

Llewellyn breaks through

BARGOED driver Dave Llewellyn finally broke through his personal barrier at Castle Combe this week to pick up his first win of the season in the Formula Ford race.

In the last two races, Llewellyn had been undoubtedly the fastest man on the track but somehow on each occasion he seemed unable to capitalise on his advantage and for a while at Castle Combe the same thing seemed to be happening.

Having taken the lead early on he found himself trailing in second place right up to the last corner.

This time Llewellyn seemed determined not to let the opportunity slip away and he stormed through, while braking, to take the lead in a dramatic fashion and record a magnificent victory.

For the other drivers Milze North, Ken Harvey and debutant Tony Ray of Newport, there was little to

celebrate. North's car jumped out of gear while he was disputing 9th place and he was involved in a minor crash as a result. Harvey was 14th.

At Thruxton Barry Reece made the task of retaining his Wendy Woods title more difficult with a poor performance. He finished second when only a win was really good enough.

Reece's Isis Talbot had only one chance to challenge for the lead but having made an unsuccessful bid on the second lap he fell away to finish well behind.

Llewellyn's dramatic victory

BARGOED'S Dave Llewellyn finally clinched his first win of the season in an action-packed Formula-Ford race at Castle Combe by staging the most dramatic manoeuvre of his career.

Llewellyn had to leave his braking to the latest moment to squeeze in by the narrowest possible margin.

After promising to deliver the goods in the previous two races, Llewellyn's victory could not have been more deserved.

For the others however, it was a tale of woe. Mike North's car jumped out of fourth gear and he had a minor crash as a result.

Problems

Neither Ken Harvey nor debutant Tony Ray had much to celebrate, Harvey finishing 14th. Cardiff's Tony Walsh had oil pressure problems all day and pulled off early in the mini race.

Barry Reece saw his chances of retaining his Wendy Woods title diminish after he came second in the 12th round at Thruxton.

On a day when a win was vital, the Caerphilly racer's Isis Talbot was outdistanced by Pat Man- nion.

Viv Wallace looked set for a good result from the second row of the grid, but he jumped the start and the 10-second penalty relegated him to seventh.

Meanwhile in the Formula Ford 2000 race, Lampeter's Tim Davies stormed to his eighth win of the season breaking the lap record on the way.

Blunder costs Llewellyn the race

CHANGEABLE weather made it a day of mixed fortunes for Welsh drivers at Castle Combe.

Cardiff's Tony Walsh overdid his practice run and spun. Unfortunately, as he was regaining control another car crashed into him and ripped off one of his front wheels.

That left Peter Gyles as Cardiff's only mini driver, but he lasted only until the second lap of the race before pulling off.

In the dry practice session for the Formula Ford race, Bargoed's Dave Llewellyn surprised everyone by setting the fastest lap with some ease.

David Lewis (Swansea), Mike North (Penhow) and Ken Harvey (Trinant) were on the grid side by side and an interesting race was in prospect.

However, a downpour just before the start seemed to spoil things as Llewellyn got away slowly and was only eighth on the first lap, but he soon began to make up lost ground and was second by the third lap.

Fastest

North also took the bull by the horns in the treacherous conditions and was soon up to eighth place, only to spin and drop back to finish well down.

Harvey never looked quite at home, but Lewis pushed forward late on to finish 12th with Harvey 15th and North 16th.

Llewellyn, however, was undoubtedly the fastest man on the track and he soon closed up on the leader, local champion Bob Higgins, who had stolen a five-second lead in the greasy conditions.

For the next five laps Higgins stayed in the lead, but eventually Llewellyn found a way through on the eighth lap.

However, he handed back the lead on the next lap when he misjudged the conditions and found himself in a wild skid that he just managed to control.

That was enough to let Higgins through and although it was extremely close at the finish Llewellyn had to settle for second place, a poor reward for such a good effort.

