

GOODWOOD ROAD RACING

I drove the NA to Goodwood for a Track Day and picked up a UK mate Hugh Chissell on the way. Around 2 miles down the road the engine stopped, and the SU fuel pumps were racing. I knew we were out of fuel. I had underestimated the fuel used during tuning the previous weekend and high supercharger consumption. A kind neighbour lent us his lawnmower jerry can which was sufficient until the next petrol station!



Upon arrival at Goodwood, we drove unchecked through the tunnel and logged on with friendly staff in the Jackie Stewart room. Saw a Spitfire take off from the inner field then lunch (picture) before drivers' briefing. I was the oldest car there by 30 years, surrounded by modern Ferraris, Porsches and Lotuses and to their credit they showed respect and kept clear. We were released in 15 second gaps.

When I let out the clutch in Pit Lane, I needed to pinch myself. This was really happening. A cautious first 15-minute run and then back for a second which was better. Run 3 included some artificial dicing with a father/son team in a E-type Jaguar. By this time Hugh and I were well and truly hooked in the pleasure of driving this glorious circuit. It was in immaculate condition with brilliant green grass verges, just the right track width and sweeping curves to be taken at speed.

As the day progresses, the track became more familiar to me. Hard braking into Woodcote and then continuing in 3rd gear through to Chicane. Madgwick has a double apex and probably the hardest of the course. This is where the Adelaide MG enthusiasts often sit when attending the Goodwood Revival in September each year. Levant corner goes on and on and a great spot to let the back hang out and tyres scream. Some of the younger cars retired during the day by "failing to proceed" so that the track cleared by later in the afternoon. We were the stalwarts of attendance and the last ones to leave! MG reliability shone through!

The car performed very well. I felt the engine "loosening up" which is understandable as it had probably only done 1,000 miles or so since the rebuild in Adelaide. A nice cup of tea at the end then a countryside drive home. The heavens opened as we approached a petrol station so refuelling provided shelter as well as avoiding the risk of petrol running dry again! A big day but fabulous. I had really driven Goodwood - whatever next, as they say.

<https://gopro.com/v/ymk03y4q8WJe4>

Enjoy the link above.

Peter