

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 tremendous Thundersports grid looked and sounded stunning with a fabulous array of sports-racing and GT cars from the 1970s and early 1980s. Calum Lockie on board the mighty March 717 was peerless and shot clear on the opening lap. Lockie's escape was boosted when Dean Forward had a big moment under braking into Stowe and spun his McLaren M8F. Forward got going again but dropped a lot of places in the process.

Meanwhile, John Burton had started his Chevron B26 from the back of the bumper grid after a late problem with a gear ratio change. A lengthy safety car period while several stricken cars were moved then interrupted the race and allowed the field to bunch up. From the green Lockie again went clear as Forward chased, moving into second when Warren Briggs spun his McLaren M8E at the restart. The battle for the best of the 2-litre cars came down to a fine contest between Tony Sinclair (Lola T292) and Burton. It was nip and tuck over the closing laps, and the place changed several times before Burton used all his experience to edge his rival to the line by a whisker.

The second race started with Lockie heading Forward, but within a couple of laps the rain arrived and became heavy enough for the race to be sensibly halted to allow teams to change tyres. After a break, the race resumed on a very wet track but that made little difference to Lockie, who continued his tremendous performance to win again as Forward gave brave chase in the mighty McLaren. Burton was the best of the 2-litre cars as Sinclair posted a late retirement.