

## MGCC Race Report – Round 2 Brands Hatch - 2nd-3rd May 2015

The May Bank Holiday weekend has become synonymous with the MG Car Club and Brands Hatch, and this year was no different. Pitched up at the spectacular Kent-based circuit for two days of high speed action, the 2nd-3rd May provided thrilling entertainment as ever, despite tricky weather conditions on Sunday morning.



### Fuel Protect Porsche Club Championship

Peter Morris continued his Porsche Club Championship dominance in race one, to lead a lights to flag charge.

His strong getaway was soon halted when Gary Sullivan's Porsche Cayman S became stranded on the edge of the infamous Paddock Hill Bend gravel trap, calling for an immediate safety car. As Sullivan was rescued, the pace neutralised for a number of laps.

Despite immense pressure from the chasing Mark McAleer at the restart, Morris remained unfazed, to continue his title defence in winning style. McAleer held on for second place.

The pair swapped places second time around, with McAleer victorious over Morris. As the pair circled, the action was suddenly stopped when a collision at Druids amongst the Class 2 front runners left two cars in the middle of the track, one of whom was Jake McAleer.

With just a few minutes left to run at the restart, McAleer and Morris resumed their battle. As Morris saw his chance to dive along the inside of his rival, the chequered flag was scrambled as time ran out, leaving him second.

### The Maxie MG Trophy Championship

Cody Hill triumphed in the opening MG Trophy race of a brand new season, after a thrilling chase from start to finish.

After losing pole position on lap one to a fast starting Doug Cole, Hill was soon muscled out by Jason Burgess as well. With the pair in his sights he set about reducing the gap, whilst also defending from the chasing Ross Makar.

As Cole edged further ahead, the battle for second place ignited. After closing the gap, one swift move saw Hill and Makar muscle ahead of Burgess.



*Cole (99) and Burgess (16) get a good start in Race 1*

With 11 minutes to go Hill managed to latch onto the back of Coles MG ZR 190, before making a successful lunge for the lead. With regained control Hill chased victory, as Cole collected second place and Makar third.

Andrew Ashton claimed Class C honours, ahead of Dan Molloy, Vince Pain and Paul Luti. The battle for third had been fierce throughout, however the pace simmered at the sight of the chequered flag.

A wet race two on Sunday morning saw an eventful start to the day. A good start for Makar saw him launch ahead from the front row of the grid, as race one winner Hill and Cole slipped in behind.

After a few spinners through the field on the opening tour, the race settled into a rhythm, as everyone managed to weave their way around the soggy Indy circuit. Before too long, John Gil fell foul of the Paddock Hill Bend gravel trap, when his MG ZR 160 spun at the bottom of the hill. As he slid into the gravel his car was almost sent into a roll, however saved at the last second. With his MG stuck on the edge of the track, the safety car was released.

Another good launch for Makar at the restart stood him in good stead for victory. A very close top four in the final two laps saw pressure arise, however it was Makar who steered his way to the top step of the podium. Hill held on for second place and Cole third.

Class C victory went to Luti, whose new MG ZR 160 came to life in the wet conditions. Andrew Ashton fought off Dan Molloy for second in Class C, with Fergus Campbell fourth.

Hill and Luti secured themselves Driver of the Race awards, with Hill also crowned Driver of the Day from Saturday.



*Paul Luti (69) in his new ZR170 took the Class C win in Race 2*

### [MGCC Avalanche Motorsport BCV8 Championship](#)



*Rob Spencer takes the lead into the first corner*

Russell McCarthy was once again the man to beat in the opening BCV8 Championship outing on Saturday, despite having to chase Rob Spencer's MGB GT V8 in the early stages.

A speedy getaway saw Spencer immediately launch his MGB GT V8 machine into the lead from the second row of the grid, as Russell McCarthy, Ollie Neaves and Spencer McCarthy settled in behind.

An opportunistic manoeuvre at Druids for the lead McCarthy brother launched him into control, and Spencer down to second place.

As the race neared an end, a spin for Spencer almost erased his chances of a strong result, however as he composed himself once more, he managed to hold onto second place. Behind, Ollie Neaves claimed third place after briefly slipping behind Simon Cripps. Despite, his strong position in third for much of the outing, Cripps suddenly slowed, causing him to vacate his standing.

A chaotic race two saw Russell McCarthy succeed once again, ahead of brother Spencer. Rob Spencer emulated his speedy start from race one, to lead the way from Russell. However, as the pair raced towards Paddock Hill Bend on lap two McCarthy nipped ahead.

