

STRATA21 BCV8 Championship

Round 8,

750MC Donington Park
Saturday 19th July 2008

RACE REPORT,

Donington, Saturday 19 July 2008.

After the mixed weather of the previous two rounds at Cadwell Park we were hoping for better weather for Round 8 at the historic Donington Park Circuit, newly appointed as the venue for the British GP. Fortunately this time around the parking facilities within the Paddock seemed much less of a shambles and there had even been white lines newly painted just for BCV8, well, perhaps not but a welcome improvement all the same.

STRATA 21 BCV8 Round 8

Practice

Just 18 drivers entered round 8, disappointing when you consider the popularity of the circuit and facilities but with the current climate, cost of fuel for travelling and possibly a holiday period, perhaps it was hardly surprising. Race day at Donington was met with changing weather yet again, the morning had been mainly dry and as BCV8 cars assembled for the one practice session just after mid-day all seemed dry and settled. But as the cars set off from the assembly area all that changed dramatically with a significant rain storm. With Class C and D cars on slicks this was not going to prove to be the standard grid the 5 BCV8 Classes normally produce, with many sections of the circuit showing running water and looking more like a river, it made the entire practice session incredibly wet.

In spite of the conditions all cars made it through the session without any off circuit damage but the grid was showing a rather unusual line up with the Class C and D cars bringing up the rear rather than being up front as shown in the practice times below.

Practice times issued by the 750MC 19 7 08 at 12:22.

Driver	Class	Grid	Time
James Wheeler	B	1	1:50:59
Joe Parrington	D	2	1:53.75
Jonnie Wheeler	B	3	1:54.89
Peter Samuels	B	4	1:56.04
Ian Prior	B	5	1:57.94
Steve Okines	A	6	1:58.12
Robert Croft	A	7	1:58.21
Barry Holmes	B	8	2:03.99
Terry Savory	A	9	2:06.76
Terry Holmes	B	10	2:07.10
Brian Cakebread	B	11	2:11.49
Paul Atkinson	B	12	2:12.37
Brian Smethurst	B	13	2:14.40
John Wilson	D	14	2:37.65
Phil Walker	C	15	2:50.49
Martin Hall	C	16	2:59.52
Adrian Beer	D	17	3:03.15
Paul Sibley	D	18	no time

750MC Donington Park

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Race Report

After the wet practice session, all drivers were relieved to see blue skies with white friendly clouds and a reasonable temperature for the start of the race. Paul Sibley could do nothing to recover his engine problems and so 17 cars arrived at the grid to start the green flag lap. With the faster slick shod Class C and D cars at the rear of the grid, drivers towards the front had been asked to expect the Class C & D cars to come through the pack and all drivers were asked to

consider other drivers when overtaking especially on the first lap. Jonnie Wheeler had problems and could not make the start while the unfortunate Steve Okines had to return to the pits from the green flag lap when his engine started smoking badly.

When the lights changed and the pack set off, all seemed to be going well on lap 1 until Terry Holmes, Class B V8, lost it coming out of McLeans and swung back across the track leaving the unfortunate Rob Croft with no where to go. There was a significant impact between the two cars which left them both immobile and the red flag was immediately shown around the circuit. Fortunately both drivers were ok after a check up and the race was re-started with drivers back in original grid positions.

The grid now down to just 14 starters, as the lights went out for the restart, John Wilson made his way through the pack from near the back but there seemed to be some confusion between Brian Cakebread and John which resulted in Brian spinning sideways leaving Paul Atkinson no room to get past Brian, both cars sustaining damage. Brian was able to continue but the unfortunate Paul was sidelined on the spot.

By the end of lap 1, John Wilson had a comfortable overall and Class D lead over Adrian Beer, Peter Samuels had made a good start to also have a clear lead in Class B and was even ahead of the Class C cars of Phil Walker leading Martin Hall. Class A had a close battle for position with Terry Savoury, MGB GT, just ahead of Brian Smethurst with a recovering Brian Cakebread Class B MGB Roadster bringing up the rear.

Class D

Although Joe Parrington had managed to secure Class D pole position in the wet in the “small” V8 on treaded tyres, he was soon overhauled by the “large” V8’s of John Wilson and Adrian Beer on a dry track. John had opened up a significant lead by the end of lap one and whilst Adrian Beer managed to break the existing lap record in his attempts to catch John, Adrian had to settle for 2nd overall and Class D at the flag with John quite a way ahead. Joe Parrington brought the little V8 home 3rd in Class.

Class C

Although starting from pole, Phil Walker did not have it all his own way in Class C, once Phil and Martin Hall had got clear of the main pack, these two swapped places many times before Phil finally took the lead from Martin on the last lap at Goddards, just yards (in old money) before the flag. Martin set fastest lap in the race but the win means that Phil retains Overall Championship and Class C position.

Class B

Although Peter Samuels could only manage 3rd fastest in Class B in the wet practice, he came round in front of the Class B battle at the end of lap 1, a position he held to the flag no doubt helped by him setting Class B fastest lap on lap 4 to open up a comfortable gap to the rest of Class B who were embroiled in a fantastic battle. The group chasing Peter Samuels consisted of Ian Prior, Joe Parrington (Class D), James Wheeler and Barry Holmes. James initially held 2nd in class ahead of Ian Prior but Ian managed to get his car ahead on lap two and in spite of a lot of pressure from James, Ian managed to take 2nd James Wheeler 3rd and Barry Holmes 4th in Class B at the flag. Brian Cakebread made up ground after being delayed at the start but could not get close enough to join the group to fight for position by the end of the race.

Class A

After the loss of the unfortunate Rob Croft and Steve Okines, Class A had just two cars re start the race. This did not stop Terry Savory and Brian Smethurst having a tremendous battle. Brian tried all he could, even setting fastest Class A lap in his attempts to get by but Terry held on to take the Class win at the flag.

Round 8 Race Results

Class D	Best Lap
John Wilson	1:18.25
Adrian Beer	FL 1:17.23
Joe Parrington	1:26.76

Class C	Best Lap
Phil Walker	1:24.03
Martin Hall	FL 1:23.79

Class B

Peter Samuels	FL	1:25.81
Ian Prior		1:27.37
James Wheeler		1:26.85
Barry Holmes		1:27.23
Brian Cakebread		1:27.50

Class AB**NO ENTRIES****Class A**

Terry Savory		1:39.39
Brain Smethurst	FL	1:39.29

Congratulations to**John Wilson for class D honours****Phil Walker for Class C honours****Peter Samuels for Class B honours****Class AB**

There were no entries for Class AB round 8 at Donington Park.

Terry Savory for Class A honours

Mike Breedon