

## REPORT: SILVERSTONE

### HSCC's International Trophy delivers fabulous spectacle

Tremendous grids of spectacular historic racing cars ensured a memorable weekend at the Historic Sports Car Club's Silverstone International Trophy meeting on the Grand Prix circuit (22/23 May).

With bumper grids for most races and spectators admitted to Silverstone for the first time since the end of 2019, it was a very special race meeting as Historic Formula 2, Thundersports and the Dunlop Saloon Car Cup ran alongside the Club's other series for single-seaters, sports and touring cars. Although the British spring weather was unpredictable, there was some great racing across a full two days.

The 30-car Historic Formula 2 field provided another glorious spectacle on the Grand Prix circuit. Spots of rain on the parade lap caused some anxious moments but, thankfully, the rain didn't increase too much and the race ran out in largely dry conditions.

Miles Griffiths took the early lead in his Ralt RT1 and was able to edge further clear when Andrew Smith retired his March 742 with a failed battery. Instead, a tremendous contest for second raged between Matt Wrigley, Manfredo Rossi and Fraser Gibney. Meanwhile, Glenn Eagling was having a fabulous race in his GRD and closed right in on the battling trio. Wrigley eventually got second after a great contest. Further back, Callum Grant headed the Formula Atlantics while Julian Stokes and Nick Pancisi had a tremendous race-long contest for the lead of the 1600cc F2 class and Stokes finally got the verdict.

The second Historic F2 race beat the rain and delivered another glorious spectacle. Once again, Griffiths got the drop and was able to extend his lead, while main interest focused on the progress of Andy Smith and Martin Stretton, both starting at the back after problems in race one. They stormed up the field and eventually Smith moved ahead of his arrival as he closed in on second place Matthew Watts in the ex-Marc Surer car. However, Watts was getting quicker and quicker and held his ground to see off Smith while Stretton took fourth.