As the field toured, they were faced with a last minute safety car when a spinning Rob Spencer sent the chasing Neil Fowler into the Paddock Hill Bend gravel trap in avoidance. With Fowler beached, the safety car was called as he was moved to a safer position.

With just minutes left on the clock, the restart gave us a dash to the flag, to see McCarthy again collect victory. In the midst of chaos, Spencer McCarthy followed his brother onto the podium, whilst James Wheeler held on for third place. Driver of the Race awards went the way of Rob Spencer and Simon Cripps for their sterling efforts.



*Spencer McCarthy (92) takes second place in Race 2, closely followed by James Wheeler (99) in third place*

### [MGCC Drayton Manor Park MG Metro Cup](#)



*Tom Sanderson (19) took the win in Race 1, with Ben Rushworth (48) taking second place*

Tom Sanderson made race one his own, to triumph over Ben Rushworth, after surpassing early leader Mike Williams.

Williams controlled the pace in the opening few laps, as Sanderson and Ben Rushworth followed with intent. However, after a number of laps, Sanderson managed to weave his way into the lead, which he held until the race end.

Gearbox problems for Williams reared their head at the most unwanted of times, resulting in an eventual fifth place finish.

Sanderson doubled his success in race two in challenging conditions. After some much needed TLC for his gearbox on Saturday night, Williams kick started his second race with an outstanding start from his front row grid slot, however it wasn't long before Sanderson was hassling him for honours.

Sanderson soon muscled his way ahead, with Williams second. Oli Hood initially settled in third place, however after a number of moments in tricky conditions, his third place came under threat. With Hood down in seventh place after running onto the grass at Graham Hill Bend, Rushworth gladly took control of third place.

In the midst of battle, issues arose once again for Williams, with engine gremlins the cause of the problem this time around. Unable to fight the issue, Williams was forced to take to the sidelines. In his absence, Rushworth was elevated to second place, ahead of Dick Trevett and Hood who fought back to fourth place. Phil Gough was crowned Driver of the Race in race one, whilst Kyla Birdseye was awarded the accolade in race two.



*Rushworth (48) and Trevett (96) battle for fourth place early on in Race 2*

## Equipe GTS

Brian Arculus led the Equipe GTS field across the finish line after 29 minutes of fierce high speed action. Rob Cull had directed the pace early on, however after losing out to Arculus at mid distance, he soon found himself tumbling down the running order towards retirement.

Pete Foster had enjoyed a strong race, elevating himself as high as third place. However, after sudden issues with his gearbox he was forced to the sidelines.

In the absence of Cull, Arculus remained unchallenged to score honours by just over eight seconds. Robin Ellis found his way to second place, ahead of Richard McKoen in third and Paul Latimer in fourth.

Pete Foster claimed honours second time around after an action-packed outing. After suffering gearbox issues during Saturday's race, Foster was forced to line up 21st on the grid, but after an astounding getaway he managed to battle his way through unscathed.



*Brian Arculus (7) leads Rob Cull (69) in Race 1*



*Pete Foster (77) takes the lead from Brian Arculus, closely followed by Robin Ellis (75) in Race 2*

An unchallenged getaway for Arculus saw him immediately seize control, as the battle ensued behind. The Lotus Elite held control for the majority of the 30 minute encounter, however with less than 10 minutes to go, his lead came under threat when Foster launched an attack after wielding his Triumph TR4 into the line of fire.

As the pair toured wheel to wheel, it was Foster who gained the upper hand, before edging away to a triumphant finish. Ellis managed to work his way back to second place after a challenging end to an eventful race, whilst Arculus completed the podium in third. After a stint in the thick of the action, Peter Edney narrowly missed out

on a podium finish to claim fourth place. Rob Cull, battled his way to fifth place after starting 20th due to yesterday's non-finish. Colin Newbold and Peter Edney each secured the Driver of the Race awards.

## BARC Cannons Tin Tops Championship

Chris Whiteman triumphed in an eventful opening Tin Tops Championship race, after drama found its way to pole sitter Tom Bridger.

Despite a good start for Whiteman, Bridger held onto his advantage from the prime spot on the grid. The battle for the lead was soon neutralised, when the safety car was scrambled to recover the stricken Gordon Cooper from Druids.

With a few minutes left to challenge one another, the restart saw the lead duo reclaim their scrap. As Bridge led the way around the final corner to see the chequered flag, his exit speed was non-existent, allowing Whiteman to pass for victory. Bridger held on for second place, ahead of Terry Searles in third.

