

**MOSS EUROPE MGCC BCV8 CHAMPIONSHIP
RACE REPORT
M.G.CAR CLUB
SILVERSTONE INTERNATIONAL Round 5
11th July 2009**

The MG Car Club's flagship meeting for 2009 was a massive three day event with Qualifying for many of the Races on Friday afternoon 10th July. The meeting had been supported by Coy's who had two 55 minute races.

The Austin Healey's 50 year anniversary had been accommodated in the 60 minute John Gott Memorial Race and Sigtect and Power Torque Morgan had their separate 30 minute races on the Sunday.

The Moss Europe BCV8 Championship had managed to arrange their practice on Saturday morning but as we had been troubled with low grids for the first few races of the Season we had again been amalgamated with the Cockshoot Cup. The grid capacity for the Silverstone International circuit is 44 so with both Championships amalgamated the total grid of 37 was not quite full, but very impressive. The BCV8 drivers did well on the day though as twenty five entries were initially received for BCV8, Terry Savory having to pull out after his Thruxton crash and both Spencer McCarthy and Babak Farsain pulling out after the Friday morning practice with irreparable engine problems.

The weather forecasts had been for Sunny conditions on the Friday but for rain on the Saturday and Sunday so the dry morning conditions for the Saturday Qualifying were better than expected. The large qualifying grid of forty contained not only the Cockshoot and BCV8 drivers but three who were qualifying out of session as they couldn't make the Friday so had decided to start from the back of their respective grids.

The twenty two BCV8 drivers made up of four D class cars, three C class cars, eight B class cars, two AB class cars and four A class cars, were mixed with the Cockshoot instead of two separate grids but the times were compatible and the fastest BCV8 drivers were all mostly in front of the fastest Cockshoot. The race was first on the Saturday afternoons programme and started at 13.31.

Practice

The Race and BCV8 Pole went to D class Adrian Beer with a 1.32.594 who sat alongside the late entry of Peter Collis who had taken a break from another venue in Cornwall to travel up for the day to make the race with a 1.34.060. On row two Joe Parrington with a 1.34.122 alongside Paul Sibley with a 1.35.141. Row three C class Pole new to BCV8 Phil James driving the Andrew Riley car with a 1.38.213 alongside Phil Walker who was very pleased to finally have some competition with a 1.38.608.

On row four out for the first time this Season Martin Hall with a 1.40.341 alongside B class Pole Rob Huff, BCV8 competitor since 2000 and now doing very well as WTCC Chevrolet driver on a 1.40.393. On row five Tom Jones on a 1.40.646 alongside a return after two years of Ginetta G20 racing, Russell McCarthy on 1.41.578. On Row six Simon Cripps on a 1.41.892 and on row seven James Wheeler with a 1.42.565 alongside dad Jonnie's vacant spot after his blow up in qualifying. On Row eight Brian Cakebread with a 1.43.371 and on row nine, Ron Moorcraft with a 1.45.061 alongside another first timer for 2009 Max Cawthorn with a 1.45.976. On row twelve the welcome return, after his Brands crash in 2008, of Howard Grunden on class AB Pole with 1.51.458 with Brian Smethurst just behind on row thirteen on a 1.52.536 next to Class A Pole Steve Okines on a 1.52.620.

Newcomer to BCV8, Phil Simpson on a 1.54.743 with another first timer for 2009 Ian Longhurst just behind on row sixteen with a 1.55.749. Row seventeen Victoria Stones on a 1.56.270 and on row nineteen, last of BCV8 grid back out for the first time again in 2009 Barry Proud on a 1.59.798.

After practice, Jonnie Wheeler had terminal engine problems and would not make the race

The Race

The grid assembled after the green flag lap which trailed round far into Woodcote Corner. The red lights disappeared and so did Adrian Beer who stormed away towards Copse pulling out quite a gap from the remaining three D class cars. Peter Collis maintained his second place from lights to flag but was pressurised by Paul Sibley and Joe Parrington at times throughout the race. Joe Parrington hung on to Pauls tail finally managing to get ahead to put a challenge on Peter Collis going into Becketts on lap 5 only to miss a gear on the exit and be passed by Paul Sibley before sorting out one that worked to set off after Paul, Peter and Adrian again.

Class C Phil James in the Andrew Riley car had a great dice with Phil Walker for the first five laps until they came up to the back markers and Walker lost touch slightly but maintained class position in front of Martin Hall to the flag. Meanwhile Martin Hall was having a tag race with WTCC's B Class Rob Huff, Rob diving past Martin on lap three but Martin re-passing Rob on lap six to chase hard after Phil Walker. Rob taking time out after the race to find Martin and thank him for making it one of the best BCV8 races Rob had enjoyed for a long time.

Rob Huff had powered away from the start gaining quite a gap from Tom Jones, Russell McCarthy and James Wheeler all driving hard with James losing touch very slightly on the last couple of laps but Tom and Russell had a great race long battle to the flag to take second and third in class. A little further down the field Brian Cakebread was trying to hold off Simon Cripps who had gone backwards on the start but had found his pace and steadily pulled himself up past Max Cawthorn and then Brian Cakebread Further back Ron Moorcraft raced mid field, just being lapped by Adrian before the line and finishing off the B class newcomer Phil Simpson.

Class AB Howard Grunden and Brian Smethurst had good battles down among the Cockshoot, Howard maintaining his class lead from lights to flag.

Steve Okines led class A from lights to flag despite a fantastic effort from Ian Longhurst who despite a slow start managed to catch Steve up by lap five and hassle him to the flag. Barry Proud coming home third in class but two laps down and an incident with a Cockshoot driver put Victoria Stones off the circuit on lap one but she managed to rejoin three laps down but was unable to qualify as a completion in the race.

A great race right through the field with the high speeds of BCV8's top classes being well observed by all the Cockshoot drivers who were complimented on their mirror use.

Results

Class A

Steve Okines	FL	1.54.246
Ian Longhurst		1.55.074
Barry Proud		2.00.975
Victoria Stones	DNC	1.57.916

James Wheeler		1.41.802
Simon Cripps		1.42.742
Brian Cakebread		1.43.577
Max Cawthorn		1.44.876
Ron Moorcraft		1.45.550
Phillip Simpson		1.56.217

Class AB

Howard Grunden	FL	1.51.992
Brian Smethurst		1.52.034

Class C

Phil James		1.38.343
Phil Walker	FL	1.37.895
Martin Hall		1.40.082

Class B

Rob Huff	FL	1.40.020
Tom Jones		1.41.358
Russell McCarthy		1.41.605

Class D

Adrian Beer	FL	1.32.228
Peter Collis		1.33.680
Paul Sibley		1.33.772
Joe Parrington		1.33.188

Pam McCarthy