

**SNETTERTON BHRC**  
November 5/6  
**FIRMAN/MORRIS FLY AT NIGHT AT SNETT**

**HENRY FIRMAN** and Pete Morris guided their Porsche 911 to victory in Saturday's Britcar night race, inheriting the lead after early pacesetters Elliott and Craig Cole (Ferrari 360) and Adam Sharpe and George Haynes (Ford Falcon) faltered.

With Sharpe taking the first stint, the Falcon led convincingly before a tyre delamination forced them out of contention. The Cole Ferrari took over, looking equally comfortable until it fell off at

Riches. They were towed in, but alternator and wheel-bearing problems forced their retirement, leaving Firman/Morris to pick up the pieces and claim victory.

Second and third places were secured by a pair of M3s, with Nigel Stephen and Fergus Campbell recovering from a first corner spin to secure second, while a consistent run by Michael Symons and Anna Walewska was rewarded with third. Natasha Firman and Mark Ticehurst's Mazda RX8 was an impressive fourth.

Sunday's race was run in increasingly unpleasant conditions, as the evening gloom gathered and drizzle strengthened to rain. After the flurry of early pit visits, the field was soon divided between those

who had stopped for wet tyres and those who valiantly raced on. Three non-stoppers, including Sharpe's Falcon, Seldon's M3 and Armstrong's Civic headed the pack a lap clear of the Firman/Morris Porsche, fastest of the wet-shod runners.

But as conditions worsened, the top three began to struggle. Armstrong was the first to crack, a spin at Riches dropping him into Firman's clutches. Sharpe and Seldon managed to cling on for a further 10 laps before finally pitting. But by the time they emerged back on track, they were well adrift of Firman, who scored a convincing victory ahead of the Coles' Ferrari.

Sharpe's team-mate Haynes fought to the finish, recovering to third before stewards decided that conditions were bad enough to bring the day's racing to a close.

For a few laps it looked as though a solid drive by Alex Buncombe and a bit of luck with the safety car had left team-mate Ed Morris with an unassailable lead in the first Britsports race. The duo made a late driver change and took advantage of a well-timed safety car period to steal almost a lap on the field.

But it didn't last, as they were remorselessly hauled in by Jeff Davies' Juno. His team-mate Ryan Hooker had dominated the first half of the race, and Davies followed suit. In the space of 15 laps he went from a minute behind to a winning lead.



Davies/Hooker were the best of a thin Britsports endurance entry

JAMES HEARNE

Michael Christopher and Ian Flux gained some consolation for losing a lap under the safety car by taking third after Ed Morris and Tony Sinclair's late retirement.

Just six cars made it to the start of the second race. With Davies and Hooker absent after a collision in qualifying wiped out one corner of the Juno, Morris and Sinclair won with ease.

Despite an early spin, Christopher and Flux took second, ahead of Richardson and Bentley. The Chiron of Hobday and Buncombe had run third for much of the race, before succumbing to electrical gremlins.

by Oliver Timson

**BRITCAR (100 LAPS)** 1 Henry Firman/Pete Morris (Porsche 911 GT3) 2h30m15.054s (77.95mph); 2 Nigel Stephens/Fergus Campbell (BMW M3 E36) 2h31m32.259s; 3 Anna Walewska/

Michael Symons (BMW M3 E36); 4 Natasha Firman/Mark Ticehurst (Mazda RX8). **Class winners** Adam Sharpe/George Haynes (Ford Falcon); Symons/Walewska; Stephens/Campbell; Firman/Ticehurst. **Fastest lap** Sharpe/Haynes 1m12.385s (97.08mph).

**RACE TWO (28 LAPS)** 1 Firman/Morris 42m24.750s (77.32mph); 2 Craig Cole/Elliott Cole (Ferrari 360 Modena GT) 43m10.319s; 3 Sharpe/Haynes; 4 Warren Gilbert/David Upton (TVR). **CW** Sharpe/Haynes; Symons/Walewska; Sean McInerney (Honda Integra Type R); Alex Frick/Terry Flatt (VW Beetle RSi). **FL** Sharpe/Haynes 1m22.085s (85.60mph).

**BRITSPORTS/GOLD ARTS (75 LAPS)** 1 Jeff Davies/Ryan Hooker (Juno S53) 1h30m00.182s (97.59mph); 2 Peter Hobday/Alex Buncombe (Chiron) 1h30m38.045s; 3 Michael Christopher/Ian Flux (Prospert L3000); 4 Ed Morris/Tony Sinclair (Jade). **CW** Simon Phillips/Rob Garosall (Norma M20). **FL** Davies/Hooker 1m03.962s (109.86mph).

**RACE TWO (53 LAPS)** 1 Morris/Sinclair 1h00m50.377s (102.02mph); 2 Christopher/Flux 1h00m53.168s; 3 Richardson/Bentley (Pilbeam); 4 Jean-Lou Rihon/Ben Devlin (Radical SR3). **CW** Richardson/Bentley. **FL** Morris/Sinclair 1m03.849s (110.06mph).



Firman/Morris cut through the night on their way to the win

RICHARD STYLES

**FORMULA PALMER AUDI**

The opening races of the Formula Palmer Audi Autumn Trophy were brought to life by some sparkling performances from three drivers making their series debuts.

Ex-Formula Renault racer Josh Weber proved the most eye-catching. Despite having only been in an FPA car for a seat-fitting before the weekend, he proved unbeatable in the first two races.

