

Belgium is anything but boring for Dawn

THE AWESOME spectacle that is the Spa Francorchamps circuit in Belgium was the scene for Andover racer Dawn Boyd, as the Dunlop Great and British Mini Challenge ventured abroad for round three of the championship.

The weather was going to be a major factor over the weekend as the team mechanics worried over wet or slick tyres for each event. Spa is in the hills of Belgium and it is so long the weather can be different at each end of the circuit. Practice on Friday morning was in the wet and Dawn was a long way down the field. "With so much spray you just can't see a thing and at 100mph that is not fun," she commented after.

Qualifying on Saturday started dry, a good chance to get some good lap times done but then the rain began to fall again. She gained a good qualifying time and was eighth on the grid in the Club class, ahead of her main rivals.

Sunday was finally a sunny day and race one was a standing start. Dawn got away well and was among the main pack down to the infamous Eau Rouge at 100mph. The grid began to split into groups and Dawn was racing a group of six when the car behind overtook at a corner too fast and took her off. Dawn managed to keep the car



Dawn in action at Spa

straight a few inches from the concrete barriers and back on track but had lost several places and was disappointed with 11th.

Race two was that afternoon and Dawn was all fired up for a rolling start from tenth on the grid. The same six grouped again, but this time, they were much closer. A few laps later the same driver who came off in front of Dawn in race one did it again breaking her windscreens with the gravel trap flying up. The group was down to three girls and Dawn was in front at the flag, an excellent result of seventh in class (18th out of 29 cars).

The next round is at Thruxton on July 21 where they will be joined by the truck racers.

Thruxton tickets to be won

THE DUNLOP Great and British Motorsport Festival is coming to town and will offer families a perfect day out packed with a variety of racing on Sunday July 22 at Thruxton.

The Great and British Festival returns for the second year and will bring a packed day of motorsport entertainment. Alongside the core championships of the Dunlop Radical Enduro and BUDuro and Mini Challenge, the event will also host the British Truck Racing Association Championship and International Truck Challenge.



Dunlop have two pairs of tickets to give away for the festival for the first two names out of the hat next Wednesday who answer correctly. "Which Challenge" is featured at the Dunlop Great and British Motorsport Festival!

Beetle, Mini or Morris Minor?
Answers on a post card can be dropped into the

offices here in London Street or e-mailed to the sportsdesk address on the back page along with a daytime contact number.

Winners will be notified next week.



Alan Hamilton in the Formula Ford Championship

Local pair have good day at Combe

STOCKBRIDGE driver Alan Hamilton and Simon Tilling from Vernham Dean competed in the British Race Day meeting at Castle Combe recently.

Alan was in the Formula Ford Championship and Simon was out in his Radical GT sports car. Both drivers had one qualifying session in the morning followed by a race in the afternoon. Simon put his car in third place on the grid and Alan was in the middle of the pack for his. Alan had a good tussle and finished the 12 lap race in eighth place overall and fourth in class.

Simon drove a good race but despite being held up by a back marker was a highly creditable fourth overall. A good day for both of the local drivers who are looking forward to a revisit to the circuit next week.

In addition to competing in the castle Combe GT championship, where they are currently second in class, Tilling Motorsport, supported by Barnes Van Centros, have been invited by Radical to race in the Endurance Championship round at the International Truck Challenge at Thruxton on July 21. This consists of two 45 minute races for Radical's fastest cars, which can achieve speeds up to 170mph and is the next step on the ladder



Simon Tilling in his Radical

that we hope will eventually lead to the Le Mans 24 hour race

They plan to contest all rounds in 2008 and would like to talk to anyone interested on partnering with them. The Radical Enduro is the one of the premier endurance racing championships in the UK, all races are televised and it offers great publicity and marketing opportunities.

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Expensive day out in Wales for Matt.....



What's left of Matt Speakman's car (left) at Rockingham

PEMBREY in South Wales was the venue for rounds three and four of the LMA Eurosalons where Matt Speakman was hoping to improve on his performance at Rockingham.

Qualifying started in rainy conditions, though these quickly changed to bright sunshine drying the track. Unable to get the best out of the situation Speakman lined up a disappointing third in class and 19th overall.

With the sun shining drivers elected to go out on slick tyres and making a reasonable start Speakman was able to catch his class rivals Anthony Allitt and David Pierce. A spin on oil by Pierce saw Speakman through to second in class heading after the quick Allitt. A lap later Speakman found himself spinning on the same bit of oil, allowing Pierce and Fergus Trenholme

through. With Pierce spinning once more on the oil Speakman was back to third in class and catching the Clio of Trenholme at over two seconds a lap. The start of lap eight saw Speakman catch the tail of Trenholme then disaster struck as once again he fell victim to the oil.

Sliding onto the wet grass there was nothing he could do to regain control as it shot back towards the track into the side of Alvin Powell's Mondeo. With both cars stranded on the track the race was stopped and Speakman declared third in class.

"Once again a weekend in Wales to forget about" said Speakman. "The car is a write off and requires re-shelling - I think we'll miss the next round at Cadwell but we look forward to returning at Anglesey."

....and James fares little better

ANDOVER'S James Morgan was competing in the Seat championship at Oulton Park recently.

Track conditions for qualifying were changeable which meant it was difficult to get any heat into the tyres which resulted in slow times. After two qualifying sessions James was 23rd putting him at the back of the grid after lapping the 2.22 mile circuit at an average speed of over 80 mph.

As the cars came out the skies opened up and the team changed to wet treaded tyres for the 12 lap race. Lots of spray made driving treacherous and unfortunately coming into Old Hall Corner which



James Morgan's Seat before his shunt at Old Hall Corner

is a very fast left to right James hit some standing water and went off at a very high speed into the tyre wall. The car was damaged and never went out for the second race and will now have to be fully repaired and put back to race condition as it is scheduled to be racing at Donnington Park in a couple of weeks time.



Roger Price in action at Brands Hatch

Price is right at Brands Hatch

ROGER Price from Andover was out racing at the famous grand prix circuit at Brands Hatch last week.

The circuit measures 2.31 miles in length and is one of the finest layouts in the world for drivers to tackle. Roger drives a classic Formula 3 Delta T79 and was built in 1979. It has a 2,000cc installed for power.

For Saturday's qualifying session the track was damp which meant fast times were difficult and many went off the racing line and found the huge

gravel traps waiting for them. At the end of his session Roger posted 1min 52.47 seconds which was good enough for 18th place on the grid out of 32 cars entered.

The race on Sunday was held over 20 minutes and the track was damp with Roger in the middle of the pack. Unfortunately after nine laps the race was red flagged and stopped due to an incident on the circuit and Roger was placed 16th overall and third in his class.