

REPORT: OULTON PARK GOLD CUP

Once again, the Historic Sports Car Club's Oulton Park Gold Cup weekend (28-30 August) delivered some outstanding racing on the beautiful parkland circuit in Cheshire.

With bumper grids for most races, fine weather, a large and enthusiastic crowd and lots of off-track attractions, it all added to a great weekend of historic racing with 21 races across Sunday and Monday.

Mark Dwyer took a double victory in the Aurora Trophy, which also included the Classic Formula 3 contenders. In an oil shortened race on Sunday, Dwyer went clear and stayed ahead as Rory Smith (Ralt RT4) mounted a spirited chase, having started at the back of the grid after clutch problems in qualifying.

Smith got through into the top three but was classified sixth when the result was taken back a lap and it was young Samuel Harrison who was classified second behind Dwyer in his F3 Dallara from the Geoff Lees Trophy. Andrew Smith, now in his March 783 was third overall and best of the Classic F3 runners from fifth-placed Benn Tilley (March 743).

On Monday, Dwyer led from the start as Rory Smith stormed through from sixth on the grid to second and matched Dwyer's pace with some stunning cornering speeds in the very effective Ralt RT4 running in the Geoff Lees Trophy section. Harrison was third while this time around Mike Bletsoe-Brown got the better of Andrew Smith, but Smith still headed the Classic F3 runners from Tilley.