

## **MGCC Race Report – Round 6 Snetterton - 4th-5th October 2014**

*Somehow we seem to have arrived in October and once again at Snetterton for the season finale. A very wet day on Saturday made for interesting action out on track, with many drivers returning to the pits with puddles in their foot well. After waking up to sunshine on Sunday morning, it was clear we would have a spectacular end to another fantastic season, and we certainly weren't disappointed.*



### **MSCC Aero Racing Morgan Challenge**

A safety car appearance on the opening lap of the sole MSCC Aero Racing Morgan Challenge neutralised the pace, immediately after a rolling start. As John Milbank's stricken Morgan 4/4 was recovered the rain began to fall, as drivers weaved their way around the Snetterton 200 circuit.

After a number of laps the race restarted. Pole sitter Philip Goddard had secured the lead from the start, however after a challenge from second placed Keith Ahlers his lead immediately came under threat. Ahlers soon made the position his own, to lead the way to the chequered flag and the championship title.

Behind, Christian McCarty was the man to watch, as he quickly made his way from seventh on the grid to second place by the time the chequered flag fell. After being displaced by McCarty, Goddard managed to secure a third place finish, ahead of Jeremy Knight, Roger Whiteside and Greg Dixon-Smith.

### **MGCC MG Trophy Championship**

Chris Bray steered his way to MG Trophy race one victory. Initially chased by Ross Makar, Bray found himself under immense pressure.

After starting second on the grid, Paul Luti slipped to fourth place, before recovering enough to seize second place. After displacing Jason Burgess for third place, a series of fastest laps soon saw Paul make light work of Makar as well, as he began his hunt for Bray. Suffering from a severe case of 'man flu', Luti was unable to upset Bray's charge as Makar held on for third place.

Class C was full of drama, from start to finish. First of all, leader Richard Marsh fell by the wayside, as he slipped to fifth in class. In his absence, Fergus Campbell took control, as James Cole, Andrew Ashton and Vince Pain battled behind.

Campbell was the next to suffer drama, when an incident put him out of the race. Chaos struck once more just one lap later, when Ashton suddenly slowed before coming into the pits. With clear track in front of him Vince Pain collected Class C honours, ahead of James Cole and Mike Harris.

As the sun began to set on another season for the MG Trophy drivers, the sun began to set at Snetterton, with the drivers facing a sunny sky on the run towards the first corner. A dry race this time around saw a strong getaway launch Luti into turn one first, as Bray and Makar followed behind.

With championship honours at stake, Bray was keen to move ahead, however, a fastest lap from Luti stood him in good stead at the front. Behind, Makar launched an immediate challenge on Bray for second place, giving Luti some breathing room. As the pair fired themselves down the Senna Straight at half distance, Bray hugged the inside line in a bid to deter Makar from stealing his ground. Despite his best efforts, Makar was able to move ahead with a spectacular move.

From here Makar set his sights on Luti, as he closed him down lap after lap. After drama for some of the Class C drivers, the yellow flags were out around the back end of the circuit. With just over two minutes left on the clock the race received the chequered flag treatment as the curfew neared, with Makar ahead of Luti at this point. However, Makar was later deemed to have overtaken Luti under yellow flags, earning him a 10 second penalty and dropping him to third place behind Luti and Bray.

Class C championship protagonist Marsh fell foul of an incident which saw him forced into retirement. In his absence, Mike Harris claimed a Class C victory ahead of Christopher Boulton and James Cole. With Marsh out of the running, Bray was crowned 2014 MG Trophy Champion.

### **Lancaster Insurance MG Owners Club Championship**

Ben Palmer splashed his way to a very soggy victory in the opening MG Owners Club Championship race. What was a slight shower late morning quickly turned to definite rain during the lunch break, which meant it was a very wet outing for the MGOC boys.

Palmer remained unchallenged throughout, to eventually finish some eight seconds ahead of his nearest rival, Gary Smith.

Lee Sullivan triumphed in a shortened second outing, after the red flag ended proceedings 10 minutes from the end, as time constraints came into play.

Sullivan had led from the start, as Smith followed closely. However, after just five laps the race was red flagged. As time constraints caused a worry, the race was unable to restart with Ian Evans not classified in the results due to being the cause of the red flag.

### **MGCC Motoring Classics Thoroughbred Sportscar Championship**

As Rob Spencer swept past the chequered flag to score victory in the sole Thoroughbred Sportscar Championship race, Russell McCarthy collected championship spoils.

Spencer led the way after starting third on the grid, initially challenged by Russell McCarthy. However, as the race developed, McCarthy slipped behind the charging Neil Fowler.

Determined to steal honours, Fowler chased Spencer for the remainder of the outing, but was unable to find a gap big enough for his MGB GT V8 to sneak past. Unable to deter Spencer, Fowler settled in second place.

Simon Cripps exchanged his fifth place grid slot for a third place finish, after some slick manoeuvres through the field. Despite slipping back to a fourth place finish overall, Russell McCarthy collected enough points to claim the championship title, also finishing just 0.4 seconds ahead of brother Spencer on track.

### **MGCC Lackford Engineering MG Midget & Sprite Challenge with MGCC Peter Best Insurance Challenge**

The MG Midget and Sprite Challenge outing ran simultaneously with the Peter Best Insurance Challenge at Snetterton, with Paul Sibley, Tom Diment and Robert Campbell sharing the spoils in their respective series'.

