

Excellent racing at Grand Prix Circuit meeting ELMES WINS AGAIN AS RIDDIFORD STARS

Blessed with absolutely superb weather the annual SRC Grand Prix meeting took place on Saturday June 14th.

The normal race order was changed for this occasion giving the senior single seater drivers the opportunity of practicing and racing first, and very competitive it turned out to be, the front row spanning two tenths of a second with the next six drivers covered by less than two seconds.

Costas Anastolitis who had survived a high speed grass cutting expedition in practice creditably achieving pole. However, in the race he faded from contention. Chris Piborough retired with, previously bent valves then Roger Varley crashed after Stone, so it was left to reigning champion Michael Allison to lead a challenging Gordon Wade across the finish line. Calvan Player finished third thinking he had claimed a new lap record, sadly this was not the case, Gerry Corbett was suffering from heat and misquoted the record as 1.48.6 when it is in fact 1.48.8. Austin Kinsella emulated the first three by knocking around a second off his practice time to finish a worthy fourth.

Sarah Page did very well to put her Maestro in the middle of the front row for the next event. Although she repeated her time in the race, her final position was destined to be fourth. The other three protagonists dramatically sliced their practice times in the competition — Derek Jones emerging a clear winner from Howard Collins and Alan Baverstock.

Over from the States Richard Valtaggio wanted to see how he fared against other SRS drivers, the short answer was excellently. He set pole, led from the Green and was well in front on the very last lap when his engine let go in a highly dramatic fashion. What a disappointment! It was expected that Andrew Eccomides would be able to provide some opposition but regrettably his clutch pipe split and he retired on the first lap. So from the outside of the front row Jim Ross led. Tim Morris and Scott Barnett crossed the line. Worth noting is Jim Ross's consistency — during his drive to victory his fastest lap was bettered by every other driver bar one — there's a moral in there for all to learn.

Back to the Maestros for event four. Lyndon Griffith made the early running but Neil Rid-

diford was recovering from a less than perfect start from pole. Gating his head down in approved fashion he worked hard for his victory, setting a new lap record of 2.10.9 in the process. Lyndon had been usurped a couple of laps from the finish but still crossed the line eleven seconds clear of Charles 'Senna' Quinn.

Neil — Driver of the Day

Considering that he only came along to Silverstone for a Season introduction in October 1985, Neil Riddiford's progress since then has been rapid. Finishing the full Season Course in time for the first SRC race of 1986 — which he properly won, April's event saw him win again, this time in the 'senior' race but then he blotted his copybook with a spin in the next race, although he did have the consolation of setting fastest lap. Then on the occasion of the SRC Grand Prix Meeting he caught the eye and attracted the votes of the judges by setting sole in practice, winning the race and setting a new lap record into the bargain.

Aylesbury's Neil Riddiford surely will be a driver to watch in the future — his prize winning Metro drive should be during the Finals week end in October — another Grand Prix Circuit bonanza.

In only his second race with the Club Paul Ward did well to start from the middle of the front row, he drove cleanly away from the pursuing pack and looked to have it all sewn up. However Alan Finn was making a comeback in more than one sense. He last raced with SRC in 1984, his career to date being

somewhat chequered, now he was a different driver. Recovering from a poor start he concentrated on his task and reeled in the leader, achieving his first victory in style and leaving Paul Ward to settle for a safe second from David Norton, also achieving a personal best.

The first five Maestros certainly made a spectacular sight during the next race. That man Elmes was on pole but was caught out at Copse coming out third from Alan Gaunt and Keith Martin. Filling his mirrors Paul Allbutt and Martin Harrison were determined not to let go. And what a hectic dice it was. The tarmac proved too narrow on several occasions but everyone just kept it together during the place swapping six laps. At the flag Steve Elmes had the verdict from Paul Allbutt and Keith Martin, these covered by less than two seconds but Alan Gaunt in finishing fourth had the distinction of equalling the new lap record.

A race of mixed fortunes rounded off the proceedings. Keith Lane had set pole for his first race but then faded to finish seventh. Adam Johnson improved his practice time by almost a second to take victory from the middle of the front row but Jim Graham, from the outside looked strong in the first half, then gradually slipped down the order to finish fifth. Lopping over five seconds from his practice best David Liversage stormed through to fastest lap and second by the flag and with a six second improvement Franco Cervi finished third. But the prize for the biggest improvement after practice has to go to Stephen Hillas, he found nearly eleven seconds during his drive to the finish.

The day was rounded off with the presentations, ably announced by the man with the golden tongue — Marcus Pye. Peter Jopp presented the race winners with their wall clocks in his capacity as BRCC director and judge for Driver of the Day. Formula Three's man of the moment, and SRS Instructor, Andy Wallace presented the laurel and bubbly to our Driver of the Day. Our thanks to all our officials, marshals and staff for what turned out to be a thoroughly enjoyable day, made all the more so by the steak barbecue afterwards.

RESULTS

Race One: Formula Ford

1st Michael Allison (10.56.7), 2nd Gordon Wade (10.58.8),
3rd Calvan Player (11.00.1)
Fastest Lap — Calvan Player 1.47.3

Race Two: MG Maestro

1st Derek Jones (13.33.7), 2nd Howard Collins (13.44.0),
3rd Alan Baverstock (13.45.3)
Fastest Lap — Derek Jones 2.13.3

Race Three: Formula Ford

1st Jim Ross (11.32.3), 2nd Tim Morris (11.33.9),
3rd Scott Barrett (11.34.9)
Fastest Lap — Richard Valtaggio 1.51.9

Race Four: MG Maestro

1st Neil Riddiford (13.21.4), 2nd Lyndon Griffith (13.22.1),
3rd Charles Quinn (13.33.7)
Fastest Lap — Neil Riddiford 2.10.9

Race Five — Formula Ford

1st Alan Finn (11.15.7), 2nd Paul Ward (11.16.8),
3rd David Norton (11.30.2)
Fastest Lap — Alan Finn 1.49.6

SRC Race Meeting June 14th

Silverstone Grand Prix Circuit

All races 6 laps, 17.59 miles

Race Six — MG Maestro

1st Steve Elmes (13.19.4), 2nd Paul Allbutt (13.20.2),
3rd Keith Martin (13.21.2)
Fastest Lap — Alan Gaunt 2.10.9

Race Seven — Formula Ford

1st Adam Johnson (11.44.1), 2nd David Liversage (11.47.5),
3rd Franco Cervi (11.56.7)
Fastest Lap — David Liversage 1.51.8



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