

DONNINGTON PARK

Butcher works hard for big win

ROB ALLENDER

KEITH BUTCHER was the big winner in the 8th round of the 1998 Welsh Sports & Saloon Car Championship at Donington Park last weekend after the main contenders fell by the wayside.

However Butcher was made to work hard for his win, and it was championship new boy Dave Jarman who took the initial lead on a damp track.

As the track dried out Butcher powered into the lead and Jarman fell back to defend his position from Skewen driver Nigel Jones, and Martin Davies who was making his way up the field after a quick spin.

Before Davies could mount a real challenge his engine began to smoke and he made a spectacular exit from the circuit, spinning off on his own oil.

Jones was now taking the fight to Jarman and in the closing stages he made a move to take second place, only to see Jarman come back at him.

How the contenders line up

THE 1998 Welsh Sports & Saloon Car championship

Overall points after eight rounds.

1 Mark Chandler, Huntington, Mini, 47 points

2 Jeremy Pope, Bristol, Sapphire Cosworth, 32 points

3 Peter Dark, Pontrhydafendig, Darran T9, 26 points

4 Clive Hayes, St Davids, Rover 216, Gti, 17 points

5 Alvin Powell, Treorchy, Ford Mondeo, 15 points and Martin Davies, Haverfordwest, Sapphire Cosworth, and Keith Butcher,

Bristol, Sierra Cosworth, M & S Engineering Services Class A for Modified Cars.

Alvin Powell, 15 points

Nigel Bowen, 7 points

Sean Jones, 2 points

Bracon Motors Class C for 1600 cc cars

Mark Chandler, 47 points

Clive Hayes, 17 points

Jonathan Williams, 9 points

Darran Cars Class D

Peter Dark, 26 points

Mike Shaw, 11 points

Terry Brown, 9 points

Jones then repassed Jarman and as they entered the last lap it was Jones who looked likely to take the place, but his engine exploded in flames, virtually within sight of the finishing line.

Further down the field, English drivers Mark Chandler and Jeremy Pope continue to be the points leaders after mopping up their classes with ease and it looks virtually certain that one of

them will be the first English driver to win the Welsh Championship.

● Meanwhile, legendary Swedish rallycross driver Per Eklund driving a Saab won the British round of the European Rallycross Championship at Pembrey on Sunday. He was chased by fellow Scandinavian Kenneth Hansen, who finished less than half a second behind.

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