

**Strata 21 BCV8 Championship
RACE REPORT ROUND 1.
750 MC Snetterton Race Meeting
7th April 2007**

A new season has started and Snetterton was where we all met for the first race. The weather couldn't have been better and it was good to see old and new faces out once again for what looks like a superb season.

Qualifying

Once again, with this race being a double header and both race results potentially counting towards the Overall Championship in 2007, it was essential to have some form of consistency and produce two quick laps at some stage. Practice would be one long session from which each driver would count their 2 best times for Rounds 1 and 2. As all the cars assembled it was great to see shiny 'beginning of the season' cars! The cars made their way out on track, everyone keen to get quick lap times early on. Mike Harris having a spin at turn two! And Tom Jones round Corum having a spectacular spin! But nevertheless a good qualifying session for most, the new D class car of Paul Sibley was one unfortunate driver who had teething problems with his "new" car and didn't make qualifying but still managed to get out for the

Race

Class D

Only 3 D class cars started the race, John Wilson and Brian Halford starting from the front of the grid and Paul Sibley starting from the back. As the lights changed, John Wilson made the best start storming into the lead. Brian Halford had a bad start and fell down the grid, luckily everyone missed him. Paul Sibley made up many places at the start. The race looked like it was John Wilson's until unfortunately he had to retire very early in the race with a gearbox oil leak this handed the win to Brian Halford who didn't get it too easily with Joe Parrington nibbling at his tail! Paul Sibley made great progress during the race finishing 4th overall by the end!

Class C

Joe continued his dominance from last year and even looked as though he was going to win overall at one point! Piers Townsend finished in a strong second. Phil Walker finished in a quiet 3rd. Unfortunately Paul White in his stunning looking C class car had to retire, another with gearbox problems.

Class B

As usual I am a little biased of this class as it is my favorite, it has the most cars and my dad just so happens to be racing in it, so I'm watching it just a tad more... but wow the racing in this class was fantastic. Rob Huff was on pole. It was great to see Rob take time out from his WTCC duties to come out with us again but he had his work cut out with a lot of guys wanting to beat him. Russell McCarthy was a contender but so was Tom Jones who proved himself last year on race pace but with no competition, now he had a serious amount of competition. Jonnie Wheeler was definitely in with a chance but car troubles hindered his race pace and qualifying. Mike Harris,

Pete Samuels, Ian Prior, John Hutson and Brian Cakebread were also very keen to get themselves noticed out on track. As the lights changed Class B set off with Jonnie Wheeler actually making the best start (in car footage can prove it) but as the first corner came Rob Huff kept his lead with Russell right on his tail and Tom right on his (remember this was Tom's first time at Snetterton). Jonnie battled his way into 4th with Pete, Mike, Ian and Brian all just as close behind. In fact a bit to close as Brian Cakebread went into the back of Mike Harris!

As the laps counted down the three cars of Rob Huff, Russell McCarthy and Tom Jones all nose to tail battling for the race win, Jonnie Wheeler with his slowly wounding car was just behind defending Pete Samuels for the moment. Then a third of the way into the race it all changed rather quickly, Peter Samuels over took Jonnie and a bit further up the field Tom Jones out braked himself into Russell's and spun on the exit letting Pete, Jonnie and Mike Harris through. The next lap Rob Huff had to retire with a broken half shaft handing the lead and the race to Russell McCarthy. The battle for second was now the one to watch as Pete Samuels was driving well with a slight gap back to Jonnie, Tom now past Mike Harris was nipping at the back of Jonnie's MGB. Two laps from the end Jonnie was forced to retire as he dropped a valve round Corum handing Tom third! So Russell won and set fastest lap with Peter in 2nd, Tom in 3rd, and Mike 4th. Ian Prior had a race long battle with Brian and over took him on the last lap to finish 5th, and Brian Cakebread rounded up the top 6. Jon Hutson didn't start as his throttle stuck open on the green flag lap. Completing the field in Class B, Mike Breedon brought his MGB GT V8 home ahead of Howard Grundon's rubber bumper V8 and newcomer to BCV8 Richard McKoen in his fairly standard MGB GT.

Class AB

Bob Luff drove a smooth and consistent race, but was the only AB class car out there as Barry Sidery Smith had oil pump failure in practice and never started. Bob was running in the car for his race in Germany this coming weekend, all though I thought he had a fast way of running in a car! Once a racer always a racer!!

Class A

Class A saw Ken Deamer, Rob Muir and Ian Longhurst out in this group. Ken in his beautifully prepared car on the new tyres that have been allowed this season for the class A cars. Rob Muir on the old tyres from last year set some impressive times considering this! The race though was set to be Ken's but Rob did try hard to not let him have it easily for the first few laps even on the slower tyres! Ian Longhurst continued to have frustrating car troubles throughout the race.

Congratulations to:

Brian Halford for race and Class D win.

Joe Parrington for his Class C win

Russell McCarthy for his Class B win

Bob Luff for his Class AB win

Ken Deamer for his Class A win.

JAMES WHEELER

See MST Timings for Practice and Race results under Results