

Strata 21 BCV8 Championship
RACE REPORT ROUND 12.
MGCC SNETTERTON
15th July 2007

We arrived at Snetterton for the final round of the Strata 21 MGCC BCV8 championship race with a twenty car line up, not a bad entry, considering the event fell on the same weekend as the popular Spa six hour race, and some of our group were in Belgium for that race.

As seems to be the case in so many years with BCV8, the overall championship winner would not be decided until the final race was over. In fact this year it went down to the wire, with a three way fight for honors between, Ken Deamer, Class A, Bob Luff, Class AB and Joe Parrington in Class C. All

Three drivers were on 131 points following the Castle Combe round, so a thriller was in prospect for Snetterton.

Both Ken and Joe were fired up, both men needing to get a Class Pole, plus win their class, and, set their Class fastest lap to guarantee the championship over their rival. Bob had elected to race at Spa, as he was in contention for the European FIA class championship, and couldn't be in two places at once.

Practice started at 10.23hrs under cloudy but dry conditions. Both Adrian Beer and John Wilson cut their practice time short, Adrian saving his car for the race once he had set pole, but John curtailing his practice after experiencing trouble with his rear axle, but not before setting second fastest time. Poor Russell McCarthy only managed one lap of practice, before having terminal trouble with his race car which he was unable to sort out in time for the race and would be a none starter.

Practice times were as follows

Class A

Rob Muir	1.30.339
Richard Mckoen	1.30.698
Ken Deamer	1.31.526
Brian Smethurst	1.37.377

Class B

Peter Samuels	1.23.613
Tom Jones	1.23.641
Barry Holmes	1.24.784
Brian Cakebread	1.24.866
Simon Cripps	1.27.806
Mike Breedon	1.29.152
Babak Farsian	1.30.111
Howard Grundon	1.30.298
Paul Atkinson	1.30.945
Russ McCarthy	1.40.796 (retired after one lap sick car)

Class C

Joe Parrington	1.19.398
Martin Hall	1.22.296

Class D

Adrian Beer	1.14.072
John Wilson	1.14.666
Paul Sibley	1.14.973
Roy McCarthy	1.18.135

The Race.

Quite hard to report on all positions when you are in it yourself, so apologies to anyone that I miss out, but I do enjoy reporting on them and will do my best!

Fortunate to start the race at all was John Wilson, who following practice, found that he had

damage to his rear axle crown wheel and had no spare. But true to the camaraderie and friendship of BCV8, Malcolm and Adrian Beer obtained the parts from their Huntingdon base, and then promptly set about helping John fit them. In which other championship or sport would you get two of the main competitors helping in such a way. Long may it continue

As we formed up on the grid a tough and close race looked in prospect. The red lights went out John Wilson set off in the lead with Adrian Beer trying every which way to get past, it looked like it would be a re run of the Silverstone race in August. On lap two Adrian did make it past and into the lead, only to run wide at Sear on the third tour, which let John back into the lead. Adrian did his best to hold onto 2nd, but by lap ten, the hard charging Paul Sibley was having none of it and made his way past into 2nd spot. Roy McCarthy was 4th overall in his immaculate yellow V8.

In Class C and 5th overall was Joe Parrington, Joe heading the class from the lights and netting Class fastest lap into the bargain. Clearly Joe was determined to take the championship this year, after being second overall on so many occasions.

Class B saw a fierce scrap between Tom Jones and Peter Samuels. When they came past me, it was a sight to behold, with millimeters between them, and both lifting inside front wheels high in the air, as they pushed on through Russell, magic.

Poor Barry Holmes did not finish, suffering trouble with his brakes. (Which he fixed before the Sunday Relay Race, following help, again from both the McCarthy and the Beer clan) Babak Farsian had an off at Russell, hopefully with not too much damage, and Howard Grundon had an off at the same corner some laps later when the rear end of his big V8 let go. Howard held it well and was able to continue.

In Class A, Myself, Richard Mckoen and Ken Deamer, continued our season long game of trying to kill each other, and I almost managed it at Russell when the three of us came close up behind Paul Atkinson, I missed a gear, that left Richard nowhere to go except my boot and Ken nowhere to go except Richards boot! Now that's what I call an A train. We survived and finished in that order. Brian Smethurst was much more controlled and finished a tidy 4th in class.

Two new Class lap records were recorded in the race, one in class A by Richard with 1.29.409 and one in class D and overall by John with 1.14.078. Congratulations to both drivers.

A fantastic race, and a worthy champion. Well done to Joe Parrington the 2007 MGCC Strata 21 BCV8 Champion. All that was left for me to do was to load up my faithful old car, and take the cups back to Pam McCarthy, so they could be engraved with Joes name as this years Champion.

When I congratulated Joe in the paddock after the race, he confided in me that the only thing that worried him, was making the acceptance speech at the presentation dinner, so I suggested I made it for him on his behalf!! Don't worry, I don't think he will take me up on the offer. I have enjoyed my year as BCV8 Champion and wish Joe all the very best in 'Carrying the flag forward'

By for now friends, see you at the dinner. Rob

Race Results.

Class D.	John Wilson	1.14.708	F/L	Class B.	Tom Jones	1.23.323
	Paul Sibley	1.15.877			Peter Samuels	1.23.333F/L
	Adrian Beer	1.14.373			Brian Cakebread	1.25.523
	Roy McCarthy	1.18.323			Mike Breedon	1.29.792
					Paul Atkinson	1.30.070
					Howard Grundon	1.30.768
Class C	Joe Parrington	1.19.355	F/L	Class A.	Rob Muir	1.30.116
	Martin Hall	1.22.227			Richard Mckoen	1.29.409F/L
					Ken Deamer	1.31.937
					Brian Smethurst	1.35.179

ROB MUIR