# Annual Review

## JIM DEAN SHINES IN 2015

Jim Dean approached the 2015 season like a whippet out of a trap, chasing everything that moved, decisively diving through gaps like a ferret into a drainpipe to become this year's 70s Road Sports Champion. James Nairn reports.

From the first race Jim Dean and Peter Shaw were relentless in their Championship ambitions, they tackled each event with a single minded determination resulting in a battle of skills which became even more frenetic in the second half of the season, often grasping wins by just tenths of a second.

Jim won half of this seasons races outright whilst Peter dominated both double header weekends at Cadwell Park and at Snetterton where he drove superbly well in absolutely foul conditions to win both races whilst most of the other 70s competitors were just pleased to stay dry.

Finishing 3rd in the Championship, Charles Barter was regularly in the mix, claiming his annual victory at the Oulton Park Gold Cup and recording the closest finish of the year, winning by just 0.089sec.

Julian Barter had a limited season following the birth of his son Benjamin, but when on circuit he usually ran in the wheel tracks of Jim and Peter like an tenacious terrier, recording wins at the Silverstone International in his TVR and at Croft in Iain Daniels's Lotus Elan.

Second in the Lotus Twin Cam Class C was Mark Leverett who took time to get settled in his Lotus Elan but still recorded a class win at Snetterton. Steve Cooke claimed to have mislayed his Mojo at the start of the season but was again hustling his Lotus 7 with a broad smile by the end of the year.

The Alfa boys in Class D appeared to regard the 70s Championship as an expresso bar, dropping in for a quick adrenalin fix and then disappearing, with James Rutt, Ken Rorrison, Steve Moore, Will Morton, and Oscar Rovelli all picking up class wins.

Jon Wagstaff was more of a cappuchino drinker taking time to savour the moment, he also picked up one class win, but like a reconditioned Gaggia Coffee machine suffered from reliability issues clinching the Class D title at the Finals Meeting by just 2 points.

Brian Jarvis finished second in Class D despite competing in only 6 events, driving his Porsche 924 with tuetonic efficiency to achieve 5 class wins, including a 3rd overall and a place on the winners' podium at Snetterton.

David Karaskas clinched Class E after a Curate's Egg type of season, one weekend performing giant killing acts, whilst at others his MG Midget was as competitive as a lethargic beach donkey.

The author of this review also joined the fun in a borrowed Alfa GT Junior to compete in the Bob Trotter Celebration race at Oulton Park. A very social weekend featuring laughter, Dorset Jurassic beer and terrific on-track action. Bob would very much have approved.

Closely contested was the new for 2015 Novice Award, Chris Fisher stormed the final 5 races with but failed to reel in Will Leverett's early season lead. Both displayed maturity beyond their years, racing their cars with both style and skill.

Matthew Nichols was the 3rd contender for the Novice Award, competing in a TVR 3000M with a cloudy history purchased at auction, he managed to get the car scrubbed up nicely but it lacked the development of the other TVR's.

It was clearly a challenge for Peter Richards to find the correct tension for elastic band that powered his diminutive Clan Crusader, but once sorted the remarkable little car absolutely flew at the Silverstone Finals.

Robert Gate was the leading contender in Class A, his svelte and elegant front engined Jaguar E-Type was often found in spirited competition with Will Leverett's bewinged 911, embodying the esprit of 70s Road Sports – competition, colour and contrast.

Thank you to everyone who took part in the 2015 Championship including the Invitation runners led by William Jenkins and Nic Strong who again very nearly upset the apple cart at the Silverstone Finals and to Grahame, Alan, Donna, the team in the office and volunteers at the circuits, racing wouldn't be as much fun without you.