

A1 DRIVERS BCV8 CHAMPIONSHIP RACE REPORT ROUND 7

**MGCC Race Meeting
OULTON PARK, Sat. 3rd June 2006**

PRACTICE SESSION

After quite a few wet races this season, it was a fantastic sight to finally see some sun! As all the cars went down to the assembly area, once again the usual sound testing had to take place (why it happens just before you go out on to the track I don't know. I think it should take place at scrutineering so you have time to sort a problem, or be measured when your on the track.) I knew there might be a problem for some people though when Rob Muir's standard car went through at 105db and also Jonnie Wheeler's MGB with brand new exhaust also went through at 105db (100db a week before at Brands) everyone struggled to get through, most cars reading 5db higher than normal (I'm not saying anything was wrong with the decibel meter, but there obviously was!!!). Everyone managed to get out to practice, most having to get back for a retest.

Out on track the qualifying was as fast as usual with most of the well known BCV8 names on top of there classes. Tom Stewart pole but John Wilson did look up for a good race! Russell McCarthy on pole of B class but Jonnie Wheeler was on a mission for the race and really wanted a B class win at his most favourite track. Rob Muir looked as if he would dominate class A, but I don't think Richard Dawe would let him get a win too easily.

THE RACE ROUND 7

With the whole field passing the sound retesting, the race looked set to be a good one! Track conditions were perfect. The whole field looked ready to put on a good show as they went round on their formation lap. All cars were on the grid as the lights came on, some drivers surprised thinking there was going to be a green flag lap, but the lights came on and went out & everyone stormed to the first corner. D class as close as ever, C class with Joe Parrington looking strong for another win, B class had Russell leading Mike Harris, Jonnie Wheeler and Peter Samuels pretty much side by side, with Richard Dawe leading A class after Rob Muir thought it would be a green flag lap and did not even have his car in gear as the lights went out!! As they came down towards the second chicane the D class were still as close, The B class also nose to tail, with Russell McCarthy leading but Jonnie Wheeler hot on his tail!

Class A

Richard Dawe jumped Rob Muir on the start, but the very quick Rob Muir soon put Richard under pressure by lap 2. For the early part of the race they both had close clean racing between themselves. But after a while Richard could no longer keep his GT looking so wide, Rob got past for the win. Richard came in second, with Brian Smethurst coming in 3rd.

Class AB

A lonely race for Bob Fisher, the only racer in his class. He still looked like he was having fun taking advantage of the dry Oulton Park race circuit.

Class B

Once again it was the class to watch, Russell making the best start from his pole position & Mike Harris also made a good start 2nd by the first corner. Jonnie Wheeler in 3rd but with the whole B class field so close Jonnie still looked very racy. Peter Samuels 4th, Ian Prior 5th, Mike Breedon 6th. As they came down to the second chicane Jonnie had passed Mike Harris and was right on Russell's tail. Peter Samuels and Mike Harris also challenging for position. Russell and Jonnie had a fantastic race, Jonnie constantly stuck to the boot of Russell and kept trying to dive up the inside of turn 1. As the last lap board came out Jonnie knew this was his final chance, he braked late on the final corner and tried to go round the outside of the defending Russell McCarthy, as they came up over the hill on to the finishing straight they were side by side. They crossed the line at exactly the same time 22:46.730sec. The race was given to Russell by MST timing by 0.0001 of a second. (but Russell's transponder is at the front of his wheel and Jonnie's is at the back of his wheel!!! So who won?) Peter Samuels came in 3rd with a closing Mike Harris behind him, Ian Prior 5th and Mike Breedon 6th.

Class C

Class C was once again dominated by Joe Parrington, it wasn't that easy for him though, as at one point he ended up on the short track locking up and going through the gravel at the bottom of the hill where the Foster's track starts. Martin Hall finish 2nd in class.

Class D

The D class have been close all season, and this race was no exception. As they came round the first corner Tom, John, Adrian and Peter were all so close together I can't remember who was first. As the early laps went on Tom Stewart led from John Wilson but John was looking for a place to pass all around the track. Adrian just behind the two hoping they would make a mistake. About halfway through the race Adrian suddenly dropped back, his rear brakes were in bits! Tom had an off on Lap 8 and his beautiful V8 wasn't looking as straight as usual at the end of the race hopefully he can get it fixed before the next race. This left John Wilson to take the win! Adrian Beer 2nd, Peter Collis 3rd and Roy McCarthy had a half shaft brake and did not finish.

JAMES WHEELER