

Brands Hatch – Snetterton re-run

The SAXMAX competitors arrived at Brands Hatch for the second time this year, this round was to replace the first meeting at Snetterton which was cancelled due to poor weather conditions. James Colburn went into the meeting with the championship leader in his name and his eyes still fixed on keeping it that way, “I’ve been going really well so far this year and I want to continue with my consistent results”.

With three sessions to fit in the one day, the drivers were out early to re-acquaint themselves with the famous Kent circuit. Patrick Fletcher was hoping to improve on his times as he did well last time round. Declan Armstrong came back to race after missing the Anglesey meeting two weeks before.

James Colburn continued to show his pace when he set his fastest lap early in the qualifying session and as a result ended up on pole for the race. Chris Warburton, Patrick Fletcher and Jamie Brown all had very consistent times throughout the session.

After a short wait the cars lined up onto the grid. Colburn placed himself on the spot he’s getting used to now! Beside him, a closely following Joe Ferguson, row two consisted of Patrick Fletcher who didn’t have much luck and collected some damage last time he was at Brands Hatch. But despite that he did well and wanted to repeat his performance... Just with his car in one piece! Next to him was Abbie Eaton who has been improving more and more at each meeting. On the row behind was Chris Warburton and Josh Cook, then Jamie Brown and Declan Armstrong, behind them Joe Grinsell and Anton Spires who finished off the top ten.

The lights went out and Abbie Eaton got a great start, there was some contact at Paddock and Patrick Fletcher ran into the gravel, shortly followed by Declan Armstrong who was hit into it, fortunately both continued. Lap two and Anton Spires and Jamie Brown were racing very closely, as were Alex Lennon and Marcus Niall. Brown and Spires continued to battle as they went side by side down Paddock. By lap four Patrick Fletcher was making up the place he had unfortunately lost in the opening laps, having a close battle between himself, Joe Grinsell and Declan Armstrong, he tried to make a move on Grinsell at Graham Hill Bend but was unsuccessful. As that was going on, James Colburn continued to pull away from Ferguson; the race looked like it was his from then on. Midway through the race Josh Cook and Abbie Eaton made contact at Paddock and both ran into the gravel, Cook drove out but Eaton was beached. Some laps later and Cook ran into the gravel at Paddock once again, narrowly missing Eaton’s car. Fletcher persistently made up places and managed to catch up with Patrick Mason to fight for third. Alex Lennon was another who was making good progress but then the race was red flagged due to Chris Warburton ending up backwards into the barrier at the top of

Druids, at no fault of his own. With only a few minutes to make a decision, the officials decided to re-run the race, to run for five minutes plus one lap.

So once again the drivers lined up on the grid except from Cook and Grinsell who were unable to restart. The lights went out for the second time, Abbie Eaton had an amazing start (and as a result made up seven places in the first lap), as did Ferguson but Colburn was more than determined not to lose his lead. Alex Lennon was pushed into a slide as he went down Paddock, managed to hold it but ended up re-joining the pack dead last. Declan Armstrong and Anton Spires were having a close race from the start. Ferguson went wide at Clearways which let Colburn double his lead as he crossed the start/finish line, and let Fletcher and Mason catch him, the three went side by side into Paddock, all of them wanting that second place. Eaton's car had sustained too much damage from the original race and had to pull into the pits and retire from the race. Matthew Weller and Shaun Clay were bumper to bumper for most of the race and Alex Lennon was trying to re-gain the places he lost but the chequered flag came out so couldn't improve on his position. James Colburn continued his chain of race wins, this one making it his fifth in a row. Joe Ferguson second and after fighting off Patrick Fletcher, Patrick Mason came home in third followed by Fletcher. After swapping positions many times, Declan Armstrong finished fifth and Anton Spires sixth, Chris Warburton in seventh, then Marcus Niall and Matthew Weller, with Shaun Clay finishing off the top ten. Jamie Brown finished eleventh and Aaron Trigwell in twelfth with Alex Lennon finishing in thirteenth after recovering from his slide on the opening lap.