



SHANGHAI, CHINA
10-15 OCTOBER 2004

Day 2
Monday 11 October 2004

We used our free breakfast vouchers to enjoy food very similar to last night's dinner or yesterday's lunch. Savoury Chinese food with fruit and sweet cake combined with elaborately prepared coffee. Then the shuttle bus. The Michelin attendants at the hotel were helpful. Young women studying tourism courses and good at English.

The haze was blocking the sun not so favourable for a solar car but it promised to burn off as the day progressed.

At the track the Aurora 101 solar car was grouped with 10 other cars, all classified as small passenger cars which included the more interesting cars of Challenge Bibendum.

At 8.45 this group moved the first of the competitive tests, the slalom. This one had us worried because Aurora 101 has a large turning circle of 15.5 metres. Some of the cone placements looked tight and of course there were time penalties if a cone was hit.



Derrick loved this event. He did three runs improving to the 14 second bracket by the last. The cornering speed of Aurora 101 was excellent, no cones were hit but the acceleration from a standing start held us back. One of the competitors in our group managed to hit a tree. At the final overall result aurora 101 was in the D band of results along with 25% of the competitors. Six cars managed to break in the sub 9.5 second category or the A

band of results.

The next test was for acceleration and braking. For this special Corveit timing equipment was needed and had to be packaged in the solar car itself. We knew our acceleration was going to be ordinary and so it was. Thirty seconds to 100 km/h a definite band D performance. Also a band D performance for braking from 80 km/h.

The hot acceleration in our group, a band A result, came from the Courreges car powered by AC Propulsion. Surprisingly the Peugeot Quad just managed band D results in both tests. Of all the competitors the beautiful Volvo electric showcar 3CC was one of only three cars to achieve a double A in acceleration and braking.



Next was the 'pass by' noise test. Here the car had to reach 50 km/h and accelerate hard past the noise meters. With so many electric cars competing we expected just whispers. Up to 69 decibels earned an A. Aurora 101 slipped through with a 69 and 71 dB reading or a B band result. Six entrants achieved an A band result.



The rest of the testing for the day covered emissions and fuel economy. Neither applied to the solar car as we use no fuel, nor produce any emissions.

So it was a time to finish the set-up of the display stand in the Learning Centre. Michelin had arranged for a staff member to assist us both with attending the stand and acting as interpreter. Jenny Yue just did a great job. She even took a sample of our English brochures and provided a Chinese summary for those needing it. The main document we had for distribution was an A2 sized poster featuring the World Solar Challenge and the history and achievements of Aurora over the past 25 years.

The last piece of stand preparation was to move the solar car into the booth. It did nearly fit and certainly made a statement.



As we found yesterday the solar car created impact. Derrick was warming to his starring role. He was slowing his answers to reporters to 'sound bytes' and willingly posing with the many people wanting their photo taken with the solar car.

We met more of the visitors coming to the track although the event was not yet officially open. Daniel Audetto, business development director for the Formula 1 team of Renault complained that a solar car would not be ideal in Britain. We sympathised with him and suggested he move to Australia. Laure Hatchuel-Becker, organiser of EVS-21 to be held in Monaco next April agreed that Daniel should consider a move to Australia having lived there recently herself.



A large and important visiting party of Chinese officials made the solar car their first stop. Andrew made arrangements to visit GM headquarters in Shanghai where he had a number of business colleagues.

Back at the hotel we made friends with other guests at the bar and prepared for tomorrow, the official first day of Challenge Bibendum Shanghai.