

Monday 19 April 2021

Honours shared at Snetterton

The Historic Sports Car Club opened its 2021 racing season with a full programme on the Snetterton 300 circuit over the weekend (17/18 April).

Glorious spring weather and a wonderful paddock atmosphere added together to make a fine start to the Club's 56th season of racing. With over 240 entries for 19 races and remarkably few incidents it was the perfect start to 2021.

Ultimately Classic Formula 3 wins were shared between Andrew Smith and Benn Tilley, but that doesn't tell the full story of an absorbing contest in the second race. In the opener, Smith edged clear from the start and romped away to win at a canter as Tilley took a secure second with Tony Hancock third in his Lola T670 and Shaun Hollamby fourth as Murray Shepherd headed the URS Classic FF2000 runners.

However, at the end of Saturday afternoon, it was a different story as a fast-starting Hancock dived ahead on the opening lap as Tilley pushed Smith back to third. Tilley then set about finding a way around the Lola and, once ahead, tried to make as much of an escape as he could. A couple of laps later Smith found a way past the Lola and set off after Tilley at a ferocious pace. It was nose-to-tail stuff over the final laps but Tilley drove a superbly defensive race to fend off his rival and score a famous win, with a fifth of a second splitting the cars as they rushed over the line.