

## Transmogrified

*A true record of what happened at Silverstone on April 23<sup>rd</sup> by Bob Bull*

The Aero Challenge entered its third round at the VSCC's Spring Start Meeting, a new and welcome addition to the calendar, with a number of changes of personnel from the initial outing. Missing in action were, Rafter P, Tisdall P, Dearnley M, Sebba, L, Syndercombe B, and Bailey M. Joining in were, Ahlers K, Bevan J, Sergeant P, Bailey C, Richardson C, Bryan P, Clarke P, Bellinger J, Laidlaw, K, and Glass C.

In qualifying it was no surprise to see that Keith Ahlers had dusted down (well Billy had probably) his Class A V8 and annexed pole position ahead of Phillip Goddard and Roger Whiteside both in Class A cars. Following his performance at Snetterton it was also no surprise to see young Elliot Paterson leading Class B in fourth spot with John Emberson and Tony Hirst sharing row three. It would be boring to list the whole of the grid so let's get on with the racing.

Luckily the Spring Start half lived up to it's name as we had some sunshine, and some cold wind, but thankfully no rain, thus allowing Keith and Phillip to utilise the power of their V8's to lead away from the lights. Mr Ahlers did his usual trick of running off and hiding from the rest, while Phil (no mates) found nobody wanted to play with him, and spent a lonely 20 minutes in second place, however, this lack of excitement was more than made up for by the squabbling Class B chaps. Elliot, Tony Lees and Tony Hirst indulged in a furious 'dice' for third spot with constant passing and re-passing until Tony H tripped over a backmarker at Becketts and wandered aimlessly through a gravel bed for a while. This detour left Junior and the Elder statesman to decide fourth place between them with the Crieff Kid coming home first by just over a second. Probably the biggest gap between them all race.

By the time 20 minutes was up the maroon ARV6 had battled back to fifth place at the finish. Simon Baines came along next with Roger Whiteside 10 seconds further back, and in eighth place Stuart Anderson was the last unlapped runner. Tim Ayres won a comfortable Class C, but gave John Milbank's Class B car a very hard time. Kelvin Laidlaw brought home the Roadster honours, and Henry Williams snapped up Class D, and Chris Bailey duly wrapped up E. Well he was the only entrant.

While the first two places were well clear, further back some good battles were taking place. In 10<sup>th</sup> place Russell Paterson just made it home ahead of Phill Thomas, James Carter finished 15<sup>th</sup> with Henry Williams, Tim Parsons, Simon Scott, and Steve McDonald all within 3 seconds of him. Greg Parnell and Jack Bellinger had barely a sheet of Bronco between them as they tussled over 21<sup>st</sup>/22<sup>nd</sup> spot.

As always the Morgans were value for money, and talking to the VSCC's Media guru at the end of day he said how well a fit the Aero Challenge was with the Club's ethos.

Katy Thompson got all of the kisses as usual when presenting the prizes, so just as well Andrew was not around to witness the disgraceful behaviour. Tony Lees was awarded the Driver of The Race bottle of bubbly, but quite why I never discovered, but I am sure it was well deserved.

Now for Castle Combe.