

**A1 DRIVERS BCV8 CHAMPIONSHIP
RACE REPORT ROUND 1**

**750MC Race Meeting,
Brands Hatch, 1st April 2006**

This is going to be a James Wheeler Race report, so let's see if I am as good with a laptop as I am with a race car!!! Here goes.....

Round 1 & 2 Practice session,

The first race of the season saw a great turn out of racers with many of last years competitors and there were also 3 new faces entering BCV8 in 2006, Tom Jones in his Class B MGB Roadster, Howard Grundon in the ex Marc Harwood MGB GT V8 and Ian Longhurst in his FIA Class AB MGB. With scrutineering running late and dark clouds looming overhead everyone had the choice to make on what tyres to run.

The first qualifying session of 2006 looked like it was going to be only damp until everyone got down to the assembly area, and the heavens opened soaking the track. All the drivers that came out of the pit lane tip toed round Paddock for the first lap seeing how much grip there was on the very wet track, A few laps went by and drivers started pushing harder knowing they had to get two good qualifying times for the races. Steve Okines in his new roadster was learning that his car had a lot more over steer than his old under steering GT, losing it round paddock and ending up in the gravel, bringing the red flag out.

When the qualifying was restarted everyone was going a lot quicker, Oliver Bryant showed great car control, as well as the young new B class driver Tom Jones proving he is going to be one to watch with a very quick time. Practice was not fun for everyone with Jonnie Wheeler having to pull off with a faulty rotor arm, and new driver Ian Longhurst also experiencing electrical problems. Also don't think I didn't see you Mr Breedon Spinning at the bottom of Graham Hill, but quick recovery (damn, thought you would have missed that one!! MVB).

Practice was an extended session in which each drivers 2 best lap time counted towards grid positions for rounds 1 and 2.

Round 1

As the lights changed the whole field charged towards the first corner with Steve Williams, Tom Stewart, and John Wilson so close together and the rest of the field just as close behind them. Joe Parrington led C class round the first corner with all the B class and AB class nibbling at each others tails behind him, Russell McCarthy Leading B class, Oliver Bryant leading class AB, and Rob Muir leading Class A.

Class A

Rob Muir Drove a fantastic race, driving fast from start to finish and leading from the lights to the flag, well done Rob. Steve Okines had a fantastic start passing two cars by the first corner, he also looked like he was enjoying his roadster more than his GT holding a great slide down paddock hill.

Class AB

Oliver Bryant took advantage of his great qualifying position, leading from start to finish, Tom Smith keeping him honest for the first part of the race. Marc Yates had a good race finishing in 2nd place with Tom Smith close behind, Steve Hall and Dawn-Marie Cox had an enjoyable race finishing in strong AB midfield positions. Paul White had a fun race showing quick lap times in his AB class car, but a spin at the top of paddock in avoidance of Tom Jones found him facing the wrong way at the top of paddock, Paul then found a new way of taking the world famous corner as he reversed backwards down the hill, which was probably the safest way down. Ian Longhurst finished his first race.

Class B

Class B entertained with its usual close racing and sideways action. In the first race Russell McCarthy Dominated class B out front, leading from start to finish. The battle was behind though with Peter Samuels and Ian Prior fighting for 2nd place all race. Behind them Mike Harris and Brian Cakebread battled for positions with a great start from Brian Cakebread. Also charging from near the back of the grid was Jonnie Wheeler due to the unfortunate break down in qualifying, however he proved fast in the race finishing 4th in class by the end. Barry Holmes had a good race finding his heavy V8 hard to get round the tight and short Brands Hatch circuit. Tom Jones had a strong first race finishing well, even with a small spin at the top of paddock. Paul Atkinson, Howard Grundon and Mike Breedon rounded up the field of B class. Mike Harris, Brian Cakebread and Barry Sidery-Smith unfortunately had to pull off.

Class C

Joe Parrington had a sound race, winning easily, proving he is the driver to beat in C class at the moment. Phil Walker learning his new car managed a strong 2nd. Piers Townsend rounded up the C class field.

Class D

Class D provide us with its usual fast and furious racing. From the lights to the first corner there was nothing to choose between the first three D class cars. As they came round onto there 2nd lap Tom Stewart was challenging Steve for 1st place. The battle was fraught for the first part of the race until unfortunately Tom had a spin handing the win to Steve Williams, John Wilson wasn't far behind and would have pounced on any mistake from Steve. Roy McCarthy rounded up the D class field.

James Wheeler