

# The Lubricant Consultancy Mk2 Golf GTI Championship 2011.

## Round 10.

### Thruxton – 3<sup>rd</sup> September.

TV footage of the Touring Cars 'flat' through Church, the fastest corner of the UK's fastest circuit has always made exciting viewing and, for the first time, the Mk2 Golf GTI Championship held a round at Thruxton in Hampshire. This very wide circuit, with many possible racing lines, was sure to be a challenge for the drivers !.

Going into round 10, a 20 minute 'endurance' race, Guy Stevens was topping the Championship table and leading Class 1 with 120 points. James Bark, only 7 points behind was leading Class 2 and was positioned 2<sup>nd</sup> overall in the Championship.

### Qualifying

Following a well supported Allcomers qualifying session, which was used by some of the drivers to learn the track, the cars streamed out of the pit lane onto the mixed surface of the Thruxton circuit. The conditions were dry, though the overcast sky and droplets of moisture earlier on, made it difficult to fully decide the set up.

At the front of Class 2, Lewis Hopkins was flying though Jamie Martin was closing the gap as the session progressed, followed by Bark, Milne and the returning Wright. The extremely quick nature of the track, which favoured cars with high power outputs, left the Class 1 cars some way behind. A close battle between Harris, Belton, Holley and Boyd saw less than 0.8 seconds separate them at the end. The fastest time was some 4.5 seconds from the Class 2 pole – an unusually big gap. Stevens, the Championship leader, finished in 5<sup>th</sup> place, with new competitor Mark Hodder in 6<sup>th</sup>.

### Final times :

#### Class 1

Pole : Alex Harris

2<sup>nd</sup> Clive Belton.

3<sup>rd</sup> Andy Holley.

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

5<sup>th</sup> Guy Stevens.

#### 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> Herry Wright.

### Race

As the lights went out, the sound of 24 Golfs blasting away from the grid drowned out any conversation in the pit lane !. Hopkins and Martin, were absolutely 'neck and neck' as the cars rounded Allard and headed for Campbell corner. A clean start saw all 24 cars appear out of Club chicane after the first lap, with the order in Class 2 : Martin leading, followed (very closely indeed) by Hopkins, then Bark, Milne and Wright. Behind Johnson held position in 6<sup>th</sup> with Drury moving up 2 slots to 7<sup>th</sup> after a flyer of a start !.

In Class 1, 'Bomber' Harris lead Belton by 0.4 seconds, Boyd in third. Holley was a little way back after the shake out in 4th, with Stevens 5<sup>th</sup>.

The battle at the front had rarely been fiercer, with Martin leading Hopkins by as little as 0.2 seconds at times !. The mid-field battle had Bertrum, Stenning, Bedford and Ward separated by less than 4 seconds too.

Following an excursion, which saw Harris around 300 meters off the track on the grass (!) on lap 2, he was running almost last. Belton took the class lead with Boyd in 2<sup>nd</sup> and Holley 3<sup>rd</sup>. As far as Harris was concerned, the 'fightback' had begun and he reeled off some very fast laps to finish 2<sup>nd</sup> in class at the end !. This included the outright fastest lap for the class.

On lap 10 the 'battle royal' continued at the front of Class 2 and Hopkins managed to squeeze through to take the class lead as the crossed the line. Bark was some 10 seconds back, with the battle between Milne and Wright proving the entertainment behind. The great mid-field dice between Bertrum, Stenning, Bedford and Ward had been joined by Arthur and Sedwell – great to watch, and only just headed by Hance, the spectators were kept on the edge of their seats !.

In the end Belton won Class 1, followed by Harris, with Boyd in 3<sup>rd</sup>. Stevens finished in 4<sup>th</sup> place.

In Class 2 Martin took victory, with Hopkins in 2<sup>nd</sup>, then Bark, Milne and Wright completed the top 5.

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> Herry Wright.

**Class 1 results :**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Clive Belton.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Alex Harris.
- 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.