

STRATA21 BCV8 Championship

Oulton Park Round 4, Saturday 17th May 2008 Race Report,

After a fantastic snap of sunshine during the preceding week we were hopeful of a glorious Oulton but a dull and cloudy day was scheduled with showers. Luckily the heavy showers held off until later in the afternoon although there was always a hint of rain in the air. Practice gave us a fair grid of 19 from the scheduled 21 after the last minute withdrawal of Ken Deamer with a family bereavement, Mike Harris with food poisoning and Joe Parrington who had problems with his Class D car conversion. The numbers attending did include most of the damaged cars from the last round at Brands of John Wilson, Adrian Beer, Martin Hall and Jonnie Wheeler who must all be congratulated for their hard work over the last few weeks in putting their cars back on track, all with help from other BCV8 members and particularly Malcolm Beer. John Wilson looked extremely tired but his car was square and "ready to roll" but he said, untested.

The Strata 21 BCV8 Championship race was number one on the afternoons programme and competing were two A class, one AB class, ten B class, two C class and four D class. The fifteen minute practice was first on the morning schedule starting at 08.45 and the very early scrutineering of 07.45 saw the drivers pushing their cars the complete length of the paddock as engines could not be run before 08.15.

Practice

Proving that the rebuilt cars were on song John Wilson, Adrian Beer and Jonnie Wheeler all managed to beat the existing lap records in practice but under race conditions this was not quite to be achieved.

Overall and D class Pole went to John Wilson with a 1.49.367 sitting next to Adrian Beer on a 1.50.272 and on row two Paul Sibley with 1.51.927 alongside Roy McCarthy on a 1.56.524.

Row three C Class Pole with Martin Hall on a 1.59.837 sitting alongside B class Pole Jonnie Wheeler with a 2.01.309 while on row four Peter Samuels with a 2.02.384 was alongside Phil Walker on a 2.02.595. Row five James Wheeler with a 2.05.693 alongside AB Class Bob Luff on 2.10.185 and on row six Ian Prior on a 2.10.590 next to Babak Farsain on a 2.11.424.

On row seven Richard McKoen on a 2.11.798 sitting next to Barry Holmes with a 2.12.851 and on row eight, Mike Breedon on a 2.12.912 alongside Simon Cripps on a 2.14.205. On the penultimate row Howard Grundon with 2.14.260 next to A class Pole Robert Croft on 2.16.694 and finishing the field Brian Smethurst on a 2.24.695.

The Race

The race was called and drivers collected in the Assembly area except the slick shod C and D racers. The rain clouds had formed and the light spit in the air had turned to a drizzle. Jacks and rain tyres were ready but just ten minutes before the race was due to start the drizzle slowed and it was the dry tyres that were chosen Green flag lap commenced on a slightly damp track and there was quite a lot of wiggling in order to warm up the tyres for the front running cars.

The field returned to the grid, the Red lights came on and then off and John Wilson stormed away closely followed by Adrian Beer, Paul Sibley, Martin Hall and Roy McCarthy down into Cascades. Then Phil Walker, Jonnie Wheeler and Peter Samuels nose to tail, then Ian Prior and James Wheeler and the remainder of the field bunched together. Barry Holmes having an excursion at Old Hall Bend and following the field now some 100 yards behind. Down into Knickerbrook for the first time John, Adrian and Paul now pulling out a slight lead on Roy McCarthy locking up, with Martin Hall now just behind him.

On the return to the Start line John and Adrian were chasing hard with Paul holding back slightly, then a gap to Roy and Martin. The battle behind of Jonnie Wheeler and Peter Samuels intensifying as they clung together inches apart for Class B honours.

Lap three and the leaders passed back down past Cascades and Lakeside with the front three pulling out a slight gap from each other and the rest of the field. The mid field battle closely continuing with Jonnie and Peter for B class honours. Back round past Cascades John Wilson now five cars length in front of Adrian but as they came back round to Knickerbrook

the order had changed with Adrian now leading and Paul just behind and a slowing John Wilson with later diagnosed gearbox problems. Adrian continued to the flag with pressure from Paul but maintained his advantage to take the race and class honours with Roy McCarthy taking a lonely third.

Martin Hall claimed Class C victory some sixteen seconds in front of Phil Walker. The B class battle continued race long with Jonnie maintaining his advantage to the flag. After holding off Ian Prior for most of the race James Wheeler had problems and retired on lap six leaving Ian to take third in class B. Behind a hard battle with Richard McKoen and Bob Luff mid field with the near race long dice between the Standard V8's of Simon Cripps and Mike Breedon just behind, ending with Mikes retirement on lap six. Robert Croft brought home the A class some thirty seconds in front of Brian Smethurst the last of the fourteen finishers.

Results Round 4

Times and positions as issued by the MGCC at 13.15 17/5/08

Class D	Best Lap
Adrian Beer	1:50.700
Paul Sibley	1:51.690
Roy McCarthy	1:56.643
John Wilson DNF FL	1:50.597

Class C	
Martin Hall	FL 1:59:784
Phil Walker	2:01.749

Class B	
Jonnie Wheeler	FL 2:03.168
Peter Sameuels	2:03.278
Ian Prior	2:08.023
Richard McKoen	2:10.419
Simon Cripps	2:09.747
Howard Grundon	2:13:073

Class AB	
Bob Luff	2:09.192

Class A	
Robert Croft	FL 1:00.910
Brian Smethurst	1:04.030

Congratulations to
Adrian Beer for class D honours
Martin Hall for class C honours
Jonnie Wheeler for class B honours
Bob Luff for class AB
Robert Croft for class A honours

Commiserations to John Wilson who along with his team of local helpers worked all spare hours available to recover his car from Brands only to have a gearbox fail whilst leading overall and Class D.



Congratulations also to Jonnie Wheeler who was awarded the Commentators Driver of the Race Award.

Pam McCarthy