

**Strata 21 BCV8 Championship
RACE REPORT ROUND 11.
CCRC/MGCC Castle Combe
15th September 2007**

Castle Combe circuit was as picturesque as ever as I arrived on Saturday 15th Sept, for round eleven of the MGCC Strata 21 BCV8 championship. This race had welcome support from Jones Motorhomes. Tom Jones was already at the track, and eager to get going, following his drive in the 24 hour race at Silverstone the week before.

The Paddock was packed with BCV8 competitors allocated the grass area, just out of range of the paddock tannoy system. So "bush telegraph" was the order of the day with the drivers who could hear the tannoy, passing the days running times on to the drivers parked further away, in true MGCC 'Marque of Friendship' style.

Ken Deamer arrived with his immaculate MGB, only to discover it had a flat battery and needed a push start. Terry Savory was fortunate to arrive at all, as his tow car gearbox had broken the week before, necessitating him to call on a friend's help to tow his racer for him. Poor John Hutson, could only find a parking place so far from the paddock, he was almost in the spectator area, and had to rely on runners to tell him when to get to the collecting area.

Practice started at 10.54 on a dry track. The BCV8s were amalgamated with a small group of Triumphs for practice and race, who were competing in the TSCC championship. I was spectating at Quarry, accompanied by Brian and Sally Halford, with Brian taking some very professional and spectacular photographs of the drivers.

Arian Beer took pole and Class D, with a 1.13.546 closely followed by Paul Sibley, John Wilson – all three under the existing lap record. It was nice to see Peter Collis out again with BCV8 and he headed Roy McCarthy.

Joe Parrington took Class C pole. Class B pole was taken by a hard charging Russell McCarthy, followed by Jonny Wheeler with his newly built engine, on the rev limiter round Quarry. Then came Tom Jones who was trying hard, getting two wheels on the grass at Quarry exit. Class A/B was taken by Bob Luff and Class A by Ken Deamer, followed by Terry Savory, in his yellow B. The race was a cracker, starting rather late at 16.41hrs on a dry track.

Adrian took the initial lead, but was passed on lap two by John Wilson, who held the lead for the rest of the race. However it was never a done 'done deal' as Adrian hounded John all the way to the end of the shortened race but had the satisfaction of setting fastest lap, which is also a lap record.

Paul Sibley and Peter Collis initially fought over third but Paul eventually got the upper hand and cruised home third. Joe Parrington took a solid Class C. Class B was fought out between Russell and Tom with Jonny Wheeler very close on their heels. Tom eventually found a way past to take the honours and also the fastest lap, which also is a class B lap record. Congratulations Tom. That is a good Birthday present – to go with the new overalls! A delighted third was Jonny Wheeler who was relieved to have just finished as race but a very good effort.

Bob Luff took Class A/B, and in Class A it was Terry Savory who took the lead at the start, only to be passed by Ken, who held the lead to the end of the race. Very unfortunate that BCV8 suffered by losing race time due to the delays in earlier races. Second time this year. However, it was a good race, with just the final left to come at Snetterton on 6th October. Bring on Snetterton.

Rob (Roll On) Muir!