Meanwhile, at Brands Hatch, Barry Reece, in an Isis Talbot, and Viv Wallace, in an Aalco Metro, came through a 30-car field to finish fifth and 10th overall respectively in the Wendy Woods special saloon car race.

Llewellyn challenge for title

WELSHMAN Dave Llewellyn takes on Bath taxi driver Bob Higgins in the final round of the Castle Combe Challenge title on Saturday.

Higgins won the title in 1981 and 1982, but he has never faced a sterner test for Llewellyn has been consistently faster this year.

Llewellyn said: "Higgins must feel under pressure after his crash in the last round. All he had to do to win the championship was to be cool and pick up a few points but instead he got tangled up in a rash bid for the lead."

"So his sponsors will be asking a few questions and that will hardly do his confidence any good."

Incidents

Certainly Higgins has been involved in several incidents as he has tried to make up for the deficiencies of his car, which is one of last year's models.

Llewellyn's big problem this year has been at the start, where the British Racing and Sports Car Club have installed a set of Grand Prix style traffic lights which are at an awkward angle for him.

Whatever happens at the start it should be a cracking race, and Ken Harvey of Trinant will also be a likely points scorer in the Neyland Royale.

Also on show in the Uniroyal Production Saloon car race will be Llantwit Major's Martin Williams, who will be giving his new Toyota Celica Supra its debut at the circuit.

Williams has not had the time to develop the car to its maximum but is already setting some impressive times which augurs well for next season.

In the Special G.T. race, Barry Reece, who has a second place and a win to his credit this season, will face some stiff opposition. But the Caerphilly racer reckons that with his Isis Talbot now almost perfect, he may be able to push his car through the tricky Old Paddock bend without braking.

If he does manage to pull off that manoeuvre, the advantage gained should be enough to defeat the rest of the field.

Reece and Llantwit Major's Martin Williams were elected as the chairman and vice-chairman of the Welsh Racing Drivers Association at its annual meeting held at the Cothi Bridge Hotel, Carmarthen.

Llewellyn fails

Dave Llewellyn, of ~~the~~, failed in his attempt to win the Castle Combe Formula Ford Challenge despite winning the final round on Saturday.

The 39-year-old company director did everything expected of him including setting the fastest lap but the points position meant that Bob Higgins, of Bath, had only to score two points to win the title.

After a bright start, Ken Harvey, of Newbridge, finished 16th after tangling with a number of spinning cars, whilst Steve Clark, of Abertillery, took his rebuilt car to 22nd place.

Barry Reece, now recovering from his crash at the previous Castle Combe meeting, had already scored enough points to take his class in the Special GT Championship.

Bargoed driver closes the gap

BARGOED'S Dave Llewellyn set the scene for a tremendous final round to the Castle Combe Formula Ford Challenge series after taking a fortunate second place in the sixth round.

Llewellyn was second fastest in practice, but again he failed to capitalise on his advantage and he was fourth after the first lap before carving his way up to second place by the fourth lap.

As the race began to hot up he found himself back in fourth place, but it turned out to be a good position for the race boiled over and the two leaders, McKillop and Higgins — eliminated themselves when they tangled after an unruly showing match at Quarry Corner.

This elevated Llewellyn back into second place, but before he could mount another challenge for the lead, the chequered flag fell to end the race.

Even so, with series leader Higgins failing to score, second place was enough to put Llewellyn within nine points of the leader. The final round is on October 8.

Robert Davies, of Tenby, crowned his racing debut by taking the points for 10th place, but fellow debutant Bryan Mitchell, of Cardiff, had to settle for 17th place. Dave Lewis, of Swansea, after showing well in the earlier RAC race, had a spin which put him out of the race.

In the Special GT race Viv Wallace, of Pontypridd, took his Aalco Metro to a class win on the car's debut at the circuit, setting the fastest lap on the way.

Tim Davies, of Lampeter, took his 10th win of the season in the British 2000 series after an impressive display of driving, breaking the lap record on his way.

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