

PRESCOTT HILL CLIMB

Pictures: Allan Rhodes



SPEEDSTER: Alistair Crawford, also right, from Cheltenham in his Gould GR55 NME V8 2800cc



Moran rewarded for hard work

BY DON CRAIG

DOUBLE champion Scott Moran claimed victory in the opening two rounds of the 2011 Nicholson McLaren MSA British Hill Climb Championship at Prescott Hill Climb.

Driving his 3.5 litre Gould GR51X, he had his work cut out to fend off a strong challenge from Peterhead's Lee Adams in his diminutive 1600cc GWR Raptor Suzuki.

Moran from Ludlow was delighted to get his title quest off to the perfect start.

"It was hard work getting ahead of Lee," he said.

"The 1600cc cars are 200kg lighter than the over 2000cc cars, which makes them handle so much better on the tight and technical Prescott course and cancels out their comparative lack of outright power."

Adams said he was extremely pleased with his performance.

"Two second places behind Scott on only my second visit to Prescott is unbelievable and is my best-ever result in the championship," he said.

As well as Adams, three drivers in the up to 1600cc Racing Car class qualified for a place in the first championship run-off.

Adams made the long journey from Peterhead in Scotland worthwhile by qualifying fastest of all in a class record-breaking time of 37.86 seconds.

Moran qualified in second place on 37.93.

Stroud's Chris Merrick, in his Gould GR 55 Judd, qualified third in 38.15 despite a wild slide at Orchard corner that possibly cost him the top spot in the run-off.



PARTNERS IN SPEED: Patrick and Paul Keates in their Baker F1 998cc

Aylesbury's Trevor Willis, driving his OMS CF06 Power-tech, qualified fourth in 38.30.

With temperatures rising by the time of the first run-off, Merrick, despite improving his time by 0.32 seconds to 37.83, only finished fourth.

Willis improved by more than 0.6 seconds to 37.68 for third place.

Adams also improved to 37.48 seconds, which gave him second place and Moran knocked 0.58 seconds off to claim top spot on 37.35.

The spectacular battles of last season between Eynon Price and Will Hall in their 1600cc Force Suzuki's continued in the run-off.

Both drove their cars to the

maximum with some sideways moments resulting in sixth and seventh places respectively.

In the second qualifying runs, Adams again put in another class record-breaking time of 37.53.

Moran was second on 37.93 and Willis improved to 38.05 to qualify third.

Merrick, struggling to get his



ON HIS BIKE: Chris Keats on his Honda 450

tyres to work properly, qualified a lowly joint 11th and a slight improvement to 38.82 in the run-off resulted in only ninth place.

Willis improved his time to 37.64 to claim third.

Adams again could not quite maintain his advantage over Moran.

While improving to 37.39, he

managed only second place.

Moran improved to 36.99 to take his second win of the day and fastest time of the day.

The battle between Price and Hall came to nought as Hall spun out at Pardon Hairpin with Price claiming tenth place on 38.96 seconds.

Moran leads the championship on 20 points with Adams second on 18 and Willis third on 16.

Gloucestershire drivers who featured in the results were Mike Guest (Stroud) and David Frost (Churchdown), who were second and third respectively in their Caterham 7's in the Bugatti Members B licence Handicap Road Car Class.

Richard Jones from Pitchcombe was first in a Brabham BT29X in the class for Classic Racing Cars built up to 1971

Martin Jones from Gotherington was third in a Ginetta G17.



PRIDE AND JOY: David Frost from Churchdown and his Caterham 7 Ford 1600cc



UPHILL: Charles Boulton from Cheltenham in his MGB 1840cc