

## **BCV8 Championship Race Report, Brands Hatch Rounds 2 and 3, Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2008**

25 Cars entered for Rounds 2 and 3 and took to the track for practice on a grey but surprisingly warm day. Simon Cripps had a new car just for this round, having bought the ex-Trevor Rowney MGB GT V8. The car was fairly standard and Simon had found very little time to do anything significant and would be learning the ways of a V8 in Class B for the first time.

Practice went well with just four drivers not able to complete the full session.

Barry Holmes came in after two laps with a fan belt missing and some mechanical problems which brother Terry Holmes dived on and sorted. Simon Cripps came in after 8 laps complaining of handling problems which again Terry Holmes dived on to try and get Simon back out later in the day.

James Wheeler also came in after 8 laps with a problem which confused him for a while until he realized there were actually two problems, carburettor gasket leaking and a spark problem. Once diagnosed both were rectified in time to race later in the day. Roy McCarthy came in after 7 laps with clutch problems.

Barry, Simon and James all managed to sort out their problems but Roy's problem was in the engine/clutch which needed the engine out to rectify so he put on a brave face and watched everyone else having fun!

Adrian Beer was at Brands in his Class D MGB GT V8 having only worked on his car through the last few weeks in between watching Arsenal go backwards in their quest for football glory. Rob Muir came out for the first time in 2008 to show the boys how to run and took Class A pole position for each round.

Paul Sibley finally took pole position for Rounds 2 and 3 from a longer than normal practice session from which a drivers two best times would count for each grid.

In Class A, Ian Longhurst and his Support Crew were the first of the Class A drivers to arrive at Brands on Saturday afternoon intending to get Class A drivers a good spot in the paddock. However when Rob Muir rang him from the side of the A12 following a puncture in his trailer tyre, Ian told him that as far as the paddock was concerned 'there was no room at the inn'! It was so full of 750mc people with articulated trailers and campers!!! An hour later, Rob arrived, with the rather splendid new BCV8 Gazebo, but no room to put it up in the paddock. Still he found a parking place and settled in for the night. On checking the cars over, none of Rob's lights worked. Ian worked his magic and by 8pm in the rain, there were enough lights to get through scrutineering.

Next morning, Terry Savory arrived as fresh as a daisy having had a decent warm nights sleep at home, sensible man! Scrutineering went fine, but back at the camper, Ken Deamer had a problem, yes you guessed it, none of his lights worked!

Ian was again galvanised into action, this time with help from Mike Harris, and Ken's lights were sorted too. Well it kept Ian's mind off his last visit to Brands! Practice went fine, Terry reported that his car was going well, and Ian was getting the feel of his new tyres.

### **BCV8 Brands Hatch Round 2 Race**

Paul Sibley got Pole but John Wilson seemed to get the better start and Paul Sibley came round just behind him then Adrian Beer, Phil Walker, Martin Hall and Ken Deamer, next Peter Samuels in front of Rob Huff, Jonnie Wheeler, Brian Cakebread and James Wheeler. Next Barry Holmes, Kevin Swann and Mike Breedon, Simon Cripps, Neil Cawthorn, Howard Grunden, Paul Atkinson. Next Mike Harris (AB), Rob Muir (A), Babak Farsain (B), Terry Savory and Ian Longhurst was the order at the end of the first lap at Paddock Hill bend.

#### **Class D.**

The order at the front stayed the same with John Wilson leading the race from start to finish. By lap five John, Paul and Adrian had begun to lap the back markers. On lap ten at the top of Paddock Paul Sibley went round the outside in an effort to pass John but lost control and went into the kitty litter at the top of Paddock, his race finished. John continued to the flag with Adrian Beer, the only other D class contender following him home just three hundredths of a second behind.

#### **Class C**

Phil Walker got the better start and came round in fourth overall with Martin Hall and Ken Deamer chasing hard. The positions remained until lap fourteen when Martin dived through to take class lead with Phil slipping in behind with Ken having a race on his own a little further back testing out his ex Dave Parker/Ian Beresford car. Martin held off Phil to the flag with only seven hundredth dividing them.

#### **Class B**

Peter Samuels stormed away from the lights getting a slightly better start than WTCC driver Rob Huff who had his work cut out for the first couple of laps until he dived through to take class lead on lap three, Peter now hot on his tail but a misfire on lap six finished his race.

