

A1 DRIVERS BCV8 CHAMPIONSHIP RACE REPORT ROUND 6

BARC Race Meeting, Brands Hatch, 27th May 2006

The sixth round of the A1 Drivers BCV8 Championship came back to Brands Hatch for a meeting that had been scheduled as the prestigious CSMA meeting where in addition to the fabulous mixed bag of racing there have been air displays and crowds of 20,000 plus filling the stands. After a mix up with dates the BARC took over the meeting when the CSMA pulled out leaving a similar event less the crowds and displays.

A slow entry for the race with only sixteen on the list earlier in the week but a few late entries improved to a grid of twenty by the day, made up of two A class, four AB class, seven B class, three C class, four D class and seven Invitation class.

Practice

The 12.10 practice was in cloudy but dry conditions and grid positions were:

Overall and D Class Pole went to Adrian Beer in the upgraded C to D class car performing well on his first visit to Brands with a 51.739 alongside his "Great Uncle" Steve Williams on a 51.831. Row two John Wilson on 52.258, alongside C Class Pole Joe Parrington with a 53.441. On row three Roy McCarthy with a 54.778 alongside Piers Townsend with 55.755.

Row four B Class Pole Russell McCarthy on 56.126 alongside Peter Samuels on a 57.495 while behind on row five the Paul Audrey C class car on 57.896 next to James Wheeler on a 57.903. On row six Mike Harris on a 58.175 alongside Tom Jones enjoying his first Season on a 58.336.

Row seven an unexpected return after two weeks, 5 kilos of filler and a partial rebuild after his roly-poly at Donington Barry Holmes in his B class V8 on a 58.810 next to Mike Breedon in the Gulf coloured V8 on a 1.01.067.

On row eight, A Class Pole Rob Muir on 1.02.169 alongside AB Class Pole Dawn Marie Cox on a 1.03.016. On the penultimate row Steve Okines on a 1.04.518 next to AB invitation driver Bob Fisher in his MGC on a 1.07.223 and finishing off the field on row ten another AB invitation driver Ian Longhurst on a 1.08.452 next to our 2006 Sponsor Paul White who had left it a bit late to make practice, blaming the M25, putting him on the back of the grid but without a ten second penalty.

The Race

The race, last of the day, had us all guessing as there had been torrential rain during the afternoon, so wets were on the cards. Some wets better than others as BCV8 had been lucky in recent years and there had not been many wet races. However twenty minutes before the race the rain eased off slightly putting doubts in some drivers minds as to whether their 4 or 5 year old tyres would be good enough.....

The grid assembled and from the green flag two warming up laps for the drivers to get used to the wet conditions before they assembled back in their positions.

Lights changed to red and off they went, Steve Williams getting the best start with Adrian Beer doing a major slide as John Wilson came through from the second row. Joe Parrington went

backwards apparently missing a gear and Piers Townsend coming through in fourth just in front of Roy McCarthy, then Paul Audley, Russell McCarthy, a recovering Joe Parrington, James Wheeler, Mike Harris, Tom Jones and Peter Samuels and charging up from the back of the Paul White, then Barry Holmes, Mike Breedon, Dawn Marie Cox, Rob Muir, Steve Okines, Bob Fisher and Ian Longhurst finishing the order as they went up to Druids on the start of lap one.

Lap two Steve still up front with John Wilson just three lengths behind then Adrian, Piers and Roy opening up a gap to Paul Audley with Russell McCarthy and James Wheeler fighting for first in class B just behind. An early ending for Mike Breedon at Druids when the car went in the opposite direction to the one he wanted.

Joe Parrington by lap three on a charge to catch Piers had passed Paul Audley, Russell and James and was up into sixth place and a battling Russell and James passed Paul Audley to continue their dice up into seventh and eight places.

By lap five Steve and John had started to mix it with the back markers and Adrian was waiting for a mistake to be made as he was already lapping faster than both of them. Roy had reeled in Piers Townsend and Russell was still fending off James with difficulty and Tom Jones was not too far behind as the rain that had diminished for the first few laps started to fall again.

At the bottom of Paddock Hill Bend Steve Okines found the kitty litter but the yellow flags warned the drivers who took note and behaved, allowing the race to continue to the flag.

Steve managed to hold off John to the flag, despite a great nose to tail battle. Adrian had a massive slide at McClarens on lap eight allowing fourth place Roy to catch up and Russell and James swapped positions as the conditions worsened, Paul Audley found the barriers on lap eleven his race finished.

Steve maintained his start to finish lead to win and the commentator said it was one of the best races of the day; Adrian came home third and Roy fourth. Piers Townsend came home first in Class C, Joe unable to catch up. A delighted James Wheeler came home first in Class B beating Russell and taking his first Class B win followed by Tom Jones, Mike Harris and Barry Holmes and a despondent Peter Samuels absolutely hating the wet conditions.

Paul White from back of the grid brought home the AB class with Dawn Marie second and Ian Longhurst and Bob Fisher lonely at the back finishing the field. A lonely A class Rob Muir in fifteenth place finishing first in Class A after the demise of Steven Okins.

Pam McCarthy