

MGCC Race Report – Round 5, Oulton Park - 12th September 2015

A long summer break finally came to an end at Oulton Park on 12th September. After almost three months away from the race track for most of our drivers, team and championships it was great to be reunited in a beautiful spot. Despite unpredictable weather, Oulton Park delivered as ever, with some spectacular scenes on and off track.

Fuel Protect Porsche Club Championship with Pirelli

Mike Johnson claimed victory in the opening Porsche Club Championship race, after a fierce tussle with Craig Wilkins for the duration.

Wilkins made the advantage his own after stealing control from pole sitter Pete Morris on the initial lap. As Morris trailed he suddenly dropped out of the running, leaving Wilkins and Johnson to battle it out. With the pair miles ahead of their nearest challengers, they raced their way towards the chequered flag. As they rounded Old Hall (turn one) in the closing stages, Wilkins found himself out wide on the grass, allowing Johnson a clean sweep into the lead.



Kevin Harrison (6), Chris Dyer (9) and Karim Moudi (81) battle for third place in Race 1

Despite Wilkins' best efforts, Johnson was able to hold on for victory, Wilkins second and Chris Dyer third.

Kevin Harrison proved victorious second time around. Wilkins had been the dominant force once again throughout, and after being chased furiously by Harrison he was determined to hold onto his advantage.

However, as the pair headed towards their final laps, Harrison finally made his move at Old Hall to sweep around the outside and into the lead. Before long Wilkins began to drop back, with a suddenly slowing Porsche 996.

As Wilkins struggled, Johnson and Mark McAleer also made their way ahead, to demote Wilkins down the order. With the chequered flag released slightly earlier than planned, Harrison was crowned the winner, ahead of Johnson, McAleer and Morris, who fought back after a tough race one. Wilkins was classed sixth, despite pitting at the end of the final lap.

The John Woods Motorcare MGCC MG Trophy Championship

Cody Hill triumphed in a dramatic first MG Trophy Championship race. After losing out to the fast starting Colin Robertson as they left the grid, pole sitter Hill chased profusely. With speed on his side, Hill soon managed to weave his way ahead, to pull out an eventual gap of 2.908 seconds over his rivals.

In his wake he left a fierce battle for second place, as Robertson and Ross Makar fought to share the same piece of tarmac. Makar briefly edged ahead, however was unable to fend off the chasing Robertson for long.



Cody Hill (22) took the win in Race 1



As the pair toured, their duet soon became a trio when Doug Cole latched on for a shot at second place. After a smooth start, drama soon began to strike, with Makar sadly the first of the casualties. As he headed down the pit straight in the closing stages, his MG ZR disappeared into a plume of smoke, forcing him onto the grass and out of the race. Shortly afterwards, Cole also disappeared from the running order after losing himself out on track.

As we neared the lunch break, the chequered flag was scrambled a lap earlier than expected to crown Hill, Robertson and Ross as the top three. However, as the field crossed the finish line, a number of cars were sent into disarray at Old Hall, including Fergus Campbell and Paul Bryson.

Class C honours went the way of Dan Molloy, who triumphed ahead of Andrew Ashton and Jack Roberts. A close battle between the four Class D racers saw John Gil finish ahead once again. Bryson collected a second place finish, moments before sadly landing amongst the grass at Old Hall, whilst Martin Webber and Tim Martin rounded out the class.

After much discussion Jason Burgess collected the coveted Driver of the Race award, after being deemed worthy by our commentary team. He was also awarded Driver of the Day.



Colin Robertson (87) defended from Graham Ross to take victory in Race 2

Robertson was triumphant in race two, to land in the right place at the right time. Another strong getaway saw Hill immediately take the lead once again, however, as the opening laps unfolded, Hill found himself under pressure. Whilst in the lead, he ran wide dropping himself down to fourth place, and handing control over to Robertson.

From here, Robertson was forced to defend from a very feisty Ross for the duration, with the pair separated by little over millimetres. Despite the pressure, Robertson held on to claim victory, with Ross second and Burgess third. Hill was handed a 10 second penalty due to a start line infringement, after starting out of position. With his penalty applied Hill collected a fourth place finish.

