



ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

## A THRILLING START TO THE SEASON

Snetterton played host to the Uniroyal Fun Cup's first race of the season under new leadership, with Paul Rose taking the helm as Series Director. Coupled with backing from Uniroyal for the fifth consecutive year, the 25 car grid was its strongest to date and the series had risen to a new level.

The new organisation combined with the addition of a hospitality awning for the 2006 season has catapulted the series into a league of its own. Eight hours total track time, low cost and hospitality provided. No wonder there were smiles all round!

The series, which promotes cost effective, close and exciting endurance racing for all teams competing, uses cars which are built to a single specification and are powered by a 130bhp VW/Audi engine, encased in a Beetle-style body. All cars use Uniroyal Rainsport 1 road tyres.

The grid, drawn from a random ballot, placed the number 1 car of JPR Motorsport 2 on the front row. But, from 4th on the grid it was RSR 1 who took full advantage of the dry conditions to dominate the start, with a 10 second lead over the second placed team of JPR 1.

A misjudged overtaking manoeuvre from RSR 1 ended their hopes of victory, the resulting accident brought their race to an abrupt end.

A few hours in and Team Hyside's Mark Coleing and Martin Small were emerging as the new leaders, having started 24th on the grid and reaching 6th place within a few laps, they were clearly on a mission. But the JPR 1 car was still pushing hard in second place.

Four hours and ten minutes later came the final pit stop. Hyside's Martin Small took the wheel for the final stint, it was here that a great battle emerged with JPR 1's Steve Harris.

On the final lap, after 5 hours of racing, JPR 1 charged to the front, with a mere 0.1 second gap between them and Team Hyside. The lead changed again, when Hyside's Martin Small slipped through at Riches. Harris' only hope for JPR 1 was to get close enough at Sear to slipstream him down the Revett straight. With the pressure on, Harris entered the corner with too much speed, leaving Small to escape.

The final gap was an incredible 1.8 seconds after five hours of racing. It couldn't have been closer. Team Hyside's Mark Coleing and Martin Small took their first ever win, with JPR 1 in 2nd place and Team Honeywell driving a consistent, trouble-free race to take 3rd, setting the fastest lap – at 1.25.4, almost a second faster than any other team.

Advertising Manager of Uniroyal, Tim Bailey said "This is a tremendous start to the season, with a big grid, 90 drivers and lots of close, competitive racing. The formula of low cost endurance racing is proving very popular and with steady growth every year there are now 31 cars in the UK, compared to just 12 when we started in 2002".

Five further UK rounds with another 20 plus races across Europe are available to UK teams at many famous circuits including Monza, Dijon, Zolder, Nurburgring and the prestigious Spa Francorchamps, where last year's grid for the 25 hour race reached an incredible 138 cars. Entries are expected this year from across Europe.

**For more information on the Uniroyal Fun Cup, visit [www.funcup.co.uk](http://www.funcup.co.uk) or ring Paul Rose on 01625 511500**



## SNETTERTON



### RESULTS

- 1 Team Hyside
- 2 JPR 1
- 3 Team Honeywell



### FASTEST LAP

1.25.4 Team Honeywell



TV coverage of this race starts on Sky Sports 2, 3 and Extra on 11th May at 7pm and 11.30pm, with 6 repeats up to 14th May.



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THE WINNERS – MARK COLEING AND MARTIN SMALL

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