



**Motorsport**

## **MGCC Race Report – Round 2 Brands Hatch**

A bumper action packed weekend of racing saw Brands Hatch play host to the MG Car Club this weekend (4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> May). Together with our usual collection of impressive race series', we were joined by the Porsche Club Championship and the Classic Sports Car Club (CSCC), to provide two full days of fast paced on track entertainment.

After a morning dedicated to qualifying on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> May, we had nine races to hold the fan's attention for the rest of the day. Race one saw the Porsche Club Championship leap into action, with an eventful outing to kick start the Brands adventure. Pole sitter Tom Bradshaw leapt to the fore as the five red lights went out, followed by fellow front row starter Mark Sumpter. Third placed man Mark McAleer soon began to make waves when he weaved his way through to second, to demote Sumpter to third.

After an appearance by the safety car the racing resumed, with 13 minutes of action to the chequered flag. Before long the safety car was deployed once more, as the field trailed at a controlled pace. With six minutes left to race the action got underway once more, as Bradshaw and McAleer sprinted towards the chequered flag. With just 0.826 seconds between them, Bradshaw scored victory over McAleer and Sumpter, with Adrian Slater in fourth.

Race two saw Sumpter lead away from the grid this time around, with Bradshaw second and Pete Morris third. Before long the safety car made yet another appearance out on track. At the restart Slater edged ahead of Morris to move into third place, as Bradshaw completed his own overtake on Sumpter for the lead. Unable to affect Bradshaw's advantage, Sumpter followed him across the finish line, as Morris moved back to third behind.

The MG Trophy Championship again saw action in abundance, with the usual suspects providing the thrills and spills. A second place start quickly became the lead for Paul Luti, as Doug Cole followed. Drama for Chris Bray meant he was unable to start, as Luti and Cole battled for supremacy.

With just three minutes to go, Cole slipped by into the lead, however with just seconds left Luti regained his earlier advantage as the chequered flag fell. Behind, Dan Neaves fought off Ross Makar for third, whilst Andrew Ashton again scored Class C honours.

Determined to make amends for his non-start yesterday, a good start gave Bray the leap forward he needed. As he led the field Bray was able to develop a cushion of 10 seconds, whilst Luti and Cole scrapped behind. After 22 laps it was Bray who was crowned victorious, with Luti holding onto second, just 1.6 seconds ahead of a feisty Cole. Dan and Ollie Neaves provided great entertainment, with Dan finishing ahead in the end in fourth and Ollie fifth. Andrew Ashton again secured a Class C triumph.

Russell McCarthy won Saturday's BCV8 Championship race, just 0.548s ahead of his nearest challenger Spencer McCarthy. Spencer had held the advantage in the early stages, however a determined Russell found his way to the head of the field with five minutes to go.

Tom Smith and Rod Begbie ensured the crowd were on the edge of their seats throughout Saturday's Ecurie GTS race. Early leader Smith came under pressure from the chasing Begbie, before the pair entered a fierce tussle, swapping positions lap after lap.

A safety car early on halted the chase, before the battle resumed at the restart. Despite each showing their dominance, it was Smith who held the lead when the flag fell, with Begbie second and Malcolm Gammons third.

Smith tasted victory again on Sunday, after developing a gap of 19 seconds back to Malcolm Gammons in second. A close pursuit for second saw Gammons forced to fend off advances from Robi Bernberg, with the pair taking the chequered flag close together.

Mike Williams turned pole position into victory in the first MG Metro Cup outing. After initially losing the lead to Tom Sanderson, Williams trailed for a number of laps, before getting the jump on his opponent towards the end. Sanderson held on for second, with Dick Trevett third.

Williams returned to the winners circle on Sunday, to again beat Sanderson to the privilege. This time however, it was Jack Ashton who rounded out the podium in third, after progressing on his seventh place finish in race one.

It was stay as you are in the first MG Midget and Sprite Challenge race, as front row pairing Paul Sibley and Edward Reeve finished as they had started. As the positions changed behind them, the lead duo pulled a gap as they steered towards a first and second place finish, respectively. A last minute lunge through the field benefited Richard Bridge, who jumped to third place by the flag, with Tom Neat fourth, Pippa Cow fifth and Paul Campfield sixth.

Sibley enjoyed the taste of victory again on Sunday, leading the field from start to finish. However, this time around Martin Morris followed him home, after stealing second away from Reeve in the final 10 minutes. Bridge, Neat and Cow enjoyed another close battle, swapping places a number of times.

Simon Cripps clawed back victory after losing the lead to Ian Prior early on in Saturday's combined Thoroughbred Sportscars and Peter Best Insurance Challenge race. Cripps scored victory over Prior in the Thoroughbred element of the race, whilst Peter Best Insurance Challenge honours went to Barry Holmes.

It was Russell McCarthy's turn to sample victory on Sunday, when a close tussle with Cripps led him to the winners circle. Cripps managed to edge ahead of McCarthy during this second encounter, however after finding a way back past it was McCarthy who collected the chequered flag. Holmes again won the Peter Best Insurance Challenge.

A rolling start proved to be triumphant for Ian Hall in the first CSCC Special Saloons encounter. In a field of impressive machinery, it was Hall who turned pole into victory, ahead of Simon Allaway and Paul Sibley. The same trio returned to their same spots in the second appearance for the CSCC Special Saloons on Sunday, as Hall led Allaway to the chequered flag. Sibley initially lost third place to Thomas Carey, however he managed to regain the position in time for the flag.

Rod Birley transformed pole into triumph in the opening Motorsport News Saloon Car Championship race. With a cushion of 8 seconds he kept the chasing Subaru Impreza of Dale Gent at bay, whilst Malcolm Wise finished third. Chris Whiteman dominated the second outing, to take victory by 15.294 seconds. Birley, Gent and Wise enjoyed a repeat of their race one performance, with a finish in the same order. Birley's Ford Escort Cosworth led him to a controlled victory, whilst Gent and Wise battled until the chequered flag fell.

The Historic Intermarque with Iconic 50's Sports Cars saw Brian Arculus romp to victory, leading the way from Andy Shepherd. John Hilbery completed the podium in third place, after displacing John Harker earlier on.

David Walley and Ian Thompson enjoyed a close scrap from start to finish in the Saloon vs Sports Car Challenge and JEC Powered by Jaguar race. As the pair weaved around the Indy circuit, they were able to develop a substantial gap to Robert Singleton in third.

David Howard displaced pole sitter James Ramm at the start of the Jaguar Saloon and GT Championship race. As Howard slipped by, Ramm kept him honest all the way to the end, however he was unable to regain his advantage before a red flag halted the action due to a substantial amount of oil on the circuit.

It was another fantastic race weekend for the MGCC. The next meeting is the famous MG Live event at Silverstone during the 15<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> June, and we very much look forward to seeing you all there. For more information, please visit the official website – [www.mglive.co.uk](http://www.mglive.co.uk).