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moleracing 2026 British Championship Season (report 2 of 4)

Pembrey

With some software upgrades and new suspension to test I had a half day at the Llandow test circuit the day before that was productive, although I pushed a little too hard at the bus-stop chicane and ran onto the grass. I was going to leave it there for the day as there was no damage, but in the end, I went for 'one last run'. Good job I did as the car failed on track. At least now I had chance to fix the mechanical breakage of the linkage from the throttle body motor to the butterfly spindle.

Both Craig from SBD and Steve Broughton swung into action, bringing me new replacement linkages to fit the following day which we did in the queue to get into the circuit. After the event the new Jenvey part (that had been made lighter than my old design) was redesigned by Jenvey and SBD sent me two new replacement parts FOC – great service all round from everyone.



As part of the suspension development, trying to get the car to feel like the one I drove when I won the British championship in 2021, we were experimenting with stiffer 1600 lbs/in springs on the front to give a more stable aero platform. This was a partial success over the weekend at the high speed end as the car didn't dip so much under braking and give a more stable aero platform but was incredibly harsh over the bumps of the South Wales circuit.

'26 Champion elect' Ethan Faulkner took FTD and both run off wins, with Broughton taking second each time. Faulkner's 1600cc engine had developed an oil leak from the cam cover causing consternation in the paddock and a late-night repair session.

A 3rd and a 5th was acceptable for me, even if my 'arch nemesis' John Loudon was ahead of me both times.

The Sunday was run on a slightly different layout and Faulkner took the first win and Broughton the second. Ethans team withdrew at lunchtime to avoid damage to the engine and get the car to Force before heading home. Before the Mallory weekend in 12 days time, Force had removed the engine and delivered it to RLM for a full rebuild and refitted it and set the car up ready for collection and the Mallory weekend.



Photo by "Rowan Flynn Media"

Ethan's absence allowed me to post a 3rd and 4th – with Steve Browns car shutting down due to excessive oil temperature on track due to a rerun.

Still sitting in second overall, but how long can it last?

Mallory

The last piece of the set up jigsaw dropped into place with the arrival of suspension multimate bump rubbers from TripleM Motorsport and a big set up change. Using some clever suspension travel analysis software and the data collected from the car during the season plus guidance from Steve Broughton, we went for 1300 springs at the front to hold the car nicely at lower speeds and then above 60mph the bump rubbers compress and give a higher load, so that you have the best of both worlds.

A slight tweak to the packer gap from 1mm to 2mm after first practice took it from theoretical to real world – and I haven't adjusted this since.

Mallory Park when running 1.75 laps has a fabulous corner call Gerrards that is a 300m long sweeping bend you enter after a long straight. I was on the rev limiter for 1.5 secs at 141.5mph at the end of the straight but couldn't stop myself lifting off the throttle as I turned in. The car just didn't move, no under or oversteer – I need to get braver. It's one thing telling yourself to not lift at that speed and just 'turn in' before the run but in the heat of the drive self-preservation comes in.



Running through John Loudons smoke plume most runs was a minor distraction, but he sorted it out before the next event!

A notable event for the day was Steve Browns first ever run off win, his supercharged lightweight Empire Evo was reaching 161mph before he braked and turned in – well done Steve – he even brought out the T shirt that had been waiting in the trailer for a few seasons!



3 5th places and a 4th were the results from the weekend with a new PB, with Broughton and Faulkner and Brown taking the wins and I hung on to 2nd overall. A YouTube movie from Pescara Productions can be seen of the BSC field by clicking [here](#)



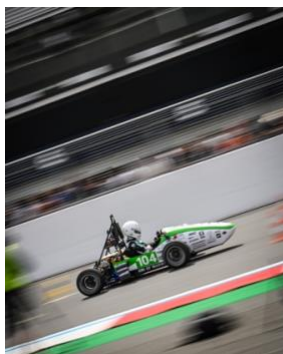
Sunset over Mallory Park on Saturday evening

Lydden Hill

I withdrew from this event for my nieces wedding in Zurich, which was wonderful. Steve Brown in the Empire was the talk of the meeting after he got paddock bend slightly wrong and ended in the gravel with a few broken bits of car and withdrew. Steve Broughton won both run offs and the Faulkner team decided they wouldn't attend as it's the furthest from Northern Ireland and only a 1-day event – good decision as I'm sure he will win the championship anyway - and thoroughly deserves to!

As a result, I have dropped down the table to third place. But I'd be very happy if I could be in this position at the end. We are just over the halfway point and dropped scores come into play soon.

