

Castle Combe Race Report. 5th October 2013

Well - what can be said about the Classic FF1600 Championship Final Round today ?

Considering one of the two Drivers capable of clinching the Class A Championship was unable to make it to this meeting (due to business commitments) the race was still unbelievably tense. Adriano Medeiros was restricted to just 4 laps in qualifying by engine problems but still managed to achieve 2nd place on the Grid. He made a strong start and pulled out a 3.5 second lead by lap 6.

But a worsening misfire started to hamper Adriano from around lap 8. His lap times dropped from 1minute 15 to 16's and 17's then on lap 13(!) of 16 he was suddenly doing 1 minute 22 secs. To give an idea of his problems his last two Laps (15 and 16) were 1 minute 27secs and 1 minute 37secs... dropping him to 6th place on the road and 5th in class. It seemed to onlookers that the car was rapidly dying and on the slowing down lap he appeared to be virtually at walking pace....

From looking at the lap chart - if the race had been just one more lap longer he would surely have lost the points needed to secure the title. For his Team and his many Supporters it must have felt like a 20 hour race rather than a 20 minute one...

As Adriano dropped away a fierce battle developed between Lloyd Hopes and Stuart Kestenbam for the win. Stuart looked very strong and posting the fastest race lap of 1minute 14.842 seconds. This battle ended when Stuart took a trip across the grass at the infamous Quarry Corner on lap 12. The incident damaged the front of his car and forced a retirement.

This left Lloyd to secure his first FF1600 win with long time Classic FF1600 racers Simon Davey and Steve Pearce in 2nd and 3rd places.

Behind them was Kevin Mansell, Roger Newman, Adriano, and 2013 Novice Champion Chris Stuart who won a close battle (by just 0.282 sec) with Kevin Howell.

Class B (Pre74) was won by Multiple Champion Dave Lowe on his return to racing after a truly horrifying incident at the Silverstone Classic in July when another car somersaulted over his Lotus causing it a lot of serious damage. It was great to see Jonathan Greenwood, Ian Jeary and Michael Saunders chasing him home in Class B with them all posting very good lap times.