

MOSS EUROPE MGCC BCV8 CHAMPIONSHIP

Race Report Castle Combe Round 3 – CCRC Monday 25th May 2009

Practice

Most of us saw summer for the first time on the Sunday before the race, but on the bank holiday Monday just before qualifying, the decision on which tyres to use had never been so difficult. Light Rain had dampened the track but stopped by the time the cars lined up in the pit lane.

With an smaller than usual grid of 12 cars the classes were very easy to distinguish, 4 A class, 4 B class 1 C class and 3 D class but the Racing and competitiveness was still as strong as ever. The race had been sponsored by Joe Parrington via his Company, Gill's Northern Limited for which we all thank him.

At this point I would love to give you a full qualifying report but on the 2nd lap Peter Collis came down the pit lane and needed some assistance. He stopped by me on the pit wall and revved his engine to get my attention, a marshal shouted at him about where he had stopped, so while attempting to park up in the correct place he shouted out the window 'James I don't think I did my wheel nuts up!' . Now I'm not a monster V8 driver but I do imagine at 180mph it helps to have your nuts tight.

I ran immediately to our camper (yes I said ran!) and grabbed our torque wrench, I ran back only to find his wheel nuts were 21mm not 19mm!, so I had to go running again (I'm sure Peter just wanted me to lose some weight). After tightening his wheels and sending him out, there were only 3 laps of qualifying left and everyone who had gone out on the wrong tyres had come in, so that was qualifying...!!

The Race

After a very warm and sunny afternoon a late race meant the clouds had started looming over head once again. The rain would luckily hold off for the race, which proved to have some very exciting battles throughout.

Class D

The 3 D class cars occupied the front rows of the grid. As the lights changed Sibley started strong, gaining the lead by the first corner. By the next lap Peter Collis had taken Sibley and started to pull out a very impressive gap. Joe in 3rd was struggling with his car and unfortunately had to retire early in the race with mechanical problems.

Midway through the race you would have thought Peter Collis had it in the bag but as the race came to a close 3 laps from the end, there was not a cars width between them, and either Collis or Sibley could have won. Collis defended hard on the final lap making his V8 wider than any V8 I've seen and he managed to just cross the line in front of Sibley to take the win by the smallest of margins. Well done Peter.



Class C

Phil Walker was the only competitor in class C, he chose wet tyres for qualifying putting him behind the B class for the start. Phil drove well in the race getting back in front of the B class bringing his car home in its rightful place. He would love some competition, C class is very low cost considering the speed and lap times the cars can produce, so come on out chaps and don't let Walker walk away with the C class championship!

Class B



Class B usually proves to be very competitive and always provides fantastic racing to watch and take part in.

My 'Bro' Jonnie Wheeler qualified Pole in class (Well done Jonnie! in a completely none bias way! But well done it was a superb qualifying time!) Jonnie had Ian Prior, Tom Jones and Brian Cakebread all wanting to beat him to the first corner.

As the lights changed Jonnie made the best start with the others right behind him. As they reached the first corner Jonnie was still in front with Tom Jones right on his tail. Tom had a very good run out of the first corner and as they reached the first chicane they both went through side by side and in a corner where only one car can fit some one had to give. Jonnie was the victim of Castle Combe's 1st chicane as he spun out handing Tom a huge lead as Ian Prior and Brian Cakebread had to avoid the spinning yellow banana! Tom Jones went on to take B class win, well done Tom. Ian Prior never quite had enough to catch Tom but still took a very impressive 2nd place in front of Jonnie Wheeler who managed to catch and over take Brian Cakebread for the final step of the class podium.

Class A

Class A was one of the best classes to watch, with a fantastic battle for second which went on for the whole race. As the lights changed, Steve Okines made the best start leading round the first corner. Steve managed to pull out a gap and hold on to the flag for victory in class. Well done Steve. The most impressive battle of the whole race in my opinion, was between Terry Savory and Victoria Stone.



Terry in second place, with Victoria battling to overtake him for the whole race meant Terry had to defend and defend even more. There was never really any more than a cars length between them from lights to flag. They were very entertaining to watch and most of the time you could never tell who was going to come second, at the flag though Terry managed to just pip Victoria. Bob Fisher came in 4th.

A ' James WHEELER' Race report.