

## Silverstone 17 April 2021 VSCC Spring Start meeting

How glorious to be able to fire up the cars once more for only the second race in eighteen months! The 10 race programme had us scheduled as races 2 and 9.

There were 16 500's and their drivers present, all very much looking forward to a great day under a bright blue sky. The driver line-up had three new faces in Jonathan Morris in the ex Simon Dedman Waye, Martyn Corfield in a Cooper Mk 8 and Alexis Wilson with father Chris's Mackson. Richard Kelly brought the newly restored Heizer. We also welcomed back Jim May and Darrell Woods.



### Practice

Most drivers gently worked their way into the swing of things, glad to be out on track again. The cars largely ran well but as might be expected after such a long layoff there were some minor issues, much to the frustration of the drivers. Chas Reynolds and Richard Kelly both suffered from engines being reluctant to rev much above 4500, one exhaust pipe on the Cousey came adrift at the manifold and George discovered a split in his oil tank on returning to the paddock. Darrell was forced to qualify out of session due to a detached brake pipe and the engine miss-firing on warm up.

George had put in some quick laps and easily took pole position, nearly two seconds clear of Chris and Xavier, mere tenths apart. There was then a close group of Simon, Richard, Alex and Stuart before another gap back to the rest of the trouble free runners.



### Race 1





As the lights turned green, George went away into a lead that was to continually grow throughout the race. Next up came Xavier right on the tail of Chris, a duel that lasted until the chequered flag. After starting from the back of the grid, Darrell had managed to carve his way up to an astonishing fourth by the end of lap 1 and was intent on hunting down the leaders. By lap four he was only a second behind Xavier but as he approached the end of lap five, the oil feed to the Norton's rocker box failed, ending his race.

Next up were Richard F, Simon and Stuart before a rather lonely Alexis and Martyn ahead of a similarly spaced JB, Jonathan, Andy and Will. Richard K and Chas both had cars that were not giving enough revs and hence power which to a lesser extent was an issue for Jim.



On lap 9 Will's engine stopped abruptly bringing his race to an end and on lap 11 JB coasted to a halt on the exit of Copse, mysteriously out of fuel.

At the end of 16 minutes George took a comfortable win nearly 10 seconds up on Chris and Xavier, still only half a second apart. Simon and Richard F both enjoyed themselves but Stuart faded a little due to being increasingly uncomfortable in the seat. Martyn had begun to develop gearbox problems and Alex had found it harder work than anticipated, losing out to the former on the last lap.

As might be expected, the time between the races saw some busy fettling of the cars. Richard K found a split in a seam of one fuel tank and also changed gearing, Jim felt he may have a bent valve and Chas not only changed gearing but



investigated his ignition set up. Darrell fixed his oil feed and JB changed float needles to stop fuel spraying out.

## **Race 2**

Fifteen cars left the paddock, only Will's seized engine keeping him out. As George led the field around to the start it was noticeable how late it was before the gantry lights went out. He immediately pulled out a lead over Chris and Xavier who this time could not hang on to the formers coat tails. Next up was a close group of Alex, Simon and Richard F before Chas and Stuart in what was to be the closest duel of the race, lasting until the chequered flag. Unexpectedly Darrell failed to complete the first lap as the engine developed a miss-fire and he prudently retired to save a potential major engine failure.

As the race progressed, George's lead gradually extended and Xavier fell away from Chris back towards Richard F and Simon. On lap 7 Richard managed to get past Xavier, who was now suffering with a very slight miss-fire, but none-the-less managed to hang on to the Cooper.



On lap 10 Richard had a spin, which dropped him back behind both Xavier and Simon. This was also the lap during which JB had yet another failure of the exhaust pipe to manifold junction, causing him to retire.

At flag George had a comfortable lead of over six seconds ahead of a lonely Chris. Xavier picked up his second third place, and Simon and Richard F their second 4th and 5th places respectively. Chas led Stuart across the line by a car length or so, a couple of seconds up on Alex. The only other car not to finish was the unlucky Richard K, the Heizer losing drive on the last lap.

Once back in the paddock the provisional results showed that both Chas and Alex had been penalised for apparent jump start infringements, although no explanation was given and each was given a different penalty! However, subsequently each was given a consistent 10 second penalty which dropped Chas behind Stuart and put Alex ahead of Jonathan, where he had been on the road.

Overall, the paddock was a happy place. For George everything had gone according to plan whilst Jonathan and Alex had finished both races on their debut to 500 racing.



A strategy meeting, where the power lies

**The next race will be at Mallory Park on June 13.**