

Speedwell's roots

I have just read your January article on the Speedwell Sprite. In February 1959, I took delivery (from Car Mart) of a new Ocean Blue Austin A40 Farina with a black roof, registered VXK 492. About six weeks later it was stolen from London's West End while I was at work, but it was recovered by the police and returned about three weeks later. I had soon researched Downton, Alexander and Palace Gate Engineering and, following discussions with Len Adams, decided upon a Speedwell Supersport conversion. The 'works demonstrator' was an A35 van, but the streamlined single-seater Sprite was in the showroom prior to the record attempt.

Later that year I started sprinting and hillclimbing. The attached photo of a Speedwell Sprite was taken at a meeting, most likely at Harleyford Manor, Westbrook Hay or Aston Clinton, and probably promoted by the Allard Owners' Club. From memory (and it's a long time ago), the owner's name may have been Chris Smith. Is there any other record of 137 VMX?

Berry Brooke

Via e-mail



Did owner of '137 VMX' found Westfield?