

A1 DRIVERS BCV8 CHAMPIONSHIP RACE REPORT ROUND 8

MGCC Race Meeting, SILVERSTONE INTERNATIONAL 23-25 June 2006

PRACTICE

39 cars entered Round 8, making a very full grid and race long spectacle with various groups of cars having their own private battles to keep the spectators on their toes.

Silverstone provided the usual high number of entrants and fantastic racing throughout the field of stunning MGB's, C's and V8's. The quickest man out on the track was John Wilson setting pole position for the race, just beating Tom Stewart.

Joe Parrington dominated Class C to take class pole.

Class B saw the return of Rob Huff, who took pole position for Class B with superb car control in his MGB, but Russell McCarthy looked as though he may have a good chance starting just behind Rob.

Class AB pole saw another man who likes getting his MG sideways, Tom Smith. Unfortunately, Bob Fisher had a significant off badly damaging his Class AB MGC GT without injury to himself but not able to start the race later in the day.

It was good to see some more A class cars out. Even with a more competition, Rob Muir looked good for a win setting Class A pole 2.5secs quicker than 2nd in class.

THE RACE

The conditions were hot and dry, perfect for close BCV8 racing! As the field lined up on the grid drivers prepared themselves for a sprint to the flag, John Wilson and Tom Stewart side by side with Adrian Beer looking for his first overall victory in 3rd. The grid looked spectacular as the lights went out, 38 Cars thundered to the first corner. John Wilson had troubles from the start when he lost drive with a broken drive shaft and went out of the race leaving Adrian Beer ahead of Tom Stewart followed closely by Brian Halford and Roy McCarthy. The rest of the field stormed past side by side, 2, 3 even 4 wide in places!

Class A

As Class A left the line Rob Muir lead the field round for the first lap with Steve Okines hot on his tail for the first lap. Robert Croft in 3rd followed closely by David Smith and Brian Smethurst. After a few mistakes from Steve Okines this allowed Rob Muir to pull out a good lead and he went on to win. Steve Okines dropped back into the clutches of an increasingly faster Robert Croft who showed great race craft in his first major battle in the BCV8. The two drivers were close for the mid section of the race with Robert Croft taking 2nd at the flag, Steve Okines 3rd, Brian Smethurst 4th and David Smith 5th

Class AB

Tom Smith looked Dominant of class AB, but a charging James Cottingham tried to catch him, unfortunately he had to pull off on lap 6. Paul White put in one of his best performances of the year finishing 2nd in class and putting in a very quick fastest lap. Bob Luff and Barry Sidery Smith had a good battle for 3rd, Bob Luff coming 3rd by the flag, Barry in 4th, Steve Hall 5th and Ian Longhurst in 6th.

Class B

I say it every time but I have to say it again, B class was the class to watch. As they left the grid Rob Huff lead the Class round the 2.2 mile track for the first lap with Russell McCarthy nibbling at his tail all the way round. After the first lap these two were still as close with Peter Samuels just behind in 3rd, Mike Harris in 4th, Ian prior 5th. A small gap after Ian Prior, then a huge group who were going to have a frantic race long battle; Barry Holmes, Tom Jones, Brian Cakebread, Max Cawthorne and John Hutson. I could talk about this group's race for ever but I don't have enough pages, so I will tell you my favourite move was to see Tom Jones dive up the inside of Brian Cakebread and Barry Holmes on one corner completely sideways and he made it stick, it looked spectacular!

The Main race in B class though was at the front between Rob Huff and Russell McCarthy. I don't think I have ever seen two MGB's so close for an entire race ever before. The only way Russell could have got past Rob was to pressure him into a mistake, and wow did he give Rob Pressure.

Rob Huff put his skill to work and held off Russell to the end. Russell proved he was on a mission though, taking the award of fastest lap. Peter Samuels unfortunately had problems in the closing stages of the race allowing Mike Harris to take the last place on the podium.

The B class field was huge and well done to everyone who competed in this highly competitive class.

Class C

Class C once again saw a very quick Joe Parrington. Joe Won the race with ease and looked in a class of his own. Piers Townsend did well for a strong 2nd place. The rest of the C class were rather spread out. All of the competitors managed to find a race somewhere in the pack though. Phil Walker took the last step of the podium.

Class D

As the lights went out D class thundered to the first corner. John Wilson had troubles from the start losing all drive and went out of the race leaving Adrian ahead of Tom Stewart, followed closely by Brian Halford and Roy McCarthy. By the 2nd lap Tom Stewart had got past Adrian Beer. Adrian wasn't going to give up without a fight and battled with Tom for the whole race until the last lap down at Abbey where the two of them came across a back marker both braking very late and both went sideways. Tom had the better lime out of the corner although both managed to sort things out, Tom Stewart took full advantage and won overall and Class D. Adrian put in a superb effort setting the fastest lap and finishing only 2 seconds behind Tom after such a frantic race. Brian Halford was 3rd with Roy McCarthy 4th.

James Wheeler