

Hirst Acts Like A Champ

Tony Hirst secured the AR Motorsport Morgan Challenge on Saturday (5 October 2019) at the Snetterton 300 circuit in Norfolk. Tony drives a Plus 4 Club Sport for the Morgan factory team, run on their behalf by motorsport engineering students from the University of Wolverhampton. The class win and point for fastest lap placed the title out of reach for Derby's Andrew Thompson in his ARV6 despite Andrew securing the win and fastest lap in his own class.

Third in the Championship was Jack Bellinger, a Morgan racing veteran. His Championship challenge being dented along with his venerable 1970 Plus 8 at Silverstone in August; support from other drivers within the series allowed to prepare his previous racing Morgan, a 1971 4/4 model, for the final two rounds. Keith Ahlers, whose Plus 8 is expertly prepared by Jack's son Billy, won the race overall, his 105th Morgan Challenge victory.

Manchester native Tony is a familiar face on British TV screens, starring in both Coronation Street and Hollyoaks, as well as on the stage. A lifelong motorsport enthusiast, Tony first visiting the spectator banks at Oulton Park while still in nappies! He finally got behind the wheel in the 2012 Celebrity Challenge held at the Silverstone Classic, joining a field of celebrity drivers all in Morgan race cars. Tony's success emulates fellow 2012 Celebrity Challenge racer Kelvin Fletcher, who won his first championship in 2019 in the GT4 class of British GT Championship.

Tony's performance convinced Morgan to offer him a drive in the following year's Morgan Challenge, sharing a car with AC/DC's Brian Johnson. Touring commitments prevented Johnson from sharing the car, allowing Tony a full season to develop the Plus 4 Baby Doll model, before being entrusted with the debut of the ARV6 and, in 2018, the Plus 4 Club Sport.

Tony's Plus 4 Club Sport is a factory built race car that can also be driven on the public road. Powered by a two-litre Ford engine, it comes fully equipped for racing, and can be driven to, and then hopefully back home from, the circuit. Eleven cars have been built to date, and run in their own class within the Morgan Challenge. Further details about the Club Sport model can be found [here](#).

Information for editors:

AR Motorsport is the performance arm of the Morgan Motor Company, which has been building cars in Malvern Link, Worcestershire, for 110 years. As well as building the Morgan Plus 4 Baby Doll, Plus 4 Club Sport and ARV6 race models, AR Motorsport also provide a range of performance parts for all four- and three-wheeled Morgans.

The **Morgan Challenge** is a one-make race series open to all four-wheeled Morgans. The Championship is divided into several classes, encompassing both standard and modified cars, to encourage entries from as broad a spectrum of cars as possible. The Morgan Challenge is well known for being friendly, welcoming and supportive of both new and seasoned competitors.

UWRacing (University of Wolverhampton Race Team) students work alongside Morgan craftsmen and women as they take part in the AR Motorsport Morgan Challenge. Running a pair of University liveried Morgan Plus 4 Club Sports, the students attend every race meeting as well as preparing and testing the cars from their Telford Innovation campus in Priorslee.

Photographs can be provided on request. Please contact Media Officer Iain Leviston on 07512 639 188 or at MorganChallenge.Media@gmail.com for these or any other information about the series.