Whiteman doubled his success in race two, when long time lead Bridger again suffered unfortunate luck. After leading for the duration, Bridger's Rover 220 Turbo suddenly slowed exiting Graham Hill Bend with less than one minute to go, again handing honours to Whiteman. Bridger was unable to hold on for second place this time around.

Behind, Peter Osborne held on for a strong podium finish with second place, after a race long tussle. Terry Searles again made a podium appearance with a third place result.

### Lackford Engineering MG Midget & Sprite Challenge



*James Dunkley (12) leads ahead of Paul Sibley and Martin Morris in Race 1*

Paul Sibley and Martin Morris shared the spoils from two Lackford Engineering MG Midget & Sprite Challenges races.

James Dunkley led the way as the field rounded Paddock Hill Bend for the first time in race one, trailed closely by Sibley. As the lead duo edged away from their pursuers, their battle intensified, with Sibley opting for a tricky manoeuvre around the outside into Paddock Hill Bend. Unable to make the move stick, Sibley was forced to sit and wait a little longer, until the opportunity to pass presented itself once more.

A mid race collision between Andrew Actman and Brian Bedford saw the latter stranded in the middle of the track at the bottom of Paddock Hill Bend. With heavy damage to the rear of his Austin Healey Sprite Mk 2, the safety car was deployed, neutralising the pace.

After the restart, Sibley raced his way to another victory, ahead of Morris and Edward Reeve. Dunkley slipped to fourth place after a spin in the closing stages.

Dunkley grasped the lead straight away in race two, however soon lost out to Morris as the pair exited Clearways. As Morris swept around the outside of the MG Midget, Dunkley suddenly slowed before diving into retirement.

Despite pressure late on from the chasing Reeve, Morris retained his advantage to sweep by the chequered flag just over one second in the clear.

Paul Campfield's Austin Healey Frogeye Sprite collected a somewhat solitary third place, whilst Andy Southcott fought off Christopher Southcott for fourth. Richard Perry and Andy Southcott also received Drover of the race accolades.



*Edward Reeve (9) took second place in Race 2 behind Martin Morris*

## [MGCC 50s & 60s Sports Car](#)



*Stuart Dean (1) in his MG Dick Jacobs special was awarded Driver of the Race*

Robin Ellis dismissed the opposition to steer himself to MGCC 50s and 60s Sports Car victory, some 41 seconds ahead of nearest challenger John Gray.

As pole sitter Brian Arculus fell by the wayside, the stage was open for a new leading man. Ellis quickly accepted the position, to lead the way to the chequered flag.

The grapple for second place quickly stole the focus, as Jonathan Harmer, John Gray and Stuart Dean shared the runner up spot. After a change of hands a number of times, second place soon fell to Gray, ahead of Dean and Harmer. Paul Chudecki rounded out the finishers, after retirements for Arculus and Rob Cobden. Stuart Dean was awarded Driver of the Race.

## [MGCC Triple Ms](#)

Charles Jones claimed an unchallenged victory in the opening MGCC Triple Ms encounter, protected by over 17 seconds.

Barry Foster and Richard Frankel enjoyed an early race tussle, with Frankel originally ahead. However, as the pair scrapped, Foster managed to edge ahead, to take a comfortable second place.

Jones doubled his weekend's win tally with another victory in race two. Barry Foster again steered his MG Montlhery Midget to bank himself another second place finish, whilst Thijs de Groot claimed third place this time around.



*Charles Jones (99) took both race wins in his MG L Magna*

## [BARC Motorsport News Saloon Car Championship](#)

It was a chaotic opening lap throughout the field. Leader Rick May and Birley rounded Druids side by side, as Birley attempted to steal the lead. As the pair exited Graham Hill Bend, May lost control, as he fish tailed across the circuit and onto the grass. In his absence, Birley inherited control, which he held for the duration.

Malcolm Wise claimed second place, just 0.8 seconds adrift of victory, with Gavin Thomson third, despite a spin in the second half.

Race two mirrored that of race one, when Birley triumphed once more, as he controlled the way to the chequered flag. Wise and Thomson again completed the podium in second and third places, respectively, whilst Matthew Turner and Jamie Liptrott rounded out the top six.

## MGCC Peter Best Insurance MG Cup



*Tom Diment (58) took the win in Race 1...*

Tom Diment stole race one honours in spectacular style, to pass long time leader Ed Davies on the final lap of the race.

Davies had led after early leader James Darby suffered a spin. Despite a cushion of over six seconds at mid distance, Davies came under pressure from Diment in the closing stages. As the pair exited Graham Hill bend on their final tour, Diment saw his opportunity to sneak alongside before edging ahead just in time for the chequered flag.

