

Castle Combe Race Report Oct 2021

Despite Goodwood in a fortnight, a national road fuel panic and a depressing weather forecast, a cheerful group of 15 entrants foregathered for a chilly BBQ on the eve of the final race in our championship.

Saturday dawned as ugly as predicted and for the second year running Castle Combe did their very best not to disappoint – some very choice machinery to be seen in the paddock and an excellent big band in the Jaguar marquee raised spirits as we prepared for qualifying which started at the same time as the rain. Tom Waterfield in Tim Ross's Mk IX Cooper laid down a marker by nearly 10 seconds over Darrell Woods in the Staride and Roy Hunt's Martin. Very slippery but no mishaps though John Chisholm in the Arnott had his carburettor come adrift and a slipping clutch, and Martyn Corfield's Mk VIII went well but he suspected a leaking head gasket and had the head off his JAP engine in the interval. Oh, and Darrell had a slow puncture in a rear tyre which Dunlop obligingly repaired for free. Martin Sheppard completed practice but then left – something to do with the London Marathon in which both he and wife Julie have run in past years.

In an effort to beat the worsening weather the programme was accelerated by half an hour and 12 cars made the grid plus Simon Hewes starting from the pit lane. Not actually raining terribly hard but the track was waterlogged – officially described as “damp”! - with associated visibility problems. Away straight into the lead went Tom followed by Martyn, young Alex Wilson in the Mackson in P3 with Darrell and Alex's dad Chris in his Mk X making up the first five and this order was maintained throughout, but not without Chris having to defend against Fin Mackintosh, each of them having a wobbly moment on Camp Bend to the consternation of the other! Fin then became busy keeping ahead of Richard Fuller in the blue and yellow Cooper who in turn was passed by Andy Raynor's Kieft.. The field was rounded up by Michael Brough in the attractive and purposeful-looking BJR and in spite of the foul conditions the only non-finisher was the luckless John Chisholm with a chain failure. Although it reads like rather a dull procession it was all round quite an exciting display of skill and self-control.

Alex's stirring drive secured for him the Class P2 championship*, well-earned after a consistent season. Dad, having himself already secured the overall and Class P3 championships* by a narrow margin from Simon Dedman's immaculate Mk X, was suitably chuffed! Well done both!

**The Championship positions remain provisional until ratified by the club committee.*