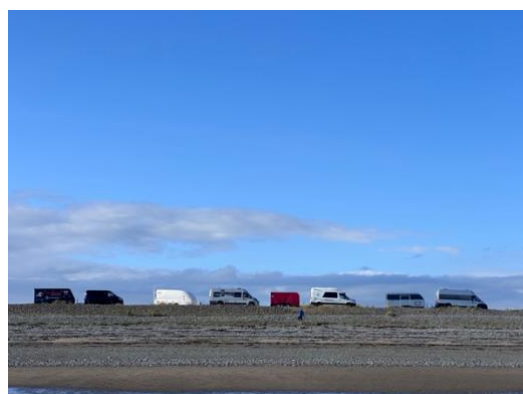
I had an enjoyable week of photography at Silverstone for the Formula Student event, interesting seeing the standard of young engineers and EV/Hybrid/ICE and autonomous vehicle development. And it's not all glamour as I dismantled the old and built a new shed/potting shed to tick the domestic duties done box.



In preparation for both Carfest – Driving the International layout at Silverstone and for ethanol trials later on in the year I increased the capacity of the fuel system from 2.8 to 4.3 litres – shown above.

Kirkistown

After mechanical failures resulting in a big crash and non-start in the previous two years, I was hoping for something better for the 800mile, 22 hours of driving to Northern Ireland this weekend. Mind you I cannot complain as Ethan and team, from Lisburn, Northern Ireland, have the same drive to the mainland for every round of the championship!



5 of us made camp on the beach road outside of Cairnryan both before and after the ferry which always adds to the friendly spirit of the travelling circus.

A clean weekend and some failures from Steve Brown and Ethan Faulkner meant I was pleased with a 3rd and a 4th on the Saturday and the two 5th places Sunday were made



more acceptable by a PB improvement on a time I set 10 years ago. I have got a feeling that the track has got 'tighter' in the chicanes since then hence why it has been a long time improving.

The new bump rubbers and set remain unchanged as the handling felt great, I just added front and rear downforce from the wings as again I was maxing out at 141mph. in one run off I wasn't too disappointed to have pushed too hard and put two wheels on the grass on the outside of a fast bend – losing a few seconds – at least I “Dared to fail”

Ethan continued his 15 event FTD run and took 3 run off wins to stay in front and Pete Goulding took another after Faulkner's drive chain snapped on the start line and he didn't qualify. Will Steve Broughton be able to stop this streak at Snetterton in the next few days?.....

A few weeks off, some travel with one full day to Spain to view the total eclipse and this weekend we head into a hectic four consecutive weekends of driving. Snetterton, then 5 days at Carfest driving and entertaining the crowds at Silverstone, followed immediately by weekends at Pembrey in South Wales and then Knockhill in Scotland.

Cheers
Steve/Smiles

British Sprint Championship top 12 2026 after round 24 of 42. Best 29 of 42 to count		
John Loudon	1.1 Force TA	525
Ethan Faulkner	1.6 Force PT	523
Steve Miles	2.0 Van Diemen RF96mm2025	483
Grahame Harden	1.4 Force TA-SL	452
Steve Brown	1.3S RLM Empire Evo2	417
Pete Goulding	1.6T Mygale FF200 Ecoboost	375
Graham Porrett	1.6T Mygale FF200 EcoBoost	344
Steve Broughton	1.4 DJ Firehawk CT004	317
Graham Blackwell	1.6T Mygale FF200 Ecoboost	292
Simon Wallis	1.1 OMS 3000M	260
Mike Taylor	1.6T Mygale Ecoboost	255
Cathy Sewart	1.6T Mygale Ecoboost	238

Schedule 2026			Run off Result
28 March	Cadwell Park	Louth	5 th & 5 th 😊
18 April	Anglesey Nat	North Wales	4 th & 2 nd 😊
19 April	Anglesey Int	North Wales	3 rd & 2 nd 😊
26 April	Mallory Park	Leicestershire	1 st 😊 😊
16 May	Blyton Eastern	Gainsborough	3 rd & 4 th 😊
17 May	Blyton Outer	Gainsborough	5 th & 5 th 😊
28 May	Llandow Test	South Wales	-
30 May	Pembrey	South Wales	3 rd & 5 th 😊
31 May	Pembrey	South Wales	3 rd & 4 th 😊
20 June	Mallory Park	Leicester	5 th & 5 th 😊
21 June	Mallory Park	Leicester	4 th & 5 th 😊
11 July	Lydden	Dover	withdrew
1 August	Kirkistown	Northern Ireland	3 rd & 4 th 😊
2 August	Kirkistown	Northern Ireland	5 th & 5 th 😊
22 August	Snetterton	Norfolk	
23 August	Snetterton	Norfolk	
28-30 Aug	Car Fest	Silverstone	🏁🏁🏁🏁🏁🏁🏁🏁
6 Sept	Pembrey	South Wales	
7 Sept	Pembrey	South Wales	
12 Sept	Knockhill	Scotland	
13 Sept	Knockhill	Scotland	
3 Oct	Anglesey	North Wales	
4 Oct	Anglesey	North Wales	
10 Oct	Castle Combe	Wiltshire	



Total Eclipse taken last week in a mad dash to Zaragoza, Spain