

REPORT: HSCC Brands Hatch Super Prix

The Historic Sports Car Club's Legends of Brands Hatch Superprix delivered an outstanding three days of historic race action on both the Indy and Grand Prix circuits at the famous Kent venue (9-11 July).

Conditions on Saturday were particularly challenging when light rain left the track very slippery and a number of red flags and safety car interventions rather disrupted the timetable. However, by moving the first Aurora/Geoff Lees Trophy race to Sunday morning, the programme was completed in full.

It was worth waiting for the opening Aurora and Geoff Lees race because it was a cracking contest on Sunday morning as Matthew Wrigley (March 782) had to work very hard to fend off the charging Martin Stretton (March 712) in a battle of the F2 cars.

The grid was shuffled after a damp and slippery qualifying session on Saturday. But Wrigley quickly stole ahead as Stretton took a little longer to make his way to the front. Then, a safety car period allowed Stretton to home right in on his rival and for the last couple of laps Wrigley had to work hard to fend off his challenger.

Behind them, Mark Charteris (March 742) and Rory Smith, finally making his Geoff Lees Trophy debut in his Ralt RT4, battled over third place with Charteris just getting the verdict. Young Samuel Harrison, who had put his Dallara 389 on pole in the wet dropped back to fifth, but it was still an impressive performance from the teenager.

At the end of Sunday afternoon, the second Aurora/Geoff Lees race was just as good and this time Stretton seized a late opportunity as they lapped slower cars to dive through at Paddock Hill Bend on what proved to be the final lap to beat Wrigley to the line by a third of a second.