

Snetterton Race Report

The Snetterton race weekend got off to a great start when Jenny and Simon Hewes hosted the now traditional race weekend party at Troston Hall.

37 x 500 Owners Association members attended the party which started with informal drinks on the lawn during which everyone had chance to catch up on the latest news. Guests were then invited into the hall to enjoy a sumptuous buffet, which was enjoyed by everyone, and as is the norm at Troston, the deserts were really scrumptious and several members were seen going up for seconds, perhaps even thirds!

Following the meal Jenny sung a range of songs to a piano accompaniment that was enjoyed by the assembled partygoers

Nigel Challis thanked Jenny and Simon on behalf of the club and the evening concluded at about 10 pm, with a weekend racing still to look forward to.

Thrills, spills, drama, music, dancing, singing, racing all part of a glorious 500 weekend of English Summer weather with rain, sun, wind and cloud in equal measure ensured an enjoyable time by all for the 500 race weekend at Snetterton to celebrate the 70th Anniversary of the circuit opening. [1951- 2021.] 22 cars had entered the double header weekend to mix with the GT3, GT4, GB3 and Ginetta modern car races. Our cars are 70 years older almost matched by the age difference of the drivers !!

Practice on Saturday morning got everyone going on a wet track and an unfortunate incident on the opening lap resulted in much of the practice following the Safety Car and with the Safety Car deployed it was difficult to know who was where ! George ended up on pole with Darrell in 2nd and JB Jones in 3rd place. The Larkens brought over from Holland by Mike Doodeman had an unexplained misfire and had to pull out.



As the afternoon carried on at around 3pm there was suddenly a fire in the paddock where a GT3 car transporter and tyres caught fire. It soon developed into a serious blaze. Fortunately for us it was near the pit garages and in the ensuing chaos fire extinguishers and the Fire Brigade extinguished it. Happily no one was hurt just some sad faces looking at the charred remains. This meant all afternoon races were cancelled as fire extinguishers were replenished and everything checked to make sure the circuit could function again.



Meanwhile back in the 500 Paddock Chinese Elvis had arrived and the evening started to rock.....a tow truck driver said to me on Sunday he had stayed for the performance and said 'you 500 people know how to party..!'



Sunday morning started dry and the first race was scheduled for 1.15pm. Simon Dedman took an early lead and with George and Chris Wilson on his tail managed to hold the lead to the end taking the flag with a very well driven spirited drive. Meanwhile in the field Xavier dropped a valve, Chas Reynolds had a brake problem and span into the tyre wall, Roy broke a chain, Simon Frost had a misfire, Simon Hewes tried to catch up after a slow start, Darrell span on the grass but managed to make it up to 4th place albeit with a small penalty for a misdemeanor at the finish line. It was Simon's maiden win so congratulations to him who we will see more of at the front of the field in future.



The 2nd race was at 5.30pm some 6 1/2 hours after it was originally planned due to the fire and race cancellations, some people had to leave before the race to make previous

arrangements so 12 cars took to the grid for what proved to be the fastest race of the day. It was a tussle at the front with some very close racing George led initially but Chris Wilson soon took a commanding lead and Simon Dedman, Darrell and George battled it out. Alex Wilson, Richard Fuller and Jonathan Morris followed up and out of the 12 cars 11 finished the race with George pulling out on lap 4 with a seized piston. So it was Chris taking the win followed by Darrell and then Simon in 3rd place. It was a great race with some very good driving and overtaking manoeuvres.

Next it is Castle Coombe on the 2/3rd October where the 2021 Championship will be settled!