Jonnie Wheeler behind was chasing hard with Brian Cakebread then James Wheeler following until lap seven when James passed Brian to chase after his Dad, these three having a close race to the flag. Barry Holmes mid field with John Hutson, Kevin Swan, Mike Breedon, Simon Cripps and Neil Cawthorn, then Howard Grunden and Paul Atkinson all battling mid field ducking and diving. Mike had made a cracking start and headed Neil Cawthorne but Neil soon came back and after swapping places a few times at Druids Neil finally made it count to chase after Kevin and pass him just before the flag. Babak Farsain finishing the B class field with interesting and imaginative racing. The inevitable result saw WTCC star Rob Huff take the class win after Peter Samuels chase had ended in retirement on lap 6. Jonnie and James Wheeler finished second and third just 0.007 seconds apart.

#### **Class AB**

Mike Harris in his well presented AB FIA car had a lonely race coming in sixteenth overall

#### **Class A**

Report from the hot seat by Rob Muir. As we lined up for race one, I could see Ian in my mirrors and thought, Ian will be cautious off the line and not want to risk his newly rebuilt car into Paddock. However, not a bit of it, Ian set off like a scalded cat and passed me into Paddock bend. But I managed to get back to the front. I spent most of the race dicing with Babak Farsain (Class B MGB Roadster), we exchanged places on a fair number of occasions, but Babak got the best of me at the end. Just behind us Terry and Ian were starting a little battle of their own, with Terry getting the drop at the flag, but Ian setting his best lap time so far at the circuit.

### **BCV8 Brands Hatch Round 3**

#### **Restarted for Full Distance and classified as a re-run race.**

After the initial first race for round 3 when quite a few of the grid slid off at paddock at the first corner the remaining cars and drivers reassembled for a new full race start of 13 minutes plus 1 lap with a reduced grid of sixteen cars now lining up for the start as follows:-

<b>Class A Practice</b>	Positions		
Driver	Class	Grid	Time
Rob Muir	1	12	1:01.320
Terry Savory	2	14	1:03.740
Ian Longhurst	3	15	1:05.080

<b>Class AB Practice</b>	Positions		
Driver	Class	Grid	Time
Mike Harris	1	9	1:00.100

<b>Class B Practice</b>	Positions		
Driver	Class	Grid	Time
Rob Huff	1	3	56.320
Brian Cakebread	2	4	57.940
John Hutson	3	5	58.160
James Wheeler	4	6	59.230
Neil Cawthorn	5	7	58.950
Kevin Swann	6	8	59.680
Babak Farsain	7	10	1:00.880
Paul Atkinson	8	11	1:01.260
Howard Grunden	9	13	1:01.400
Barry Holmes	10	16	1:24.180

<b>Class C Practice</b>	Positions		
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Driver	Class	Grid	Time
Phil Walker	1	2	55.290

Class D Practice		Positions	
Driver	Class	Grid	Time
Paul Sibley	1	1	51.530

### **BCV8 Championship Round 3**

#### **Race**

When the lights went out Paul Sibley took the lead pulling away from Phil Walker second, Paul started to lap other class cars by lap six and Phil on lap seven. These positions stayed to the flag with Paul taking the overall honours.

The B class was now the one to watch with Rob Huff in charge and nobody close enough to hassle him he set his sights on Phil Walker endeavouring to catch the C class car but not quite making it by the flag by four seconds but a great effort and a great drive.

Brian Cakebread, James Wheeler, Neil Cawthorn, John Hutson and Kevin Swann started off the first six laps with a great chase until Neil Cawthorn had to retire with a broken tappet leaving the rest to battle on. Barry Holmes came storming up from the back of the grid to join the back of the chase. By half way Brian Cakebread and James Wheeler had pulled a gap from John Hutson while a couple of hundred yards behind Kevin and Barry were having a fine battle, Barry taking away seventh place from Kevin on lap thirteen. In ninth place overall Mike Harris had a good but lonely race, while Paul Atkinson, Howard Grunden and Babak Farsain had a great dice until Babak had a backwards moment on lap 12 and dropped back to join the front running B class but a lap behind although that didn't seem to worry him as once there he was happy to run behind James Wheeler to the flag.

Back of the field Class A Rob Muir had a great race dicing for the majority of laps with B class Babak Farsain and the back of the B class battle of Paul and Howard. Rob in his efforts to keep up managing to once again beat the A class lap record at Brands. Finishing off the field, Terry Savory and Ian Longhurst. Terry pulling out a slight but steady advantage to the flag.

**Race reports for rounds 2 and 3 were a combined effort mainly from Pam McCarthy again with input from Rob Muir and Mike Breedon both from the hot seat so to speak!! WHERE ARE YOU BUDDING REPORTERS, YOUR CHAMPIONSHIP NEEDS YOU!!!**