

## MGCC Race Report – Round 4 Donington Park - 3rd August 2014

*A somewhat tamer meeting awaited the MG Car Club as we arrived at Donington Park for round four. As the sun shone down the stage was set for another exciting day, with nine races set to entertain the crowds.*



### MGCC Finishline UK MG Trophy Championship

Paul Luti (no. 69) stole victory in the opening MG Trophy race after a fierce battle with Chris Bray (no. 2). Bray sneaked into the lead from pole position as the lights went out, as Graham Ross and Luti followed.



As the trio toured on their opening lap, Luti immediately began to challenge for second place, but Ross denied any attempt. Before long, Luti managed to find a gap big enough for his MG ZR, as he launched past Ross and began to chase down Bray.

As Luti reduced the gap to Bray, Ross began to catch again, however the latter suddenly fired off the track, landing in the gravel trap at Redgate. With just two drivers aiming for the top spot, Bray and Luti continued their scrap, with Luti eventually able to muscle his way ahead. Bray briefly regained control, but lost out as the pair lapped backmarkers, handing the lead back to Luti.

After starting from the pitlane, Jake Fraser-Burns romped through the field to score a fourth place finish as the chequered flag fell. Richard Marsh controlled the pace in Class C to grab victory from Paul Savage and Alastair Rushforth.

Chris Bray seized the lead at the start of race two, however after Jonathan Harker rolled his MG ZR at the final chicane on lap one the race was immediately red flagged. As the grid reformed, Harker's stricken MG was rescued from the gravel.

At the restart, Bray again led the way, but Luti was soon hot on his heels. Before too long Luti again managed to squeeze his way ahead, leaving Bray and Ross Makar to play catch up.

After the full 20 minute distance Luti crossed the line to double his number of race victories this weekend, whilst Makar and Bray crossed the line side by side. Separated by just 0.016s Makar was deemed to have finished ahead, leaving Bray to collect third place.

The battle for Class C honours was as close as ever, with Marsh (no.19) again in control. As he led the way Savage (no.23) and early Class C leader Fergus Campbell (no.131) tried their utmost to steal the lead, but to no avail. Marsh succeeded at the chequered flag, as Savage and Campbell followed him home.



## **MGCC Peter Best Insurance MG Cup**



Robert Campbell (no. 68) added to his win tally in the first Peter Best Insurance MG Cup race of the day, to take the chequered flag by over 16 seconds.

As pole position quickly became the lead for Campbell, the battle for second was the one to watch, as Tom Diment fought off early advances from the chasing Alan Brooke. As the pair battled, the pressure soon eased for Diment, when Brooke fell by the wayside to drop from the running order.

With a clear track either side of him, Diment held on for a second place finish. Behind, Chris Dear found himself promoted to third place in the absence of Brooke, whilst Paul Eales collected fourth place. The battle for fifth ignited from the start, however it was James Darby who leapt ahead of Richard Wilson on the final lap to claim sixth.

Campbell was again a force to be reckoned with in race two, storming to victory once more from pole position. After developing a gap of over 27 seconds to second place his MGC GT was again untouchable.

Diment had held second place again early on, however after pulling off the track in the early stages, Alan Brooke inherited his position.

Brooke failed to relinquish second despite the intentions of the chasing James Darby. Shaun Holmes moved up to fourth place.

## **MGCC Iconic 50's with Fiscar Flyers**

A thrilling tussle for Iconic 50's honours saw Robin Ellis claim the victory after 30 minutes of hard fraught action.

As the race began, it was Neil Hardy who grabbed the lead, as the field weaved their way around Redgate and through the Craner Curves. As Hardy controlled the pace he soon found his mirrors filled with the chasing Robin Ellis and Bruce Riches.

Before long Rod Begbie (no.45) soon joined the battle, bringing Brian Arculus along with him. However, as Arculus toured he soon encountered problems which left him at the side of the track on the pit straight and out of the race.

As the order changed, Hardy soon found himself harassed by Ellis and Begbie, as just one second blanketed all three. With the head of the pack in his sights, Ellis made a bid for control, throwing him into the lead of the race. Shortly afterwards Begbie emulated his move, to demote Hardy to third place.

After 30 minutes of entertainment, Ellis swept past the chequered flag to grasp victory, ahead of Begbie and Hardy.



## MGCC Cockshoot Cup



Jason Simm (no. 20) swapped pole position for victory in the sole Cockshoot Cup race. After losing out to the fast starting David Morrison (no. 1) at the start, Simm fought back to claim his spot at the head of the field.

As the lights went out, Morrison stormed to the head of the pack from second on the grid. Just one lap later Morrison found his lead threatened when Paul Clackett leapt past to take control. Just moments later the lead changed hands once more, when pole sitter Simm reclaimed his advantage, from where he never looked back.

As he lapped towards the chequered flag, Simm developed a gap of over 16 seconds to his nearest challenger Clackett by the time he completed his final lap. Sean Peters held on for a third place finish ahead of Simon Lowery in fourth.

David Coulthard elevated himself to fifth place in the closing stages, demoting early front runner Morrison to sixth.



### MGCC Ecurie GTS

Mark Halstead and Stuart McPherson dominated once again in their shared Turner Mk II. After claiming pole position earlier in the day the pair raced their way through the field, lapping all but second placed Tom Smith.

Despite the mandatory pit stops half way through the 50 minute endurance outing, Halstead and McPherson failed to relinquish their lead. After building a gap of 33.531s to their nearest challenger, the duo again proved untouchable.



Smith held on for an unchallenged second place finish, whilst Pete Foster claimed third place. John Yea eventually finished fourth, after running as high as second place earlier in the race.

### MGCC Drayton Manor Park MG Metro Cup



Tom Sanderson (no. 19) dominated the sole MG Metro Cup race, to claim victory by an astounding 23.466s. As he romped ahead to lead the way into Redgate on lap one, he remained unchallenged throughout the 15 minutes that followed.

Behind, Oli Hood grabbed second place, but as Jim Webb followed closely his position came under threat. Ben Rushworth soon promoted himself to second place, as Hood and Webb slipped backwards slightly. In their absence Philip Gough found himself in third place, to claim the final podium position as the chequered flag fell, ahead of Tony Howe in fourth place.

### MGCC Lackford Engineering MG Midget & Sprite Challenge

Paul Sibley (no. 5) dismissed the opposition to romp to MG Midget and Sprite Challenge success. A slow getaway saw David Weston (no. 4) immediately grab the lead, as Sibley recovered.

After inheriting the lead from Weston on lap two, Sibley didn't relinquish his throne, much to the dismay of his rivals. Behind, Weston held on for second place, as the battle for third certainly ignited.

Paul Campfield and Richard Perry raced their way around the circuit, with third place their main focus. As the pair scrapped



the race neared an end, with third place constantly up for grabs between them. Eventually as the chequered flag came into sight it was Campfield who stole the advantage on the final lap, as Perry collected fourth. Stephen Pegram collected fifth place, whilst Martin Morris recovered from multiple spins to hold sixth at the end.

*After another successful outing we are now looking ahead to the fifth round of the season. Round five steers us to Oulton Park on the 6th September, where we can look forward to another exciting bout of on track entertainment. See you there!*

**Words by Leanne Fahy.**

**Photos by Dickon Siddall and George Woodward.**