

Round 5 report - Pembrey Sunday June 13th. Terry Brown wins the battle; Alvin & Graham tie for the lead of the championship.

The Jaguar commentator gave the Welsh Championship a good build up. "The preparation of the cars gives credit to all involved, and the I am always delighted when one of their races is on our programme". This was a race that certainly wasn't going to disappoint him as Terry Brown driving his Darrian T9 won the 5th round of the 1999 Welsh Sports & Saloon Car Championship, after an excellent race with championship leader Graham Cole, ended in controversy. Graham took the lead when the lights changed, having set the fastest time in practice (under 60 seconds again at 59.22), and held the lead for 10 laps, although Terry had him under intense pressure. However as they came up to lap newcomer Richard Lukins and his Rover Vitesse with 2 laps to go, Terry took his chance. However at the same time Graham was lining up to pass the Rover too and they touched! The back of Grahams T90 took the brunt of the impact, and he was out almost on the spot with substantial damage to the rear wing, tyre and oil coolers. Terry however managed to keep going despite heavy damage to the front bodywork of his car, and although Mike Shaw closed in, he managed to get across the line with 2 seconds to spare. Peter Dark in a Darrian took 3rd place with Alvin Powell 4th in his Ford Mondeo, after an early race contest was resolved in Peters' favour. With Alvin picking up

maximum points in the saloon car class, and with Graham only getting one point (for fastest lap), Alvin has closed up and there is a 2 way tie in the championship. Another driver moving up was Clive Hayes from St Davids who put in a stirring drive to finish 5th and win his class, in his 1600 c.c Rover, after fighting his way through a pack of cars disputing the midfield places. Early on Nigel James' RS 20000 lead from Rhodri Jenkins and his Honda, Nigel Bowen (his other car is a Porsche and he was giving the 911 a run out), with Clive close and Elir Morris taking advantage of Class E to make a debut in his rally style Peugeot 206 and Granville and his MR2. After much energetic shuffling of places, including some demon dives up the inside of the paddock turn, Clive emerged in 5th, with Nigel James less than a second behind, followed by Elir, Rhodri and Granville. Richard Lukins was 10th just in front of Huw James who was having his first outing in Larrys' old Rover 216. Felix Feuerbach was 12th. Sadly Nigel Bowen had already retired with something wrong in the engine department. Clive Hayes now stands 3rd in the championship. After the race, Richard Lukins loaded his stuff into the back of his race car and drove it home to London! Interpid stuff; we will look forward to seeing Richard out with us again soon! Afterwards Alvin said "I am delighted to be leading the championship, even if it's a tie. It's the first time ever. I'm glad that Terry is putting pressure on Graham as that is taking pressure off me."