

## Bentley Drivers' Club race meeting at Silverstone on 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2020

### Morgan Challenge rounds 3 and 4 and the Techniques Trophy race.

A report by Bob Bull

#### Two's Company, and Three's a .....

**Crowd.** There they were, the warriors of the Morgan Aero Challenge arrayed in all their finery, fiery steeds shining in the sun, each in the colours of their champion, the fine ladies of the court standing open mouthed at the spectacle. The jousting would soon be underway, the lists prepared, judges, referees, officials, marshals indeed stood ready to ensure smooth running of events, BUT .....where were the crowds?

#### Joust One:

Lined up on the field of battle stood the contestants, Lancashire holding sway, over the Whiteside, whilst young Sir Will, had Bryant the Senior for company behind. Knightly men, stalwart and true, standing firm ever ready to thrust forward loomed large behind their leaders, Thompson, Emberson, Butterworth, Hamilton the Smith, Syndercombe of the Hatch, St Clair of Tisdall, names of legendary status, steeds pawing at the ground, eager for the fray. At last the Grand Marshall released the pent up fury, and so battle did commence. History will recall the savage nature of the fray, Lancashire leading the charge, Bryant Snr in hot pursuit, squire Will always prepared to leap ahead, but the pace began to tell and the Bryant steed cried 'enough' and retired, leaving Lancashire to romp home ahead of young Will, while Thompson, Emberson, Butterworth, and Hamilton the Smith held station behind. However, then came the hobble de hoys Bellinger and Goddard, men of lowly caste squabbling like children over who should take precedents over the lesser ranks, Bellinger staking his claim by a hair's breath. No less fractious were Sargeant Peter, and James of Sumner who fought over the scraps of victory to the flag. Fine yeomen filled the ranks, Lockett, Voakes, Cole of Pirton, Richards the Elder, Gilmore, Jim the Mountain Man, Andrew, Kilby, Fearn (a right Molly), Bevan and Mistress Bailey were all that remained of the gallant Twenty Eight souls who had set forth the venture, as many had fallen by the wayside. Syndercome of Hatch, Bryant the Elder, Milbank, Richards the Boy, St. Clair of Tisdall, and the Sharlie, Fair Lady of Stevenage, all victims to the vicissitudes of fate.



For all of their derring-do, and gallant deeds, there were few to witness the scene, however.

#### Race Two

And so we move swiftly and seamlessly in to the second race, (you be relieved to know that we will revert to modern English henceforth.)

Naturally, as is the norm, the animal ... oops! The drivers lined up two-by-two in the order they finished in round 1. Sitting right at the back was Ollie Bryant, taking over from Dad in MOG 1, and few expected him to be last for very long, how right they were.

From lights out it was Bill Lancashire in his sinister all black ensemble that lead away with Will Plant clinging to the tail of the V8 like glue, despite lacking the sheer grunt of the Class 1 car. Next along came Roger Whiteside, V8, with Andrew Thompson, a comfortable fourth, while John Emberson, held a similar fifth spot in his Baby Doll, and Craig Hamilton-Smith was a lonely sixth. Jack Bellinger, having tired of bothering Phillip Goddard, instead decided to dispute places with James Sumner, the pair continually swapping places, and taking turns in front, however, Brett Syndrcombe from his lowly starting position (remember he did not complete race 1) was slowly reeling the twosome in, eventually battling his way past to seventh. Meanwhile Ollie Bryant was demonstrating just how good he was by scything through the field at an incredible rate of knots, passing thirteen cars on lap one alone. Fifth, fourth, third, first, all followed leaving everyone in his wake (note nautical allusions here). Jack eventually triumphed for eighth and James lost a little time in traffic so came home ninth. Another squabbling pair, Stephen Lockett and Peter Sargeant spent the race tied together, with Stephen taking the tenth place on the last lap. A gap of 0.641 of a second was all it took to tell them apart at the finish. Good stuff. Sharlie Goddard showed Paul Voakes, and Tom Richards how it was done in twelfth place. Unfortunately for our erstwhile leader something went wrong with the car, and Bill was out. When flag fell it was Ollie first, Will second and Roger third, Andrew, and John, filled their allotted spots, untroubled by any competition for the places. (see previous text for finishing order). Pete Cole was fifteenth, followed by Rob Gilmore, John Richards, Jim Mountain, Tom Andrew, John Milbank, Michele Bailey, Tony Kilby, Ricardo Fearn, and John Bevan. Failing to see the final tablecloth were Bill Lancashire, Mark Butterworth, Phillips Goddard, and Tisdall, and Mr Bailey.



Richard Plant won the BDC Classic Challenge Race