

Belle Vue Heritage Gold Cup November 3rd 2019

On a cool damp afternoon 24 cars rolled up to contest our annual big race-it would have been 26, Granville Wright (311) had cracked his ribs in the week and Dave Helliwell (271) had turned up only to find that his brand new engine would not run. Also – to defend his title- was Nick Whitney (773) who originally though he would not be available, owing to the imminent arrival of their first born, but baby Noah arrived early and after initial worries, is thriving to he was allowed out to play.

Participation awards were presented and group photos taken as the cars were lined up in points order with Giles Carter (47) on pole, and as the green flag dropped they roared off but the sticky track caught many out, for once off the narrow racing line the cars bogged down. After a couple of laps it was veteran Alan Nicholson (198) leading, after (271) Wayne Helliwell spun out (763) Andy Bateman, followed by Andy Bell (475), Nick W (773) and Giles Carter (47), then, Dan Jeffrey (20), Jim Cannon (135) and John Ferguson (536)tangled in a heap by the start line, causing a yellow flag for a period, during which Giles, Jim , and John Clements (23) retired. On the restart, Andy Bell (475) was leading followed by Golden Boots (773) and Nigel Finnegan (59). Nick W got past Andy Bell and opened up a lead for several laps, as Aaron Cozens (9) and Ross Taylor (342) spun. Then Andy Bell, who was definitely faster on the straights spun Nick on the Tote corner, enabling Andy Kaye(533) who had started 18th on the grid to take the lead which he held to the end, with Andy Bell 2nd and Andy Bateman(763) who was almost last in the field fought back to 3rd . The trophies were presented, but it was shame that there was no victory lap allowed.

Results: 533,475,763,773,676,198,59,128,59

This result meant that Mark Foster (676) wins the Tom Pitcher trophy for the first upright car across the line. Everyone agreed that it was an excellent race, with action all the way and a close finish-well done to all involved

Race Two produced 16 cars, and as was mentioned after last year's big race, loading up a race worthy car does not look good in a promoter's eyes. So the meeting final or "Repechege" as it was branded, was led off by Phil Hiles (318) but John Ferguson(536) was soon past followed by Graham Bunter (728) and Freddie Barnes (537), but Graham ended up in the fence as Aaron (9) retired and a fast moving Andy Bateman sepot into the lead as Ross Taylor(342) spun.

Results: 763,536,198,533,773,537,218,342

The last race of the evening had 13 cars, which saw Andy Bateman (763) take the lap handicap with new boy Mark Foster (676) at the front to take the lead that he held to the chequer. During the race Freddie B 537) spun, Phil Hiles slowed to a stop at the exit of turn four and Nick W (773) and John Ferg (536) had a solo spin.

Results: 676,728,763,533,128,198,773,537,59,342.

A very enjoyable end to the season and an excellent firework display during the meeting. A shame, like Stoke, Belle Vue will soon be history

A special mention. We all appreciate what Paul Nicholson has done this year, scrutineering all the cars and getting the boys in order on the grid which makes the sport look very professional. Well done Paul.

Mick Whitney.