Following him home both times was the consistent and quick Team USA graduate JR Hildebrand, another FPA rookie. In race one Hildebrand kept Weber in sight almost throughout, before easing off to preserve his tyres towards the finish. In race two, he had to fight his way back from third after a collision at the Esses while dicing with Viktor Jensen and the impressive Andy Demetriou.

Demetriou, the third of the impressive debutants, emerged from the incident unscathed in second, Hildebrand took to the escape road and recovered to third, but the unfortunate Jensen spun to the back. Undeterred, Hildebrand reeled Demetriou back in before sweeping past with a brave move round the outside of Riches to secure second place.

Weber's dominance was finally ended in race three when the long-

threatened rain arrived. Nevertheless, another impressive start boosted Weber into an early lead from Jensen, Demetriou and Hildebrand. But after a lap the Safety Car came out to allow a stationary car to be recovered. When racing resumed, the drizzle had intensified and the damp track caught out Weber and Jensen, who both speared off at Riches. With their cars stranded in a dangerous position, the race was halted.

Hildebrand led away at the re-start, but soon began to struggle with no third gear and an ill-handling car. Demetriou saw his chance, and wasted no time muscling into the lead at the Bombhole. As Hildebrand's ailing machine fell into retirement, Demetriou stretched clear to win in only his third FPA race.

Having been allowed to take the restart despite causing the earlier race

stoppage, Jensen and Weber stormed through the field to finish second and third, only to be subsequently excluded from the results.

by Oliver Timson

**FORMULA PALMER AUDI AUTUMN TROPHY (18 LAPS)**

1 Josh Weber 22m24.798s (94.05mph); 2 JR Hildebrand 22m31.836s; 3 Viktor Jensen; 4 Andy Demetriou; 5 Joshua Southall; 6 Paul Warren. **Fastest lap** Weber 1m05.084s (107.97mph). **RACE TWO (18 LAPS)** 1 Weber 19m58.293s (105.55mph); 2 Hildebrand 20m09.153s; 3 Demetriou; 4 Tom Haines; 5 Chris Hyman; 6 Joshua Southall. **FL** Weber 1m05.343s (107.54mph).

**RACE THREE (10 LAPS)** 1 Demetriou 13m26.366s (87.14mph); 2 Bruce Hodges 13m34.430s; 3 John Embiricos; 4 Mark Powell; 5 Bill Knowles; 6 David Joseph. **FL** Rob Lofting 1m16.591s (91.75mph). **Points** 1 Demetriou, 58; 2 Weber, 48; 3 Hyman, 41; 4 Hildebrand, 40; 5 Haines, 37; 6 Powell, 36.



Hildebrand (left) defends second place from Demetriou in race two

RICHARD STYLES

**T-CARS & VSR**

T-CAR CHAMPION Adrian Quaife-Hobbs carried his title-winning form into the Autumn Trophy, with victory in two of the day's three winter races.

But he was edged out in the opening event, as Ryan Borthwick grabbed a winning lead after overtaking Quaife-Hobbs with a brilliant move into Russell. The former leader dropped to fourth after tussling with Alex Macdowell and Daniel Laddiman at Sear, before reclaiming second on the last lap.

He made amends with dominant victories in the remaining races. In race two, he pulled clear after the pursuing four-car battle collided, handing him a decisive advantage.

In race three, he eased to his tenth win of the year, avoiding a start-line collision which wrecked the race of fellow front-runner

Daniel Laddiman.

Dave Longhurst and Steve Hall took a win apiece in the two VSR/Silhouette races. In the first, Longhurst dominated while Hall fought back from ninth to second after a moment on the opening lap.

Despite unfavourable grid slots for race two, Hall and Longhurst battled through the field for another one-two finish.

by Oliver Timson

**T-CARS (11 LAPS)** 1 Ryan Borthwick 15m21.562s (83.87mph); 2 Adrian Quaife-Hobbs 15m22.676s; 3 Daniel Laddiman; 4 Alex Macdowell; 5 Daniel Brown; 6 Oliver Webb. **Fastest lap** Quaife-Hobbs 1m22.395s (85.28mph). **RACE TWO (11 LAPS)** 1 Quaife-Hobbs 15m39.348s (82.29mph); 2 Webb 15m49.894s; 3 Brown; 4 Laddiman; 5 Jolyon Palmer; 6 Max Chilton. **FL** Webb 1m23.001s (84.66mph). **RACE THREE (11 LAPS)** 1 Quaife-Hobbs 15m36.677s (82.52mph); 2 Webb 15m43.268s; 3 Borthwick; 4 Chilton; 5 Palmer; 6 Brown. **FL** Quaife-Hobbs 1m23.707s (83.95mph).

**VSR CHAMPIONSHIP (7 LAPS)** 1 Dave Longhurst (Mitsubishi Colt) 10m42.648s (76.54mph); 2 Steve Hall (Audi TT) 10m50.934s; 3 Ian Fawcings (Vauxhall Tigra VXR); 4 Greg Wood (Peugeot 206 GTI). **Class winners** Steven Barnard (Pontiac Grand Prix). **FL** Longhurst 1m28.538s (79.36mph).

**RACE TWO (12 LAPS)** 1 Hall 15m36.792s (90.01mph); 2 Longhurst 15m38.017s; 3 Alan Fisher (Peugeot 205 GTI); 4 Chris Brockhurst (Peugeot 206 GTI). **CW** Barnard. **FL** Hall 1m16.076s (92.37mph).



Borthwick celebrates his T Cars race one triumph

JAMES HEARNE