



May 2010

# ROCKINGHAM NEWSLETTER

Saturday 15th May, saw the Fun Cup arrive at Rockingham for round two of the Fun Cup, in the glorious sunshine for a seven hour race, with a huge thirty car grid. This race was to be a little different from all other Fun Cup races, with an hour lunch break after the first three hours and fifteen minutes and all teams allowed to work on their cars for the final twenty minutes of the break.



A huge thirty car grid for round two of the Fun Cup at Rockingham

## **TDI Classification**

Several battles set the standard for the seven hour race, but it was Traqmate Eclipse that emerged the eventual winners, with drivers Sean McInerney, John Griffiths and Phil Keen at the wheel.

Sean McInerney, recalled: "We were last on the first lap and first on the last lap! Testing went well. We felt that we had a good balance in the car, but knew that we had at least four other contenders that we would have to look out for. Honeywell and RAM were very strong at the beginning and we had to work hard to get back into the lead pack after my first lap excursion! John and Phil both drove very well and never pushed the car beyond its limits, which I think helped us to have a strong car towards the end of the race. Achieving fastest lap was the 'icing on the cake' of a great weekend and our very first win in Fun Cup!"

In 2nd place it was Team RAM in car 245. Drivers Richard Ince, Austin Reynolds and Mark Owen are now firm regulars on the Fun Cup podium and look set for an impressive season if they continue to stay out of trouble and on the pace.

In 3rd place it was car 146, JPR Motorsport, with drivers Rob Croydon and Adrian Mardlin. The duo were extremely strong throughout the race and held the lead at one stage. However, due to a post flag incident, the team were disqualified from the final classification. Please see attached for the amended race results.

In car 131, Steve Harris, Mark Hope and Steve Johansen were drawn 6th on the grid in the JPR/Indigo Racing car. It was down to Harris to start the race. He made an excellent start moving up to 3rd, but throughout his first stint, had to push hard to stay with the pack, due to a loose rear end. This was due to the fact that they kissed the wall hard coming out of the infield on to the oval and bent the rear suspension..

After a brief damage check during the first pit stop, to check for damage, Johansen then took over for the next stint. By the half way mark, rapid pit stops enabled the team to finish the first part of the race in 2nd position.

The second part of the race saw Johansen restart behind Team RAM and enjoy some excellent clean racing between the top four cars. Over the next three hours of the race, the handling of the car deteriorated and turned the 131 car of JPR/Indigo Racing into more of a drift car, but with determined driving and excellent pit stops, stayed on the lead lap until the last driver change of the day.

"After the race the car was checked and the early brush with the wall had bent the rear suspension, which resulted in the car having positive camber and the wheel towing out so it was a major achievement not just to finish but to be classified with a podium in 3rd position. Big thanks to the pit crew of Marty, Jim and Simon and to our mechanic, Lil' Rick who played a blinder!" said Steve Johansen.

The fastest TDI lap was a 1:38.062, set by race winners, car 223 Traqmate Eclipse.



Traqmate Eclipse took their maiden victory in car 223.



The top three diesel teams celebrate a great race

## Petrol Classification

It was a welcome return to Fun Cup for Steve Blunn and Scott Kavanagh, who used to race in car 130 many years ago, under the name of SSJ Motorsport. The duo has now returned to Fun Cup in the car they raced all those years ago.

Steve Blunn, said: "First of all it was great to be back in the UK Fun Cup after a three year break! Despite flirting with other series it's not until you come back to the Fun Cup you realise how much fun it is!"

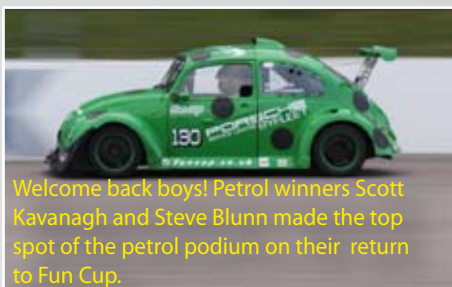
Steve Blunn, added: "There were a lot of unknowns for us, such as new teams, a mixed petrol / diesel grid and different Rockingham circuit configuration to our previous Fun Cup visits. The race really lived up to expectations, with seven hours of very close racing. To secure a win was an amazing feeling on our first race back in the series. Clearly fortune favoured us with the retirement of the leading JPR 102 car, only minutes from the end. We would have been quite happy to celebrate a 2nd place and enjoy the podium. The fight for 1st could have been much closer had an earlier pit stop not gone horribly wrong and that is something we will be working on for future races."