Class C was dominated by Paul Luti, who claimed class victory, sixth place overall and Driver of the Race. Ashton and Campbell rounded out the top three for Class C. Gil again won Class D, ahead of Webber and Martin. Paul Bryson was unable to race this time around due to damage sustained in race one.



John Gil (36) took both Class D wins

[Lackford Engineering MG Midget & Sprite Challenge](#)

A dominant performance once again saw Paul Sibley crowned as race winner in the sole MG Midget and Sprite Challenge outing.

A quick getaway saw him swap his pole position start for the race lead. After just three laps, a cushion of over 17 seconds confirmed he was set to sample victory once again, despite the threat of a failing gearbox.



James Dunkley chases Andy Southcott in the battle for second place

With issues surrounding his gearbox made apparent during the race, Sibley began to cause worry in the pitlane, however his MG Midget held on for the 20 minute duration. As he rounded Lodge corner for the final time, he was pleased to be greeted by the chequered flag.

Behind, Andy Southcott had held second place for much of the first half. However, as James Dunkley caught up the pair engaged in a lengthy battle, before Dunkley managed to slip ahead.

The pair remained in convoy for the rest of the race, whilst Stephen Watkins, Richard Wildman and Chris Southcott completed the top six.

[MGCC Avalanche Motorsport BCV8 Championship](#)

James Wheeler rose to the challenge at Oulton Park, to claim his first BCV8 Championship victory this season.

Wheeler enjoyed a close race early on with McCarthy for honours, however as the race progressed the pressure increased. The first half of the race saw the top seven lap nose to tail, with McCarthy at the head of the field.

After some time, the top two managed to break away, engulfed in their own battle. With the pressure mounted, Wheeler soon managed to find a gap as he slid by and into the lead. McCarthy chased lap after lap, but was unable to find his way back ahead of his rival.

Adding to the excitement, the top two soon found themselves under pressure from the chasing Ian Prior, who soon managed to displace McCarthy for second place.

After a thrilling race long tussle, Wheeler stayed ahead when it counted, to claim his first victory of the season, much to his delight. Despite immense speed and skill, McCarthy was forced to settle for third place, behind the charging Prior. Rob Spencer and Spencer McCarthy completed the top five.



James Wheeler claimed his first victory this season in the BCV8 Championship

[MSCC Aero Racing Morgan Challenge](#)



Tom Andrew took an impressive win in the Aero Racing Morgan Challenge

Tom Andrew steered his way to a triumphant Aero Racing Morgan Challenge performance. After stealing the lead away from early pace setter Elliot Paterson, Andrew managed to sew a cushion of over nine seconds as he raced to victory.

Behind, Paterson was unable to make amends after seeing Andrew sneak ahead. Despite missing out on victory, he held on for a strong second place, quite some distance ahead of third placed man Russell Paterson.

Simon Orebi Gann secured himself fourth place, mere inches ahead of his nearest challenger Tony Hirst, with the pair separated by just 0.4 seconds as the chequered flag fell.

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

Tom Sanderson and Mike Williams put on a spectacular show once again in the sole MG Metro Cup race. As the race began, the pair stormed towards Old Hall side by side from the front row of the grid. Each determined to take the lead, they were still side by side as they exited Old Hall. However, as they headed down the Avenue Sanderson nipped ahead.

Determined to disperse his rival, Williams launched a challenge on Sanderson, as the pair mirrored one another lap after lap.

As the gap began to increase slightly between the top two, bad luck befell Williams once again when he suddenly slowed across the start/finish line. His comfortable second place standing soon came under threat, when the chasing Ben Rushworth made the best of Williams' bad luck to take second place.

Williams was unable to hold off the advances of his next challenger, Dick Trevett, on the final tour, to slip to fourth place. Despite his woes, he managed to claim a fifth place finish, when Jack Ashton stole fourth place as the pair took the chequered flag.

Class B honours came under scrutiny when chief title pretenders Phil Gough and Mark Eales enjoyed a race long performance. Despite both slipping off track in the latter half, they managed to rejoin. Gough looked set to take a class victory, however lost out to Eales on the final lap, affecting the championship standings dramatically.

