

VSCC Prescott Hill Climb.

6th/7th August 2016.

I asked Mike Littlewood whether he was competing at Prescott in the VSCC Hill Climb and he very kindly offered me an entrance ticket and competitor's wristband if I wanted to go, as I'd never been to Prescott. I'd previously been to Harewood with my brother-in-law, where Mike competed in his XK150 and on this occasion he was taking the Bentley.

Prescott is the Headquarters of and is owned by the Bugatti Owners' Club and there is an interesting museum to visit on site. It's set in glorious Cotswold countryside near Cheltenham and its setting adds so much to the general atmosphere of any event there.



Spectators' classic car park at lunchtime.

I set off on the Saturday and thought I'd get there as quickly as possible, so went M6/M5 for most of the way. Note to self – AVOID these roads during school holidays! It pays to arrive early – I didn't and had to park ½ mile away from the action! One advantage however was that I saw the local steam engine and then passed many interesting cars en route.

I met up with Mike and Jane in their paddock, where the Bentley was parked amongst other exotic machinery. The view from the paddock was wonderful – you can just see it behind them in this photo.



Mike and Jane with their Bentley.

Saturday was practice day, with the qualifying times to be set on the Sunday. Mike improved on his first run time of 58.29 to finish second in class at 53.85 – a valiant effort deserving of our congratulations. The black car you see behind them was the class winner, much modified compared to Mike's and driven by a much younger man!

The weather was very hot on Saturday and thankfully slightly less so on Sunday due to some cloud cover and a fresh breeze. The sun did shine and the paddocks and car parks provided a veritable feast of vintage engineering interest. The oldest two cars, competing in the Edwardian Classes were built in 1905, a Darracq 200 HP with a 25,422 cc engine and a Lorraine Dietrich CR2 with an 8260 cc engine. I was amazed to see such “mature” machinery being urged up the hill by their enthusiastic drivers, but they are well known cars on the hill-climbing circuit!

If you haven't been to Prescott, it's a wonderful experience that I would heartily recommend.

Barry Pelmore.