Davies held on for second place, whilst Iain Dowler made third place his own. Paul Eales kept out of trouble for a fourth place finish, whilst Darby fought back from a drop to 13th place to claim an impressive fifth place by race end.

Diment again took the chequered flag first in race two. After time constraints the flag was flown a few minutes earlier than expected, to crown Diment triumphant.

A good start for Paul Eales saw him take the lead, however as the field exited Graham Hill Bend, Eales was muscled aside by Alan Brooke. By lap two, Diment was hot on the heels on the lead duo, to weave by both and into the lead.

Despite a very brief spell in front for Darby, Diment controlled the pace to the chequered flag, chased by Darby and Ed Davies. Class A victory was awarded to overall fourth placed man Eales.



*... And then followed up with a win in Race 2, with James Darby (38) a close second*

## MGCC Motoring Classics Thoroughbred Sportscar Championship



*Rob Spencer (90) trails behind Neil Fowler (86) before making his move to take the race win*

Rob Spencer unnerved long-time leader Neil Fowler to score sole Thoroughbred Sportscar Championship spoils on Sunday.

With just one race for the championship this weekend the stage was set for a thrilling outing. Fowler seized the lead from the start, and after leading for the majority of laps seemed set for the top step of the podium.

However, as Spencer trailed with menacingly Fowler's lead came under threat, before the former made a successful bid for top spot. Fowler managed to hold second place, whilst Ian Prior reclaimed third place when a seemingly struggling Simon Cripps slipped to fourth place.

## MGCC MG Challenge Race



The final race of the weekend saw the BCV8 Championship cars triumph once more, with victory for Ollie Neaves. Simon Cripps fought his way to second place, ahead of the fast starting Rob Spencer. Ian Prior claimed fourth place, James Wheeler fifth and James Dunkley sixth, after problems for both of the McCarthy brothers.

*Ollie Neaves leads the pack up to Druids, before taking the race win*

*That concludes a spectacular weekend of action, once again, after 23 thrilling races. The MG Car Club will return to the track in just a few weeks time, as we prepare to heard to Donington Park on Sunday 31st May. We look forward to seeing you there.*

Words by [Leanne Fahy](#).

Photos by [Dickon Siddall](#), Adam Sloman and [George Woodward](#)



**MG Car Club. Championship Races. Round 2. Brands Hatch. Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> & Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2015.**  
**Driver of the Race and Day Awards.**

Race 2. The Maxie MG Trophy C'ship. (Round 1).(Race 1): Cody Hill (AUS) (22). MG ZR 190.

Race 3. Avalanche Motorsport BCV8 C'ship (Race 1): Rob Spencer (90). MGB GT V8.

Race 4. Drayton Manor Park Metro Cup. (Round 2). (Race 1); Philip Gough (77). Rover Metro GTi

Race 5. FAIRFX Equipe GTS. (Race 1); Colin Newbold (59). MG B FIA.

Race 7. Lackford Engineering MG Midget & Sprite Challenge: Race 1.Richard Perry (14) MG Midget.

Race 8. 50's and 60's Sports cars Invitation Race. Stuart Dean (1) Dick Jacobs Special.

Race 10. Avalanche Motorsport BCV8 C'ship (Race 2): Simon Cripps (88). MGB GT V8

**Saturday Driver of the Day; Cody Hill (AUS) (22). MG ZR 190.**

Race 12. The Maxie MG Trophy C'ship (Race 2): Paul Luti. (69) MG ZR 170.

Race 13. Drayton Manor Park Metro Cup (Race 2); Kyla Birdseye (95) MG Metro Turbo.

Race 14. FAIRFX Equipe GTS. (Race 2); Peter Edney (191) MG B Roadster.

Race 15. Lackford Engineering MG Midget & Sprite Challenge: (Race 2). Andy Southcott (76) MG Midget.

Race 16. MGCC Triple M's.Race 1. Richard Frankel (42) MG K3 Magnette.

Race 18. Peter Best Insurance Challenge. Race 1: James Darby (38) MG B GT.

Race 19. Motoring Classics Thoroughbred Sportscars C'ship: Ian Prior (91) MG B GT V8.

Race 20. MGCC Triple M's. Race 2; Thijs de Groot (30) MG PA Special.

Race 22. Peter Best Insurance Challenge. Race 2: Richard Wilson (50) MG B Roadster.

Race 23. MGCC MG Challenge Race: James Dunkley (12) MG Midget.

**SUNDAY DRIVER OF THE DAY: Peter Edney (191) MG B Roadster.**