

BARC North Western Centre report for BARC Magazine 2017 Winter edition

Our season finished with a lively race meeting at Oulton Park in pretty poor wet and gloomy weather conditions late in October with the shortened day not providing much daylight!

The final two rounds of our CNC Heads sports saloon championship were run and there was a lot of effort put into resolving the final class and overall positions with the results in some cases not being what was expected. The headline news is that Joe Spencer is the 2017 Overall Champion and winner of class C. This class is for cars up to 1600cc but Joe spends most of the races challenging for the overall lead in his bike engined Stuart Taylor Locosaki with the class A cars of over 2500cc in a classic David and Goliath act.



Joe Spencer receiving the champagne from Co-ordinator, John Leck, after taking the championship at the last round. (Photo : Marvin Hall)

The wet did not put many drivers of though, in fact Luke Armiger was relishing the prospect and duly put his Vauxhall Tigra third on the grid behind the Rose and Harris

Sakers and came home third in the first race in front of Joe and fourth in the second race behind Joe. With a few more wet races Luke could have been a challenger for overall honours but a bit more horsepower is needed for the more frequent dry races. Class B was his prize at the end of the season.

Oliver Thomas won both class D races and class D overall in his Subaru Imprezza enjoying four wheel drive in the wet. This was after a season of challenging Garry Wardle in his Porsche 997, but reliability won in the end.

Paul Rose showed real speed in his Saker all year and was a pretty safe bet for the championship. Joe would beat him off the line with Paul taking several laps to use horsepower to haul him in and for some time looked as though he might take the overall prize but a missed round and a non-finish messed that up. Iain Gorrie showed the value of his experience, reliability and wet weather skills to comfortably lead class F although Clive Dix gave him a run for his money when his very quick Ford Puma came out. Iain was in with a shout for the championship until he missed a round through illness at the end of the season.

The real money for the championship was on Piers Grange in his class E Mk2 Escort for most of the season. A very nice quick period car. Unfortunately in the first race at the final meeting his camshaft snapped and that wrecked his chances.

That sums up the top six and it is significant that it is made up of one driver from each of the six classes and some very close points scores. This is always the best way to finish a season.

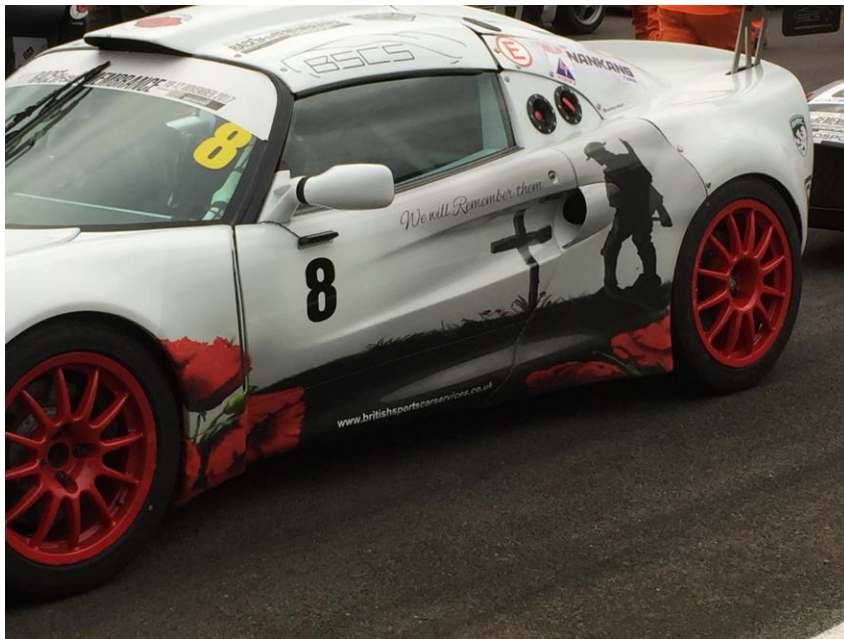
As usual reports such as this always focus on the front runners and it is often unfair that more people cannot be mentioned. The field is made up of many drivers and cars who entertain us massively every race and make the championship the exciting spectacle that it is when they fill the track. A big thankyou to all of them for that, their superbly

friendly paddock activities and their good track behaviour with such full and varied grids. It is not easy sometimes but it's why we all keep coming back.

The full top ten list:

1 Joe Spencer	125	Class C	Stuart Taylor Locosaki.
2 Iain Gorrie	113	Class F	Raw Striker.
3 Paul Rose	106	Class A	Saker.
4 Oliver Thomas	105	Class D	Subaru Imprezza.
5 Piers Grange	99	Class E	Ford Escort Mk2.
6 Luke Armiger	98	Class B	Vauxhall Tigra.
7 Dave Harvey	88	Class C	Stuart Taylor Locosaki.
8 Garry Wardle	82	Class D	Ginetta G50.
9 Richard Roundell	75	Class E	Vauxhall Vectra.
10 Garry Watson	72	Class B	Westfield SeW.

The Race of Remembrance was held at Anglesey circuit for the fourth year from the 10th to 12th November and run mainly by the officials of the NW Centre. For those who are



not familiar with it the Race of Remembrance commemorates the sacrifices made by service personnel and their families. It is for series production cars running in teams and is a twelve hour endurance race featuring a Heroes dinner, night racing, and a trackside service of Remembrance.

Funds raised go to personnel injured in service and the event is a great social occasion on top of the racing.

This event was the last outing for our ageing Rescue Unit before the winter work to fit out a brand new vehicle for the future. The crew chief Colin Whitter reported that the unit was becoming expensive to keep on the road so it was decided to source a new one. Another crew member Shaun Miller found a good coach builder, C&M Specialist Vehicle Conversions who put him in touch with Cicely to supply a Mercedes van and with the generous support of Adam Morgan of BTCC fame a favourable deal was done. Many thanks to Shaun for all the work he put into this and we look forward to seeing them out next season.



Our Rescue Crew led by Colin Whitter (third from right) at the last outing of the Rescue Unit at Anglesey.

The next main event for us will be the Real Night Out awards event on the last weekend in January 2018. As it is more or less half way through the off season we always all look forward to catching up with all our members, presenting the trophies, celebrating the exciting season past and anticipating the new one coming along.

We would be nowhere without the loyal support of the teams of marshals and officials who have served us very well throughout 2017. We thank them all very sincerely and hope to be able to call on them again next season.

Our Junior Photo Competition has been run again this year by our Membership Secretary Jeffrey Haworth and is still proving to be a popular feature of our race meetings. It is surprising and impressive to see the varied choice of subjects the young people chose; seldom opting for the obvious cars racing action. Many thanks to Jeffrey for running the competition for a good number of years.

We hope that all centres have a good winter break and a good start to the New Year.

Peter Gorrie NW Centre Secretary.