Sanderson teamed his race victory with the Driver of the Race award from our commentary team.

[MGCC Cockshoot Cup](#)

Cockshoot Cup victory went the way of Gary Wetton. An outstanding start from Phil Standish saw him launch from fifth on the grid to lead by the time the field rounded Old Hall. However as the opening lap unfolded, Standish found himself muscled aside by the charging Wetton.



Julia Penfold (64) was awarded driver of the race for her effort to claim third in Class B.



Tom Sanderson led from start to finish claiming victory in the only Metro Cup race of the day

Once reaching the head of the pack, Wetton failed to relinquish his advantage, to lead the way to the chequered flag, despite challenge from a number of rivals.

David Morrison became Wetton's first challenger in his MG Midget, however after seemingly suffering a gearbox problem Morrison's race looked set to face an abrupt end. Regardless of his ailing car, he managed to continue to the end, albeit to claim a 12th place finish.

With Morrison unable to affect the podium, Howard Hunt soon found himself settled in second place, despite competition from Ashley Woodward and Standish throughout the race. Able to hold off their advances, Hunt held on for a second place finish, ahead of Standish and Woodward. Carl Chadwick and Ray Collier completed the top six.

[MGCC Motoring Classics Thoroughbred Sports car Championship](#)

A red flag caused an abrupt end to the Thoroughbred Sports car Championship race, when a backmarker's car became stranded in a dangerous position. With the majority of the race completed as the red flag was thrown, the race result was called, crowning Spencer McCarthy the victor.



Neil Fowler (86) takes second place from Rob Spencer

McCarthy led from start to finish this time around, chased furiously by Rob Spencer. Before long the duo found themselves harassed by Neil Fowler, who was keen to score a strong result after failing to evacuate the grid in his earlier race.

Before long Spencer was unable to hold off Fowler any longer, as the pair swapped places. With the top three running nose to tail it was a thrilling race from start to finish, with the trio finishing less than two seconds apart.

Behind, Ian Prior collected fourth place from Russell Paterson and Elliot Paterson. Russell McCarthy had been running in a strong fifth place for much of the race, however after his MGB GT V8 machine began to smoke he was soon forced to pull to one side to rest his ailing racer. Driver of the Race was awarded to Pete Samuels.

Despite rain early on with were graced with sunshine for the remainder of the day. As ever Oulton Park provided some spectacular races, and we now look forward to the championship decider at Snetterton in just a few weeks' time – October 10th & 11th. We look forward to seeing you all there!

Words by [Leanne Fahy](#).

Photos by [Dickon Siddall](#) and [George Woodward](#).

MG Car Club. Championship Races. Oulton Park Saturday 12th September 2015.

Driver of the Race and Day Awards.

Race 1. The Fuel Protect Porsche Club Championship; see Race 9.

Race 2. John Woods Motorcare MG Trophy C'ship Race 1 (Round 9 of 12): Jason Burgess (16). MG ZR 190.

Race 3. Lackford Engineering MG Midget & Sprite Challenge (Round 8): Chris Southcott (21) MG Midget.

Race 4. Avalanche Motorsport BCV8 C'ship (Round 8 of 9): Ian Prior (91). MGB GT V8.

Race 5. Aero Racing Morgan Challenge: Tom Andrew (77) Morgan Aero B.

Race 6. Drayton Manor Park MG Metro Cup (Round 8): Tom Sanderson (19) Rover Metro GTi

Race 7. MGCC Cockshoot Cup (Round 7 of 9): Julia Penfold (64) MG ZR 170.

Race 8. MGCC Motoring Classics Thoroughbred Sportscars C'ship (Round 7 of 8): Peter Samuels (44) MGB Roadster.

Race 9. The Fuel Protect Porsche Club Championship: Mike Johnson (47) Porsche 996 C2.

Race 10. John Woods Motorcare MG Trophy C'ship Race 2 (Round 10 of 12): Paul Luti (69). MG ZR 170.

Driver of the Day - Jason Burgess.