

# **The Lubricant Consultancy Mk2 Golf GTI Championship 2011.**

## **Round 9.**

### **Brands Hatch GP – 20<sup>th</sup> August.**

Memories of past Formula 1 events echoed around the venue for round 9 of the MK2 Golf GTI Championship, as the competitors headed for Brands Hatch in the Grand Prix configuration !. This layout is only available for a limited number of events, due to local issues concerning noise, so it was a rare opportunity to sample the much longer (2.43 miles) circuit, which is very different in character to the Indy circuit.

Guy Stevens (Class 1) was the current Championship and class leader, whilst James Bark was leading Class 2 following the previous round at Oulton Park.

### **Qualifying**

The usual frenetic 15 minutes qualifying had the front running Class 2 cars fighting for supremacy. Hopkins' laid down a very quick marker early in the proceedings, though Martin, Bark and Milne, followed by 'new boy' Walsh were pushing hard just behind.

There were notable performances from Hance and Bedford in 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> places just behind Walsh.

In Class 1, front runner Alex Harris was absent from the grid, leaving Holley, Belton and Boyd to fight it out behind Brands GP specialist Guy Stevens who set a stunning final time nearly a second ahead of the rest !.

Tim Cox and James Holland, new to the Championship in 2011, were going well to take the next 2 spots on the grid.

### **Final times :**

#### Class 1

Pole : Guy Stevens.

2<sup>nd</sup> Andy Holley.

3<sup>rd</sup> Clive Belton.

4<sup>th</sup> Dawn Boyd.

5<sup>th</sup> Tim Cox.

#### Class 2

Pole : Lewis Hopkins.

2<sup>nd</sup> Jamie Martin.

3<sup>rd</sup> James Bark.

4<sup>th</sup> Peter Milne.

5<sup>th</sup> Martyn Walsh.

### **Race**

Fresh from a fantastic battle in the previous V.A.G Trophy race, we were expecting fireworks from the top 2 qualifiers Hopkins and Martin and we weren't disappointed !. The former charged off the line to take the lead closely followed by Bark, who was trying a new suspension set up, and Martin. A fantastic start by Bertrum had him topping off the top 5 behind Milne. As they crossed the line for lap 2 and turned into Paddock Hill bend, there was a notable absence from the top 4 – Hopkins was nowhere to be seen; he'd had a 'moment' around the back of the circuit and was in 5<sup>th</sup> place !.

In Class 1, Stevens lead the field off the line and, after lap 1, Belton was in second position followed by Done, who drove a stunning first lap, and Boyd. Holley had an eventful first lap and was down in 6<sup>th</sup> position in class !.

In Class 2, at the mid-point of the race, Hopkins had recovered to 3<sup>rd</sup> position and was trying every trick he knew to close on the leading 2 cars. A great squabble between Walsh, Johnson and Bertrum, with Arthur not far behind, kept the spectators happy !. Drury and Sedwell were having their own dice and Ward, who had a grass cutting moment on lap 1, could have been part of this battle with a little more luck.

Stevens put his knowledge of the track to good use and had pulled out a 6 second gap at lap 6 over Belton. Boyd was laying 3<sup>rd</sup> in class holding off the close attention of Holland, Done and Holley who were separated by only 5 seconds.

On lap 6, a hard charging Johnson overcooked it entering Paddock Hill and ended up in the gravel. This brought out the red flag, which stopped the race prematurely thus Jamie Martin had his first win in Class 2, followed by a recovering Hopkins, then Bark, Milne and Bertrum.

Stevens won Class 1, followed by Belton, a great drive by Boyd to 3<sup>rd</sup>, with Holland and Done in 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>.

Qualifying and race results are posted on this site under 'Race Information' then 'Overall Results 2011'. More detailed information is available from the TSL website ( [www.tsl-timing.com](http://www.tsl-timing.com) ).

**Overall results :**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Jamie Martin ( Class 2 Winner).
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Lewis Hopkins.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> James Bark.
- 4<sup>th</sup> Pete Milne.
- 5<sup>th</sup> Lee Bertrum.

**Class 1 results :**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Guy Stevens.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Clive Belton.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Dawn Boyd.

**Class 2 results :**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Jamie Martin.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Lewis Hopkins.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> James Bark.