

Champions decided at HSCC Mallory Park

At least two Historic Sports Car Club racing champions for 2021 were crowned as the club returned to Mallory Park for the first time in a decade for a weekend of racing (18/19 September).

The weekend delivered some great racing in generally warm and sunny weather, despite a torrential downpour on Sunday morning that disrupted qualifying for a while.

Grids were a little down on what had been expected and it is clear that the clash with the Goodwood Revival had kept some entrants away, while some others were still resolving issues from Oulton Park three weeks earlier. However, those that were there enjoyed a double-header on this friendly circuit, where slick organisation ensured both days ran smoothly despite the weather interruption on Sunday.

Historic Formula Ford 2000 featured prominently with a busy double-header. Murray Shepherd was the sole Classic FF2000 runner, so he joined the near capacity grid and ended up taking a weekend double despite the very best efforts of Historic front runners Benn Simms and Ian Pearson.

On Saturday, Simms battled wheel-to-wheel with Shepherd until his Reynard ran out of fuel with three laps to go. A new fuel tank had recently been fitted and it failed to pick up the last couple of litres that should have got Simms home.

On Sunday, Pearson made a blinding start to lead for much of the race under pressure from Shepherd only to have his Royale stick in third gear at the Hairpin and slip to fifth. It was far less than he deserved. Meanwhile, Simms drove a tremendous race to battle from the back of the grid right up to second. He passed eight cars before Gerard's on the first lap and was quickly into the top five. He then closed in on the battling Pearson and Shepherd but was never quite able to get on terms as Shepherd took his second win of the weekend.

Ben Glasswell was a fine third on Sunday to round out the overall podium while on Saturday it had been Graham Ridgeway completing the podium ahead of son and father Ben and Stephen Glasswell.