lot of learning to do.

Qualifying

Justin Fleming was ahead of Andrew in the assembly area and knew the circuit from last year's event, so Andrew was happy to follow the Elva for the first lap. He passed Justin along the start-finish straight and started to learn the circuit for himself. Only 6 laps were achieved in our 15 minute qualifying session.

It is clearly a difficult circuit with both very fast corners and hairpins. Both Drivers were happy with their qualifying; the circuit seemed to suit the Bonds. Andrew was second in class behind Ray Mallock and Gil 1st in class, with Justin and Derek Walker the only front engined cars between the two Bonds. Andrew was pleased to be ahead of Derek Walker, but later found he had mechanical problems. Crispian Besley was disappointed as the engine failed on lap one.

Race one

Andrew was surprised but delighted to make a good start and lost only one place, although there were lots of cars in both his mirrors going into the first few corners. Ray Mallock, lead the class and edged away so Andrew lost touch early in the race. However he had a great battle with Robert Barrie and Alex Morton, Robert beating him by just 0.2 of a second, Alex was 1.5 seconds behind. Gil had a reasonable start losing a couple of places to Anthony Goddard and Bill Grimshaw. He then had a race long battle finishing behind Anthony's Tojeiro but ahead of Bill to take the class win and 4th front engined car overall.

Race Two

Again Andrew made a good start but the first lap was extremely hectic, He was delighted to be able to pull away from Alex and Charles Cook along the start straight, only to see the safety car signs. There had been an accident at Agostini corner. Andrew was then surprised to see that Charles Cook was not keeping up as they followed the safety car. Other competitors were unable to overtake Charles until the start line, so this created a gap that Andrew kept throughout the race. Lapping at a more realistic 2:21.3, Andrew could see Ray ahead, but as before the Mallock pulled away, leaving Bond 2 to finish in another 2nd place in class.

Gil lost a few places off the line but had a great battle with Bill Grimshaw finally scraping past on the last lap, to take the class win and 4th front engined car once again

Overall Winners

John Milicevic (Cooper T59), David Methley (Brabham BT6), Nicholas Fennell (Lotus 27) and Pete Morton (Lightning Envoyette) made up the first four in both races.

Next Race

Bob Gerard Memorial Race at Mallory Park June 24th