...and the racing wasn't half bad either..

The weekend didn't start on a good note as i went to fill the fuel jugs up in Stratford and was refused by a job's worth manager who didn't know her arse from her elbow...must grumble!!! Luckily Peter Donanldson was at the track and kindly drove me around for an hour trying to find a Shell station.We couldn't find a Shell one but (should have realised the cruise station was Shell...doh!) eventually found a BP one which would do just as well.

The plan was to put the 8.0 tune in to begin with and see how it went.Saturday it didn't(go),along with everyone else we slid down the track like a drift team.To top it all the radial rock had come back with a vengeance! All we could next was a 3rd place in qualifying with an 8.8... We had work to do that's for sure.



Sunday was bright and Sunny.The track had been prepped and it seemed to be in good shape. Once again we spun the tyres but a little further out this time. For the next one we took a bit of advice from Wilf Stacey. Wilf runs the same tyres as us and was running a lot less pressure in his tyres than we were. On that basis we decided to try a little less in ours. BINGO!!,the car launched without wheelspin and the rock had gone. This allowed me to put my foot on the throttle for the whole 1/4 for the first time on BFG's resulting in a first half of a class record 8.010 @ 186mph and No1 qualifier...! Looking at the data i knew we could run a 7 with not much effort...Hang on, a 7 at Shakey?? Surely not..... although it was back to reality on the next run with wheelspin about 100ft out..

The cruise was a breeze. We took good mate Simon Barlow out for his first ride in the car.I think he enjoyed it a little.We got back to the track fairly early and enjoyed the barbeque laid on by the guys and gals of SE. Big thanks to them for that.



Eliminations on Monday were pretty hot. The track again seemed in good shape and our first round was a bye.... after the 8.01 everyone was looking at us to run a 7...could we do it? Well,7.87 @ 188.5 mph later we had. The crowd(and Venners) went wild apparently, although i did miss that...lol. I got back to the pits to receive a standing ovation from almost everyone. (thanks all of you) Unfortunately that number wasn't backed up by the 8.01 because i ran too quick. This meant i'd have to run another to back up the 7 and be the first in Sportsman history to acheive that (remember John Sleath was the first to run a 7...) There was a bit of a wait for this run as someone had oiled the track....good mate Jeff Meads spent all that time playfully trying to wind me up,but i was having none of it...

So the pressure was on, not only do I have to beat Jeff, I have to try and run another 7..... No problem!!! I beat Jeff off the line .02 to a .04,matched him to 100ft and then took off for a 7.89 @ 188.4 mph. Both ends of the et and speed record in the same run. Jeff ran a really good 8.5 with problems but couldn't match us for speed..


PTB 56K