

MOTOR RACING

Darrian double

A highly entertaining Welsh Car and Truck Festival at Pembrey Circuit saw the Lampeter made Darrians open their account in the popular national motor racing series.

In a contrasting programme of 14 races there was much interest in the two rounds of the Welsh Sports and Saloon Championship which has been keenly contested in recent years.

Reigning champion Peter Dark of Pontrhydfendigaid registered his first win of the season in convincing fashion on Sunday, while Llanddorg's experienced racer Terry Brown took the honours on Saturday in his rapid T9.

Triple champion Martin Davies who won the first round at Silverstone last month was hopeful of another success in the Ford Sapphire Cosworth when he qualified on pole position in the wet on Sunday morning.

But Dark in the 2000cc Darrian made a flying start from second on the grid and lead from start to finish.

Brown went in pursuit of Pembrey Performance Driving School instructor Davies, recording the fastest laps on the second and third.

The Sapphire Cosworth of the Haverfordwest racing ace was managing to hold off the threat of the Darrian on the straights. But Brown went on the inside of him at the start of the seventh lap to move into a second place he held on comfortably to until the end.

Davies appeared to slow during the second half of the race and had to relinquish third to the Mini of Mark Chandler. The former champion still managed to claim another Class triumph to keep him among the title contenders at this early stage of the season.

Barrie Thomas watches the action at Pembrey Circuit

He also took Class A honours on Saturday as the Darrians contested the lead with Davies taking the chequered flag ahead of Brown.

The wet weather added to the drama of Sunday's absorbing festival. Its varied package of motor racing providing value for money and excitement that should guarantee the fans returning to Pembrey for future meetings.

It could have been called the little and large festival as the best action came from the trucks and the Minis.

Sideways slides and frequent excursions to the grass in torrential rain added to the thrills of the British Truck Championship, which has a tremendous following.

Essex haulier Chris Tucker took the chequered flag in both races. Driving one of the quicker Class A Racetrucks, Tucker mastered the difficult conditions to charge through from the back of the grid and with a delayed start to take the victories.

Several trucks came to grief in a first race full of incident with the most spectacular being on the last lap when British champion Richard Collett spun off on the final bend and went thudding into the bank and tyres. It took a major operation to free it from the tyres but Collett escaped unhurt and remarkably returned in the truck to take part in the second race.

Biggest entry of the weekend came in Minis

with over 50 competing in their two championships.

Carmarthen's Endaf Owen came close to finish highly placed in the Mini Miglia Challenge in which Maidstone's Ian Curley was an easy winner.

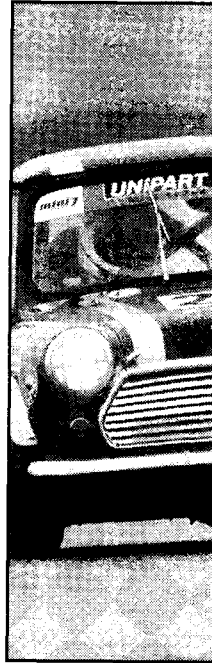
Owen made a good start and recorded a fastest lap in establishing himself in second until a mistake at Hatchets saw him lose places. The contest behind Curley continued to be closely fought with the Carmarthen driver eventually finishing fifth.

Matthew Hayman of Cardiff won the Mini Se7en Challenge race in the worse conditions of the afternoon.

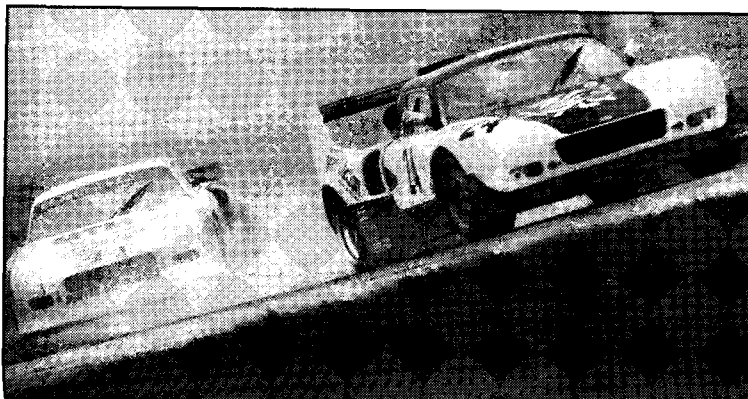
Tadworth's Steve Bell had appeared to be on course for a comfortable victory until the red flags went out when a Mini was parked on in a dangerous position at the exit of the Esses. Hayman benefited from the restart and a flying start saw him come through the five laps to take the victory.

Best of the single seater action came in the BARC Formula Renault championship with Anthony Dunn in a Martini capitalising on many mistakes made after an eventful start to take the chequered flag.

Nostalgia was provided in the Austin Healey Championship in which several cars with an interesting history competed with Bruce Montgomery of Burton on Trent in a 3000cc Mk II winning the race.



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MOTOCROSS

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THE West Wa Motocross club braved weather conditions of snow, rain and sleet to its Grand Prix m/cs of challenge, on Monday the fast drying Bryngw