

Cadwell Park VSCC Race Report by Michele Bailey

Sunday 23 July 2017

Sunday morning dawned dry, and we arrived early at the circuit as Chris was trying to finish repairing Gromit so he could race. All the campers were up and about, however Philip Tisdall arrived a little late and confessed to oversleeping.

Qualifying arrived but both John Millbank and Chris missed it; John had a fuel issue, and the alternator on Gromit had split into 3 pieces. I missed watching qualifying, but in true Bob Bull fashion 'the results show' that Elliot was on pole with Russell beside him. Andrew and Dominic were on row 2 with the two Tony's (Hirst and Lees) on row 3. John Milbank made the start at the back beside John Bevan, with the two class E cars of Alan and Richard in front of them. Unfortunately Tony L had a problem which meant he didn't get onto the grid, and Chris didn't make the start despite the best efforts of James Gateson, Paul at Revolutions, Katy and Colin Sumner.

Although the forecast had been dry, the rain started to slowly fall as the drivers went to assembly. It then began to rain heavily and steadily as we waited for the previous race to finish. It was throwing it down by the time the Morgans were due to go out and the start was delayed for 5 minutes.

The rain did ease as the drivers took up their positions on the grid, but it was very wet and there was some standing water. The green flag lap was extended to 2 laps, but it was particularly wet on the start/finish straight.

The race started in a spray of water as the cars disappeared under the bridge. We couldn't see what was happening, and had to rely on the commentators until the cars appeared back under the bridge on their way to the Mountain. Elliot was in front, followed by Dominic who had passed Russell, with Tim Parsons in 4th having started 10th. Andrew Thomson had been stuck in a puddle on the start and was in 6th behind Tony H, followed by Craig and then Alex.

There were many back end wiggles from the cars as they crested Mountain and set off into Hall Bends, which I expect would have been very slippery. By lap 2 Alex had passed Craig (as had Kelvin) and Andrew, and by lap 3 Alex had passed Tony H. He was having a great race, and finished 6th. Tony H appeared to have a problem, as did Russell, while Elliott was giving us a driving in the wet masterclass.

The back of the grid club seemed to be managing without me; John had got past Alan at the start, but that changed back on lap 2, and Richard was chasing Tom Dailey hard. Paul Bryan decided discretion was the better part of valour and pulled out. James Sumner was also having an outstanding race, quickly making his way up through the field to finish 5th, while Phill Thomas, Sarge, Greg, and Peter Cole were all having a battle in the middle. As the circuit dried Andrew was regaining lost ground. Special mention of Simon Sherry and Chris Springall who both drove very well in the conditions.

It was a most impressive race in dreadful conditions, with a number of outstanding performances. Elliot won with Dominic 2nd and Andrew 3rd.

Class winners

A	Russell
B	Elliot
C	Philip Tisdall
D	James
E	Richard
R	Tim
H	Kelvin