



2020 CGRC Race Report – Round 2, Mallory Park

Senior Moment at Mallory

Round two of the Caterham Graduates season was held at Mallory Park in Leicestershire, which hosted free practice, qualifying, and three races all in one day! Despite being just 1.35 miles long with a tight hairpin corner, Mallory Park is one of the fastest circuits in the UK, and the introduction of new classes since the Club's last visit in 2009 ensured new lap records.

Amongst the 20-car field for race one were two novice drivers both making their race debut; Myrton Wood in the 135 Class, and Alaric Barney, who passed his ARDS test just the Wednesday before racing!

At the end of the first lap, Roger Ford led Jon Curry, Andrew Whitton, Harry Senior, Adam Bettinson and James Gilmour. Curry then led for two laps before Senior's SigMax made his way to the front and pulled away.

Behind Senior, Ford was struggling with gear selection problems in his Sigma 150, causing his retirement at the end of lap five. Having started 16th on the grid, Harry Cramer was making good progress through the field, rising to sixth place, before his SigMax engine began to make 'expensive noises'. Cramer retired on lap 17, his only consolation being the fastest lap, which at the end of the day, would also stand as the new lap record.

When the chequered flag fell after 23 laps, the SigMax of Senior, Bettinson and Cordey took the top three positions, with Curry taking the Sigma 150 class win from Whitton and John Benfield. Ian Fortescue just held off Marc Noaro for the Sigma 135 class win, with Barney third in class on his race debut. Trevor Harber passed Mark Carter on the penultimate lap to win the Classic class, with Darren Grainger third in class.

Race two saw Senior take the lead and pull out a slight gap over the dicing Whitton and Curry, before Bettinson's SigMax speared off, and hit the barrier at The Esses on lap three. The safety car period that followed reset the field, but at the restart, Senior again pulled away for the overall win. With Bettinson out, Cordey finished second in the SigMax class and third overall, well ahead of Kim Rayment, who finished 10th overall and third in the SigMax class.

F I R S T for Caterham Club Racing

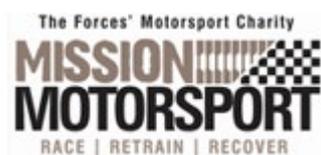
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The leading Sigma 150 battle was resolved in favour of Curry from Whitton, and Benfield, the three of them covered by just 1.07 seconds at the finish, with Cordey in there as well! Buoyed by his race debut, Barney finished just 0.2 seconds ahead of Fortescue to win the Sigma 135 class, with Noaro third after being separated from the leading duo by Rayment's SigMax. In the Classic class, Harber took the lead from Carter at the safety car restart, with Grainger again third in class.

As the cars lined up on the grid for race three, ominous rain clouds were fast approaching. At the start it was a determined Curry who led from Senior in the opening laps, with Gilmour also making his way past Senior before the rain arrived. Almost immediately, there was a brief safety car period to remove an errant wing that was being blown down the pit straight, and when racing resumed, the track was wet and slippery. Senior relieved Curry of the lead at the restart to take the overall win and the SigMax class from Bettinson and Cordey, who enjoyed a close race.

Curry pulled out a useful advantage to finish second overall and win the Sigma 150 class from the duelling Whitton and Gilmour, in another close finish. Noaro held off Fortescue to take the Sigma 135 honours, with David Morris finishing third in class.

Having attached new tyres before the race, Grainger pulled out a huge lead in the Classic class when the track was wet, which he held as the track dried out to take his first ever win from Carter and Harber. For Grainger, who started racing 19 years ago in the same car, the class win was very special, and something he thought he would never achieve.

On a drying track, Benfield set the Sigma 150 lap record, with Noaro's fastest lap from race one standing as the Sigma 135 lap record.

Race Report by Mark Carter

Full results here: <http://www.theresultslive.co.uk/750-motor-club/2020/mallory-park-26-july>

RACE 1 (23 LAPS) 1 Harry Senior 20:06.64 (92.64mph); 2 Adam Bettinson +4.41s; 3 Gareth Cordey; 4 Jonathan Curry; 5 Andrew Whitton; 6 John Benfield. **Class Winners** Senior (SigMax); Curry (Sigma 150); Ian Fortescue (Sigma 135); Trevor Harber (Classic). **Fastest Lap** Harry Cramer (SigMax) 51.46 (94.44mph) LR; Whitton (Sigma 150) 51.71 (93.99mph); Marc Noaro (Sigma 135) 52.73 (92.17mph) LR; Harber (Classic) 56.62 (85.84mph).

RACE 2 (20 LAPS) 1 Senior 20:14.93 (80.00mph); 2 Curry +4.95s; 3 Cordey; 4 Whitton; 5 Benfield; 6 James Gilmour. **Class Winners** Senior (SigMax); Curry (Sigma 150); Alaric Barney (Sigma 135); Harber (Classic). **Fastest Lap** Cordey (SigMax) 51.74 (93.93mph); Benfield (Sigma 150) 51.76 (93.89mph); Fortescue (Sigma 135) 52.91 (91.85mph); Harber (Classic) 57.14 (85.05mph).

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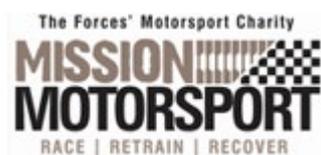
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RACE 3 (22 LAPS) 1 Senior 20:45.19 (85.87mph); 2 Curry +4.21s; 3 Whitton; 4 Gilmour; 5 Benfield; 6 Bettinson. **Class Winners** Senior (SigMax); Curry (Sigma 150); Noaro (Sigma 135); Darren Grainger (Classic). **Fastest Lap** Senior (SigMax) 51.50 (94.37mph); Benfield (Sigma 150) 51.67 (94.06mph) LR; Noaro (Sigma 135) 52.89 (91.89mph); Harber (Classic) 57.86 (84.00mph).

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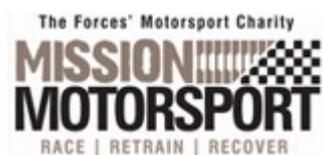
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