

Good afternoon Guards Racers.

As usual, thanks to all of you who raced at sunny Silverstone on Sunday.

We had a total of 22 cars, 7 GT, 11 SR and 4 Invitation; in 2018 we had 20 total; 6 GT and 14 SR. Three Marcos GT's, a Brahma (great name), an Elan Plus 2 and a CanAm McLaren, in addition to the usual splendid Guards mix. A returning Guards champion in the shape of John Davison and a return visit from a BTCC co driver. Fantastico!

The BTCC skills showed in qualifying getting the GT's back on pole.

The first lap into Becketts was interesting with one unnamed driver trying to take it backwards. Once the safety car was cleared we had racing through to the pit window when a Marcos lost a wheel at Woodcote (should that be Woodworm?). After that safety car it was good to go to the flag, with the TVR and others trying to make up a safety car deficit. Charlie Allison took the win on the road, but was penalised for being too speedy in the pit lane, (maybe I should not have drawn attention to his pit stop skills at the drivers' meeting).

The upshot of all that was that the Hibberd family Lotus was the overall winner, great result and congratulations to them.

As that was the final Guards race of 2019, we have a new Champion, Ross Hyett and his lovely red Elan, congratulations to him for a winning season; clearly an A class Elan 26R is still the tool to have for the overall championship standings.

Congratulations also to our other class winners who gave Ross a run for his money right up to the final flag.

According to my unofficial calculations the class winners are;

In GT, class B winner, Richard Grube, MGB; class C winner, Andrew Hayden, AH 3000; class D winner, Mike Gardiner, TVR Griffith.

In SR, SRB winner, Benn Tilley, Lotus 23B; SRC winner, Mark Halstead, Crossle 9S; SRD winner, Charlie Allison, Chevron B8; SRE winners, Jon Waggitt and Peter Needham, Lenham P69.

The Invitation class do not count for points but top marks to Andrew Wareing, McLaren M1A for being the most frequent attendee.

Thanks to nearly everyone being well behaved during the pit stops, the numbers were very revealing and no doubt in the future the timekeepers will have to pay more attention to the TSL stats.

Following my safety car comments after Oulton, it looked as though everyone closed up nicely, much easier on a short track like Silverstone National. Thanks to you all.

Re. the Drivers' Meeting, John Davison and I will report the outcomes to the HSCC Board on the 30th October, we will also send you the minutes of the meeting.

The dates for your 2020 diaries; 4/5 April Snetterton; 16/17 May Silverstone GP; 6/7 June Donington; 11/12 July Brands GP; 29/31 August Oulton; 17/18 October Silverstone.

Nurburgring, Mondello and Spa are all in the melting pot at this point, but we will do our best to get on the grid at Spa at the very least.

Well that's it for the 2019 Guards Trophy, I hope you all enjoyed yourselves as much as I and my co drivers have; object lesson to all parents, never lend your toys to your kids, they will always show you up.

Thanks very much to you all for bringing out your fantastic cars to provide varied grids and superb racing at 6 events during 2019.

I am assured there will be new and different cars on the Guards grid for 2020, let us hope the promises are fulfilled and we can again put on the best show in HSCC for another season.

A reminder of the HSCC Dinner Dance, Saturday 23rd November at Whittlebury Hall; there are a few of us now signed up, so let's see if we can get a Guards gang along, maybe enough for a table of ten?

As before, if any of you have any comments or suggestions as to how we can do better or different in 2020; get more cars on the grid; any pros or cons; anything; please do not hesitate to give me a call or email.

All the best, Hugh Colman.

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