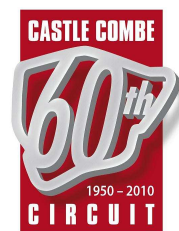




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CASTLE COMBE SPORTS & GT CHAMPIONSHIP IN ASSOCIATION WITH PERFORMANCE-CARS.NET

Round 8, Monday 30th August.



(Image: Oliver Read)

Andrew Shanley moved into the lead of the Class A championship after continuing his winning streak in round eight of the Sports and GTs with performance-cars.net championship. Keith Dunn Class C victory saw him leap away from David Jones in the battle for overall honours after a non-start for the Chepstow driver.

Qualifying

Andrew Shanley (Radical Prosport) and Simon Tilling (Tilling Motorsport Radical SR3 RS) were the class of the field in qualifying for the afternoon's Sports and GT encounter. The pair of Radical drivers were about a second clear of the pack, as Shanley just pipped Tilling to pole by 0.200s.

Darcy Smith (Thatchway Motorsport Radical PR6) continued to get to grips with his new Radical PR6, setting a time of 1m05.901s, good enough for third.

Guy Parr (Wayne Poole Racing Nemesis RME02) showed improved pace, ahead of Mike Roberts (Radical SR3 RS), whilst Josh Fisher (Quantex Racing Mantis) struggled slightly, down in sixth place.

Overall points leader, David Jones (Transband Motorsport Caterham 7), could not match his rivals pace, as Stuart Dixon (Dixon Construction Ltd. Caterham Superlight) took Class D pole, lining up 15th overall and three places ahead of Keith Dunn (Caterham C400).

Race

As engine revs rose, the front row started to creep quite significantly. Andrew Shanley nearly jump-started but Simon Tilling, sensing his rival about to make a getaway, crept even more before hitting the brakes just as the lights went out.

This allowed Shanley to escape into the lead as Tilling dropped to fifth swallowed up by Guy Parr, Darcy Smith and Mike Roberts.

Tilling had re-passed Roberts at Quarry, but as they crossed the line for the first time, Shanley had already built up a lead of 1.8 seconds, as Smith looked to find a way past the fast-starting Parr.

As those behind him battled, slowing one another down, Shanley was easily able to escape, building up a lead by around eight tenths a lap.

By the time the chequered flag fell, the Class A championship leader was just over 10 seconds ahead of the chasing pack, taking his unbeaten run to five races now.

Behind the Radical Prosport driver, Parr was able to resist the challenges of Smith for two laps, but on lap three the Wrington driver found a way through.

This unsettled the Nemesis driver, as Tilling also squeezed through at Tower, however the Radical SR3 sounded very sick as it passed the pitlane to start lap four.

With Tilling on what sounded like three cylinders, Parr was able to retake third, moving to the inside on the run to Camp corner. Tilling pitted on the next lap, and as traffic came into play, Parr lost contact with Smith.

As Parr dropped back, Josh Fisher was waiting in the wings to take third place. The Quantex Racing driver had passed Roberts on lap one, but had lost out to the lightning start of Mark Abbott (Radical PR6).

Abbott had initially stretched away from Fisher's Mantis, only for the ex-FF1600 champion to start reeling in the Radical on lap four. By lap six, Fisher was through, diving down the inside at the Esses before setting off in pursuit of Parr.

It only took the Bridgwater man another two laps to get on terms with the Nemesis, taking the final podium spot away from the Wayne Poole Racing driver on lap eight.

Smith was only two seconds up the road from Fisher, and with seven laps still remaining it looked like the Mantis would be set for the runner-up spot. However, a combination of traffic and increased pace from Smith meant that Fisher had to be content with third – an impressive result after a difficult qualifying session.

Parr managed to close back up to Fisher in the final few laps, finishing just 1.300s behind in one of his best drives to date.

After his great start, Abbott fell away from any real battles, finishing a lonely fifth in what was still an impressive drive on his Combe debut.

Combe stalwart Roberts could not keep up with the front runners in fifth, whilst an improved Scott Couper (Juno) fended off the attentions of another circuit old boy, Norman Lackford (Radical Prosport), in seventh.

Mark Funnell was running in the fringes of the top 10 for most of the race, getting more useful points in the battle for overall honours, when a late mechanical problem drastically hampered his pace.

Chris Child took the class lead with two laps to run, his Westfield proving more reliable than the powerful Lotus.

Keith Dunn moved into the lead of the overall point's table with an unopposed victory in Class C after erstwhile points leader, David Jones non-started.

With just one round to go, Dunn just needs to continue with his consistent performances to take the title as he goes into Finals Day with a two-point advantage over Funnell.

Results

Pos.	Cl.	Cl. Pos	Driver	Car	Time	Qual.
1	A	1	Andrew Shanley	Radical Prosport	16m50.391s	1
2	I	1	Darcy Smith	Radical PR6	+ 10.107s	3
3	A	2	Josh Fisher	Mantis	+ 11.578s	6
4	A	3	Guy Parr	Nemesis RME02	+ 12.878s	4
5	I	2	Mark Abbott	Radical PR6	+ 21.486s	7
6	A	4	Mike Roberts	Radical SR3 RS	+ 28.795s	5
7	A	5	Scott Couper	Juno	+ 46.421s	8
8	A	6	Norman Lackford	Radical Prosport	+ 48.379s	10
9	I	3	Gary Eastwood	Ferrari F430	+ 1m01.166s	16
10	I	4	Nima Khandan-Nia	Ferrari 340 GTB	+ 1m03.920s	9
11	I	5	Mark McAllister	Ferrari F430	+ 1 Lap	17
12	I	6	Stephen Ritchie	Porsche GT3	+ 1 Lap	12
13	C	1	Keith Dunn	Caterham C400	+ 1 Lap	18
14	A	7	Martin Phillipson	Radical SR3 LM	+ 1 Lap	20
15	A	8	Des Andrews	Radical SR3	+ 1 Lap	13
16	C	2	Stuart Dixon	Caterham Superlight	+ 1 Lap	15
17	B	1	Chris Child	Westfield SE	+ 1 Lap	21
18	C	3	Tim Woodman	Caterham 7	+ 1 Lap	23
19	B	2	Mark Funnell	Lotus Exige	+ 1 Lap	11
20	C	4	Nadine Geary	Dodge Viper	+ 1 Lap	26
21	B	3	Andy Jermain	Ford Sierra Cosworth	+ 1 Lap	25
22	I	7	Paul Martin-Jones	Radical Clubsport	+ 2 Laps	30
23	B	4	Phil Gale	Darrian	+ 2 Laps	27
24	I	8	Keith Godber	Ferrari 360	+ 3 Laps	28
DNF	A	N/A	Simon Tilling	Radical SR3 RS	+ 3 Laps	2
DNF	I	N/A	Brian Watson	STM Locoblade	+ 5 Laps	29
DNF	B	N/A	George Michael	Toyota MR2 GT	+ 9 Laps	24
DNF	B	N/A	Steve Putt	Mazda RX7	+ 11 Laps	22

For more information regarding Oliver Read's images please contact: oliverread@yahoo.com