



Annual Review

2007

Rory's a jolly good fellow

Rain or shine 70's Road Sports provided another classic season of close and colourful racing.

The weather was unusually dry and sunny at Donington when the 70's Road Sports assembled for the first race of 2007, although Charles Barter and Paul Anderson immediately picked up where they left off the previous October fighting like two alley cats over a discarded fish head with the Datsun 240Z winning by a whisker.

DONINGTON PARK

A week later at Cadwell Park, Adam Bagnall in his Jaguar E Type took his turn at the front before brake problems left Charles Barter to score his second win in 8 days.

CADWELL PARK

The Lotus class didn't disgrace themselves either, hanging out with the big boys in the Guards Trophy race, the Europa of Rory Stockbridge finishing 11th overall and winning class C by just 0.28 seconds from the Elan of Howard Bentham.

With his TVR out of action, Julian Barter borrowed Elizabeth Head's D2 MGB to experience life in the cheap seats at the series' first visit of the year to Silverstone, unfortunately a prerequisite for racing in the middle of a 36 car grid is all round vision and a hairy arse, Julian said he would prefer not to repeat the experience.

SILVERSTONE

Paul Anderson and Charles Barter picked up the fish head once more, this time the Anderson's Porsche winning by 1.03 seconds and not much further back Alan Harper pipped Rory Stockbridge to class C honours by 0.30 seconds in his Lotus Elan. With a dearth of sacrificial victims John Thomason was beginning to sense that his chance of a third consecutive title was going to be harder than finding an Alfa Romeo actually performing better than it looked.

Across the flat plains of Norfolk, the racing at Snetterton was fast and furious before 7.5 litres of sump oil was dumped along the length of the pit straight and the red flag deployed to prevent errant racers joining the Datsun of Clive Fosket in his attempt to move the circuit boundary closer to Suffolk. Charles Barter took another win but almost overlooked was Paul Conway's Morgan which passed 30 cars on his way to finishing 4th overall.

SNETTERTON

The 70's grid was launched into a deluge at the Brands Hatch Historic Festival, a couple of cars beached themselves to avoid the worst of the storm and Grace Darling was deployed in the pace car to lead the fleet back to safety. Barter and Anderson again took the leading two places and a head count after the race revealed that Jai Sharma in his Lancia Fulvia had bobbed to the top of class D1.

BRANDS HATCH

At the Silverstone Classic combined Road Sport double header, two stunning displays of racecraft, good humored competition and racing at its purest were provided for any fan who was prepared to get out of bed early enough to watch.

SILVERSTONE

Andy Shepherd did his best to upset 70's domination at the front of the spectacular 48 car grid, but Paul Conway doesn't do fluster and rumbled to a 1.21 second victory in race one, over the enthusiastically driven HRS Lotus 7.

Starting from the 26th slot in race two and clearly still haunted by his mid grid experience earlier in the year, Julian Barter drove his TVR as if pursued by follically endowed demons to finish just 0.53 seconds behind race victor Paul Anderson.

The Oulton Park Gold Cup provided another big stage for a vintage 70's performance. After 20 minutes of door handle to door handle racing parc ferme resembled a Morris Men in pyjamas convention with a rousing display of congratulatory back slapping.

OULTON PARK GOLD CUP

Whilst the Barter family stole the silverware, young Luke Clarke-Bagnall finally worked out that even with his exceptional car control the grey areas of a race track offered more grip for his Triumph GT6 than the green bits and produced a dominant display to win class D2 and finally end the run of 14 class victories for the Escort RS2000 of Bob Trotter.

Rory Stockbridge took pole position in his Lotus Europa for the September round on the Brands Hatch Indy circuit and was joined on the front row by the Morgan Plus 8 of Phillip McKelvey. The Morgan hung onto an early lead from Paul Anderson before succumbing to mechanical maladies as this seasons comeback kid Julian Barter raced from 7th on the grid to within 0.21 seconds of the victorious Porsche 928.

BRANDS HATCH INDY CIRCUIT

At the end of a dramatic season of exceptionally close racing the series gathered at Silverstone again, with 4 drivers still holding a mathematical chance of taking the title. Despite Anderson's Porsche chewing at the tail of his Moggy, Paul Conway remained unflustered winning the race to take class A honours.

SILVERSTONE FINALS

Bob Trotter, the Paul Newman of 70's is too cool to be hustled by the red Porsche 924 of newcomer Andy Jarvis weaving in his mirrors and for the last three races of the year, defiantly placed his yellow Escort on whatever piece of track Andy wanted to use to hang onto the class D2 title.

Charles Barter remained top cat of the class B alley with five outright wins, three second places and four fastest laps to finish 3rd overall in the title race.

Finishing second, with his dancing feet peddling the dazzling 1500cc Triumph Spitfire as quickly as ever, only the shortage of class opposition prevented John Thomason from scoring sufficient points to take his third consecutive title.

And as the season of peace descended for another year, Rory Stockbridge emerged as top dog to become the 70's Road Sport champion of 2007 with five class wins, three second places and five fastest laps and everyone agreed it had been unusually dry and sunny for the last race of the season – and so say all of us.