Peter Belshaw and Ray Grimes in car 158 Sheradize UK Motorsport were delighted to take the 2nd step of the petrol podium. They were disappointed after round one at Snetterton, where they managed to destroy a gearbox and clutch.

The three week period leading up to Rockingham had been spent convincing themselves that gearbox preservation and abiding by the motto "to finish first, first you have to finish" was the future.

Peter Belshaw, added: "Keeping trouble free for seven hours was the always going to be the key, coupled together with a consistent driving pace. This we managed to achieve albeit we probably only deserved 3rd place and the guys in JPR 102 deserved to be on the top step after car trouble meant they lost their lead, fifteen minutes from the end. Overall as a team, we are still learning, but hopefully there will be a few more podium finishes to come."

Fun Cup regulars, Prestige Motorsport in car 41, drew row two on the grid. After the furious first couple of laps with Steve Darbey at the wheel, they settled into 4th place, swapping places with car 214 Team Tiger and car 92, David L Walker Racing. A broken bias cable made the brakes jam on, which caused problems for Alistair Stenhouse and Mark Astall, which resulted in a couple of spins before it was fixed with a tie clip during the lunch break.



Welcome back boys! Petrol winners Scott Kavanagh and Steve Blunn made the top spot of the petrol podium on their return to Fun Cup.



The petrol winners celebrate on the podium.

The second part of the race saw the gap to the 3rd placed car open up, after car 41 was caught behind the safety car for the second time, losing a lap each time to the three leaders. Hasty pitstops saw them in a secure 4th place again for the last stint when the lead car JPR 102 started dropping down the order, promoting the 3rd spot to Prestige Motorsport.

The fastest petrol lap was a 1:38.991 set by pro driver, Nigel Greensall, in JPR car 102.



## Rockingham Photographs



To view photographs from Rockingham, please visit

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/19193662@N00/sets/72157624070162400/?page=10>  
and  
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/dennisgoodwin/>

Special thanks go to Marc Waller, Dennis Goodwin and Nuala Scully for their marvellous efforts with the photographs.

SKY SPORTS

## TV Coverage



### SNETTERTON

Raceworld coverage:

Thurs 27 May: 6pm (Sky Sports 3), 8pm (Sky Sports 4) and Midnight (Sky Sports 4)  
Fri 28 May: 10am (SS3) and 1pm (SS3)  
Sat 29 May: 3am (SS4)

Motors TV coverage:

Fri 4 Jun: 7.35pm  
Sat 5 Jun: Half past midnight and 5.30pm  
Mon 7 Jun: 3.30pm  
Wed 9 Jun: 11.25pm

### ROCKINGHAM

Raceworld coverage:

Thurs 17 Jun: 5pm (SS4) and Midnight (SS4)  
Fri 18 Jun: 2pm (SS4)  
Sat 19 Jun: 4am (SS4) and Midday (SS4)

Motors TV coverage:

Fri 25 Jun: 7.05pm  
Sat 26 Jun: 1am and Midday  
Mon 28 Jun: 2pm  
Tue 29 Jun: 2.05am  
Wed 30 Jun: 5pm  
Fri 2 July: 1pm

## Finally....

Did anyone else see the Track Torque "heros in a half-shell" running down the paddock at a pace comparable to that of the lead car. In future could Raphael and Donatello please go steady, otherwise someone could get "ninjad"!

We will be using the National circuit at Silverstone. I look forward to seeing you all there!

Kindest regards

Roxie Marandi Rose

Fun Cup UK/Saker Sports Cars UK



Fun Cup UK

Blackwood Farm, Leek Old Road, Rudyard, Staffs ST13 8PW

Tel: 01538 306921 Fax: 01538 306919 Email: roxie@funcup.co.uk

www.funcup.co.uk