

PRESCOTT HILL CLIMB

Pictures: Allan Rhodes



MAGNIFIQUE: Anthony Shute in his Lotus Expose at La Vie En Bleu at Prescott Hill Climb



ENTHUSIASTS: Spectators at the start line



PRIDE AND JOY: Gordon Morrison's Lotus Elise



SPEED: Ian Stainburn with his Reliant Scimitar

French style thrills audience at Prescott

BY DON CRAIG

MIXED weather didn't dampen the spirits of neither drivers nor spectators at Prescott Hill Climb as the Bugatti Owners Club held their fifth annual pageant of French motoring excellence.

The La Vie en Bleu, Life is Blue, meeting featured rarely-seen cars in action.

As racing began on the first day, rain began to fall and the early runners had a difficult time in the slippery conditions, with a number of drivers enduring spins.

However, the rain was short-lived and the track quickly dried out.

The fastest time of the day was recorded by Ken Lewis

from Spetchley driving his Lotus 61 MX Ford in a time of 46.64 seconds.

Gloucestershire drivers to feature in the results were Grant Cratchley from Cheltenham in his Lotus Elan, third in the Bugatti Owners Club Pre 72 Handicap, and Tom Mogyrossy from Toddington in his Renault Clio, second in the Bugatti Owners Club Post 72 Handicap.

The weather for the second day of racing was much cooler but there was no rain.

The first classes featured the oldest machinery entered. Highlights included John Dennis from Guildford in his immaculate 1907 Berliet Racing Curtiss, Clive Press from Nottingham in his 1913 Peugeot 148

GP and Mark Walker from Luttermworth in his Darracq 200hp, a former world land speed record holder.

A new addition to Prescott was a class for Invicta cars and the crowd were treated to a magnificent display of 17 immaculately turned-out cars.

Fastest time of the day was recorded by Edward Tyack from Moreton-in-Marsh in his GinettaG16 BMW, who just bettered Nottingham's Tony Harts time of 47.49 seconds with a time of 47.28.

Stonehouse's Chris Ferin was half a second behind Tyack in his Ford Fiesta XR2, earning him second place in the Franco-Britannique Challenge Handicap Class.

Among the many other

attractions on display were a spectacular aerial display by the Breitling Wing Walkers and an aerobatic display by the RV8tors Close Formation Aerobatic Team.

In the paddock and car park areas there were static displays of Morgan, Renault, Citroen and Invicta cars and a display of Bugatti Veyrons, one of the world's most desirable super-cars.

Making its Prescott debut was a Super Sport derivative of the Veyron, one of which holds the world land speed record for the fastest production car at 271 mph.

There were cavalcades of many examples of French cars and demonstration runs of the Bugatti Veyrons.



CLASSY: Alan Hartfield in his Cooper MX5



READY FOR THE OFF: Cars line up at the start



THRILL: Simon Fletcher in a TVR Tuscan