

## **BARC North Western Centre report for BARC Magazine 2019 Winter Edition**

A very wintery day on 26th October 2019 saw the final race meeting of last season to be run by the NW Centre. The prospect of a late October race meeting was not eagerly anticipated and with limited daylight seemed a very challenging event. The final race of the day was timed to finish 6 minutes before sunset! It was a bit of a saloon car fest with a number of BARC championships running their final rounds all with 2 races each.

As the weather at Oulton Park's CNC Heads Sports and Saloons finale ranged between wet and very wet, former multiple champion Paul Dobson came away as a double winner, but another class win in the final race was enough to crown Rob Burkinshaw 2019 Champion.

Rob races a beautiful example of a Honda Integra; quick, fabulously prepared, immaculate and of course extremely well driven. He has dominated class E all season and comfortably won the championship overall. A very worthy champion.

As is often the case, wet weather turns out some mixed up grids and shows which cars and drivers can make the most of it and that is exactly what happened here. Paul Dobson's flame spitting Locost Mazda took pole by a massive 8.514 secs, mostly sideways, after the morning's qualifying session, but behind him it was somewhat closer. Alan Davies completed the front row in his BMW M3 having edged out triple Anglesey winner Danny Bird's Spire GTR by 0.696 secs. Steven Parker's BMW Compact was only 3/10<sup>th</sup> off Danny's best too. The 4<sup>th</sup> row was occupied by Roddie Patterson's Caterham C400 with Richard Jessop's Mini Miglia alongside! Then came an all Honda Civic Type R fifth row, with Ben Griffiths and Ian Bruce 0.629 secs apart. I imagine that you get the picture!

In the first race there was no sign of the conditions improving and although Dobson reigned supreme to take victory by 4.887 secs over Bird, incidents involving those following handed Parker not only a class E victory, but third overall.

Paul Dobson made another flying start in the second race, but Danny Bird had managed to stay much closer until lap three then went straight on at Old Hall which

promoted Roddy Paterson into second. He gradually reduced Paul's lead to 0.4 secs by lap seven passing him on lap ten only for Paul to make a last minute charge and snatch the victory and the class B win.

Allan Davies took third and the class D win, Rob Burkinshaw fourth and the class E win with Danny Bird eighth and the class C win. A lack of entries in class A gave the class to Graham Saul in his Porsche 928 in eighteenth place. A great race long race between the class F cars resulted in Barry Long winning in his BMW Mini by 0.15 sec from Guy Carter in his Honda CRX.

It was one of those days when everyone who finished deserved a medal and there are clearly many drivers who do not get a mention in reports like this but always contribute to the competition throughout the field in all the races and make the championship the spectacle it is on track. You can read about them all, the cars they race, the lap times, the results and all the points in the race reports on the website. A big thankyou to them all.

Our Championship Co-ordinator John Leck's season closing comments at the end of the meeting sum up the season very nicely:

'Congratulations go to Robert Burkinshaw for winning the Championship outright with a maximum possible score of 114 (taking into account dropped scores). He was chased home by Paul Dobson and Danny Bird with 94 points apiece, an initial tie for 2nd overall!

'When this happens the regulations require that the Motorsport UK regulations are used to resolve the tie. The first thing is who has most 1st places - both had 8, the second being most 2nd places - both had 4! In both cases in the remaining two races neither driver finished! There is however the last resort of using all championship rounds and in that case Paul takes second by dint of a fastest lap in Anglesey when he did not finish. I have never had this happen before.

'The Class winners are: Graham Saul (Class A), Paul Dobson (Class B), Danny Bird (Class C), Garry Wardle (Class D), Robert Burkinshaw (Class E) and David Bird (Class F).

'There were 105 driver registrations this season. In all 73 drivers started a race (although this includes a few that started in more than one class) and in total there were 433 starters over the season with an average of 30.9 for each race.

'I would like to re-iterate my comments at the presentations at Oulton Park last week and thank all drivers, partners, mechanics and team hangers on for their help and cooperation this year. I cannot remember any issues with drivers other than the normal ones resulting from the racing and none of these were significant.

It will be trickier than usual working out the 2020 season because with the state of some championships within the BARC and a reduced number of grids it will probably be necessary to reduce the number of BARC race meetings. Therefore we may have to request slots on other club's meetings to fulfil the championship requirements.'

We look forward to seeing as many as possible at the Annual Awards Dinner Dance, the 'Real Night Out' on the 25th January at the Park Hall Hotel, Charnock Richard.

Many thanks to Peter Scherer for his very full reports and Marvin Hall and Danny Walton for their great photos.

*Peter Gorrie, NW Centre Secretary.*

**British Automobile Racing Club Ltd. North Western Centre.  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

I am instructed by the Committee to give notice that the Annual General Meeting of the British Automobile Racing Club, North Western Centre, will take place at the Haydock Holiday Inn Hotel, Lodge Lane, Newton le Willows WA12 0JG on Wednesday 18th March 2020 at 8.00pm.

All members are invited to attend and should bring with them their current BARC membership card, in order to allow them to vote.

Agenda items and Nominations for Committee members.

We invite members to put these forward in writing. In the case of Nominations for Committee, it must be with the knowledge and consent of the person nominated, who must be proposed and seconded by two members of the NW Centre.

Agenda items and Nominations for Committee should be sent to the Hon. Secretary at the following address to arrive at least 7 days before the meeting.

Peter Gorrie (Hon. Secretary), 190 Blackpool Old Road, Poulton le Fylde, Lancashire, FY6 7RL.  
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