

RACE REPORT

EVO CATERHAM ACADEMY

ROUND 6 – SNETTERTON

Sunny Snetterton, not often we can say that but indeed it was, a beautiful September morning, not a cloud in the sky. Snetterton was a former US bomber base during World War 2, hence the memorial at the entrance to the circuit. It is a great slip-streaming circuit just under 2 miles long; we have seen some fantastic Caterham racing here over the years. Riches, Sear and Corum are very challenging corners, Sear leading onto the Revett Straight and Coram taking you into the long fast Russell Bend which is a favourite spot for spectators.

The schedule for the day was pretty hectic, driver briefings, qualifying, meeting to discuss options for next year, photo shoot and if there was time, racing! Thanks to Ron for organising the photo, and to Pete for taking the photo, sorry to have missed it but I was summoned to the Clerks office, something to do with hundreds of cars being underweight.....

Qualifying for Group One held no surprises apart from the fact that due to 4 cars being underweight some of you found yourselves promoted further up the grid! The likes of Ben, David, Doug, and Simon HP found themselves at the back of the grid with a 10 second penalty; this was to be an interesting race. Jethro seemed particularly happy that he had moved up a couple of places and David was starting at the back, I wonder why!

Qualifying for Group Two was similar, with 5 cars being underweight, more promotions up the grid for some. Messrs. Rowden, Stansfield, Murphy and Addison starting from the back, again with 10 second penalty.

So qualifying over, it was time to relax!!! Afraid not, the 'options for next year' talk was held outside in the sunshine, speakers managing to battle thru the Supersports qualifying. This was followed by the extra Clerk of the Course briefing for all of you, and then very quickly on to the photo shoot. No time for lunch for most of us, a quick butty and a cup of tea and time to go.

First race was Group One, this was your second race so no first time nerves at all..... Well maybe for some, Mr Blackadder was obviously very impatient to get away, as he seemed to want to be off before the red light came on!! It was a fairly tardy get away but you were off... Jethro into the lead on the first lap, Nick 2nd, Mike 3rd with James in hot pursuit. At the end of this first lap Ben had made his way up to 15th place!!!!!! Rob must have had a spin somewhere as he dropped to last place... Steven Greaves had dropped a couple of places so he must have had a moment. Lap 4 saw a few changes; Nick dropping to 4th and Mike moving up to 2nd, Ben must have had a moment as he dropped back to second from last! Meanwhile James was progressing his way up to 3rd on

lap 5. Meanwhile at the back, wee Dougie was making his mark, up to 15th by lap 5. David B Jones also doing well at this stage, up to 14th. On to lap 6 and Ian and Ross were having a tussle, with Ian coming out the better, but Ross getting revenge on lap 8. Simon HP was making progress from the back, Andrew joining in the fun, spinning at the Bombhole. Richard got the crowd cheering at Russell when he had a spectacular spin but held it very well. Dougie still making his way up the grid, up to 10th by lap 8!! No change at the front, until lap 9 when Nick took the lead again, Jethro was not going to let him get away and was hot on Nick's tail when he overcooked it coming out of Coram and managed to slide all over the grass ending amazingly in the right direction to keep going, although he managed to knock a wing of James's car. It was a chase for the line with Nick winning with James in 2nd place and a delighted Steven in 3rd.

What a race, according to the commentator, the best race of the day so far. Praise indeed.

Group two were ready to go, start was ok but the red flags came out before a lap had been completed. So, all back to the grid for the re-start, unfortunately Alan and Steve had had a coming together and they were both unable to re-start the race. Steve was taken to hospital but thankfully was released the next day with abdominal bruising, very miffed that he had been unable to take part in the race. The race re-started, and Mike Thornhill was the next to go, coming off at Sear. At the front Mike had made a great start, followed very closely by Nathan, Gary and Neil. Meanwhile at the back, Howard had made a great start and was up to 17th at the end of the first lap. The yellows were out at Riches due to Mike Thornhill's spin so care had to be taken. Stephen Rowden had a spin at Russell on lap 4, with Jim having a battle with Andrew on lap 5, resulting in Jim spinning at Riches, taking him from 9th to 13th.

At the front the story had not changed, Mike and Nathan were having a race almost of their own with Gary and Neil fighting it out between them. Simon was having a great time until lap 7 when he ran very wide coming out of the Bomb Hole and racing across the grass to join the pack going into Russell. It was a very close finish with Mike taking 1st, Nathan 2nd and Gary just pipping Neil coming out of Russell to take 3rd. Another brilliant race, keeping the crowd on their toes until the last lap.

The end of a very exciting day, lots to talk about before the next round at Mallory on the 28th. Well done everyone, you did Caterham racing proud.

Kim Denning