Paul Sibley doubled his successes in the MG Midget and Sprite races, by seizing two victories from as many races.

David Weston led the way in race one as the five red lights went out, with Sibley and Andy Southcott trailing closely behind. Before long Weston's lead came under threat when Sibley made a bid for control before sneaking ahead.

In tricky conditions, Sibley managed to build a four second cushion to his nearest challenger by the time the chequered flag ended their fun. Problems for Weston saw him slip to fifth place, as Southcott collected second. Paul Campfield rounded out the top three.

Tom Diment was the dominant force in the first Peter Best Insurance Challenge appearance. In the absence of pole sitter Niall Campbell, Diment was chased by Chris Dear early on, with the former eventually finishing some 36 seconds ahead.

Race two for the MG Midget and Sprite Challenge again celebrated a Sibley victory, this time with Weston in second place. The race was a much closer affair this time around, with Weston finishing just three seconds adrift of Sibley.

The battle for third place became one to watch, with Andy Southcott eventually claiming the position, despite immense pressure from Paul Campfield, Richard Wildman and Martin Morris.

Robert Campbell claimed Peter Best Insurance Challenge honours in race two, as Diment collected second this time around. Dear kept Diment honest until the moment the chequered flag came into view, to finish just 0.3 seconds away from him.

### **MGCC MG Metro Cup**

Mike Williams originally grasped race one victory in the opening MG Metro Cup race, despite immense pressure from Tom Sanderson throughout. However, after the race Williams was deemed to be underweight causing him to be excluded from the result, and handing victory to Sanderson.

After pole sitter and early leader Ben Rushworth fell from grace in the early stages, Williams inherited control. From here he was forced to defend from the chasing Sanderson, with the pair eventually finishing just over a second apart.

Behind, David Javes held his ground to complete the rostrum in third place, whilst Richard Garrard, Philip Gough and Jonathan Woodcock completed the top six.

Sanderson doubled his success in race two, ahead of Rushworth in the end. Williams had sat in second place in the early stages, however, after falling into retirement after just three laps, Rushworth was promoted to second place.

The battle for third saw Oli Hood triumph over Jack Ashton and Richard Garrard, whilst Javes completed the top six. Another Class B victory for Jonathan Woodcock meant he secured a perfect result with victory at every round.

### **MGCC Ecurie GTS**

Peter Barnard narrowly triumphed ahead of Pete Foster in the first Ecurie GTS race. Despite a grid low on numbers the race was as thrilling as ever, with Foster clawing back a nine second deficit to finish just over one second adrift as the chequered flag fell.

An early morning race on Sunday saw the Ecurie GTS drivers head back out on track, this time in sunny conditions. Despite a slippery track surface, the series delivered once again, with excitement up and down the field from start to finish.

Foster controlled the pace from the start this time, as Barnard chased for the full 30 minutes. With the gap between them at just over three seconds at one point, Barnard had some work to do before decreasing the gap to just 0.194 seconds at race end.

As the chequered flag neared Barnard tried his utmost to surpass Foster, but Foster proved victorious this time around. Behind, John Yea enjoyed an early battle with Richard McKoen to steal third place, which he held until the very end. Craig Taylor collected fourth place, Graham Bates finished fifth and McKoen sixth.

### **MGCC BCV8 Championship**

James Wheeler triumphed over Russell McCarthy in the sole BCV8 Championship race. After heavy rain for much of the day the sun decided to finally make an appearance in time for the penultimate race of the day on Saturday.

With lots of spray to contend with Neil Fowler led the way, chased furiously by Rob Spencer, Wheeler, Russell McCarthy and Spencer McCarthy.

Before long, Wheeler turned his third place into lead of the race, as he began to defend from the chasing Russell McCarthy. Shortened to just 15 minutes due to time constraints, Wheeler managed to secure victory, ahead of McCarthy, Spencer, Spencer McCarthy and early leader Fowler.

### **MGCC British Motor Heritage 4 Hour Relay Race**

A thrilling four hour relay race was again a great way to end another season. The Morgan Magic team led for much of the four hours and looked set to have secured victory as they entered the final 10 minutes. However, as the M Sport Racing outfit began to close on them in the final stages, an attempt to pass with five minutes to go launched them ahead and into the path of the chequered flag.

As the autumn sky began to darken, the Philip Ginn M Sport Racing quartet of Pat Fenn, Bryan Bransom, Darren Stamp and Richard Evans collected the spoils on home soil after battling a series of safety car appearances, ahead of Morgan Magic. The Trophy Guys collected third place on track before handicap positions came into play.

Chapmans Chariots were announced the winners on handicap. The team of Lotus' run by Sarah Hutchison and driven by John Hutchison, John Pringle, John Rees and John Muirhead, finished the race on 162 laps, closely followed by team CMC Motorsport on 161 laps. Third place went to RTCC Motorsport.

*And so the sun sets on another thrilling season of motor racing action here at the MG Car Club. We have crowned champions and congratulated the runners-up. I would like to say a big thank you to everyone for another great season, and thank you for your interaction on the MGCC Live Twitter page - it is always appreciated. Finally, may I say a huge thank you to Steve Carr for his help over the last two years whilst I have been working with the club, I wish you well in your retirement. No doubt we will see you again very soon.*

*Hope you all have an enjoyable off season and we look forward to seeing you next year.*

Words by Leanne Fahy.