

Formula Ford bid

BARGOED racing driver David Llewellyn will be at Castle Combe on Monday for the opening race of the season at the Wiltshire circuit determined to bring the Formula Ford Championship back across the Severn Bridge for the first time after narrowly missing out last year.

Llewellyn will bring a new approach to his racing this year. Having bought a new car, in which he has already had four races, his secret weapons will include a computer developed by Nigel Rees, a former Welsh sprint champion.

Meanwhile, at Rookwood Hospital, Barry Reece, the Caerphilly driver badly injured at Castle Combe last season, is making good progress and is expected to spend the holiday at home.

Reece is learning to walk again and will be testing a new pair of crutches. He has already been to see the wreck of his Isis car and has been taking the family car for a test run on private ground to get the feel of driving again.

The nursing staff at Rookwood are so impressed with Reece's progress that they are making a video film featuring his struggles.

Newport HSOB



• DAVE LLEWELLYN

Crucial race for Bargoed driver

THE racing season at Castle Combe resumes on Saturday after a seven week lay-off, and the situation in the Formula Ford Championship is nicely poised after the first three rounds.

With seven rounds to count, Saturday's meeting could be crucial for Bargoed's Dave Llewellyn, who is currently third in the championship.

About this time last year Llewellyn started to win. If he is to make a serious challenge for the title then he must find that winning streak again.

Others in with a chance of gaining points include Trinant's Ken Harvey and Dave Lewis, who should be looking to take Taylor Tiles car up towards the leaders.

Penhow's Mike North and Abertillery's Steve Clark have not been in the best of form recently, and both could do with a slice of luck.

Gwynther

Williams races for fame and fortune

THERE is plenty of motor racing action on Easter Monday with most of the top South Wales drivers in action.

Llantwit Major garage owner Martin Williams will be on the grand prix circuit at Brands Hatch for the second round of the Uniroyal Tyres Production Saloon Car Championship.

The sponsors have entitled the series The Race For Fame And Fortune and it seems to be living up to its publicity with participation from General Motors, Ford, Leyland, BMW and Colt as well as Williams' Toyota.

It is certainly the most competitive saloon car championship in the country. Last time out at Silverstone Williams' Celica was seventh, but Brands might favour his car's better roadholding though the long back straight might suit the powerful turbocharged entrants.

The weekend's biggest event will be at Thruxton where the Aalco Metro driven by Pontypridd's Buster Wallace will be out in the Wendy Woods Championship round — one of the supporting races to the European Formula Two Championship.

With the Honda powered cars totally dominating Formula Two racing at the moment, it may be up to the other races to provide the excitement.

Meanwhile at Castle Combe, Bargoed's David Llewellyn will be out to prove that life begins at 40.

Llewellyn was voted Castle Combe Driver Of The Year for his efforts last year and he will be out to top his runner-up spot by winning the championship this year.

He has another new car but has already had several races. Last year it took him three or four races to get into his stride but this early preparation should ensure he is on top form from the start.

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SOUTH WALES ECHO, WEDNESDAY, MAY 30, 1984

Change of luck is boost for Llewellyn

THE Castle Combe Formula Ford Championship race saw Bargoed's David Llewellyn enjoying some good fortune for a change.

After a wet, greasy track had made practice difficult, the track dried out for the race and Llewellyn was on the third row of the grid with Newbridge's Ken Harvey a row behind in the County Models car.

Dave Lewis had the new Taylor Tiles Reynard on the next row, with Mike North's Fraser car on the fifth row and Abertillery's Steve Clarke on the last row.

Llewellyn for once made a good start and was up to fifth at the end of the first lap, moving into third place soon after. Meanwhile, the others were involved in a tight tussle centred on tenth place.

It was too good to last, and on the third lap, with the track full of spinning cars, Harvey, North and Clarke disappeared from the race.

Lewis emerged unscathed in tenth place, and then quickly moved up to finish seventh, a good result from the brand new combination.

Llewellyn, however, was managing to keep the leading pair in sight, although he was never close enough to mount a challenge.

But he was rewarded for his consistent pace when the series leader, Howard Lester, tried too hard and went off on the last lap.

The Bargoed man nipped by to take second place.

Rough and ready

If some of the other races had been fast and furious this one looked like becoming rough and ready. But after his usual easy start Llewellyn made it up from fourth place to take second in the closing laps.

However, his engine suddenly died as he exited Tower Corner for the last time. Though there was less than a mile to the line he failed to make it to the finish, though he did set the fastest lap.

Bristolian Mike Wright had been close behind in third place and with a 35ft wide track should have avoided the stricken car, but he clipped Llewellyn's rear wheel.

Llewellyn's car was undamaged but Wright crashed heavily, fortunately without injury.

Further back Kenny Harvey was pushing the County Models Ladies Fashions car up the order after a poor start, eventually taking seventh place.

Steve Clark posted his best finish in 12th place out of 22 starters despite losing a lot of oil. Sadly Penhow's Mike North disappeared after only six laps in A S Fraser's Lancia car.

Meanwhile at Thruxton, as predicted, the Formula 2 race was dominated by Thackwell's Honda and it was left to the Wendy Woods competitors to entertain the huge crowd, which they did with the best racing of the day.

Early on the leaders split into two groups and Pontypridd's Buster Wallace had to fling his car into some frightening angles to try to overcome a set of unbalanced springs.

At one stage the Aalco Metro negotiated the chicane on two wheels but Wallace eventually finished seventh overall, fifth in class.

At Brands Hatch, Llan-twit Major's Martin Williams, driving his Toyota Celica, finished eighth in the Uniroyal race.

Harvey shines in tough contest

THE MOTOR racing action at Castle Combe on Monday lived up to the perfect conditions with three South Wales drivers faring particularly well in the hot sun.

Kenny Harvey of Newbridge finished seventh in the Formula Ford race five places ahead of Abertillery's Steve Clark. Tony Walsh of Cardiff performed well to finish eighth in the mini races.

Dudley Larnar of Porthcawl, runner up in the 1976 Western Mail contest won by Tim Davies, disappeared on the fifth lap of his race after having a good dice in the midfield.

In the Dunlop/Autoport Star of Tomorrow contest, Robert Davies of Tenby made his circuit debut, but Davies, a new face on the scene, crashed out of sixth place on the second lap while trying to avoid another car. The resultant crash left the new Chequers Club car with only three wheels.

Cardiff pair Gareth Gonzalez and Tony Walsh were eighth and 16th fastest in practice for the mini races. After some fantastic racing Gonzalez pulled off on lap five while Walsh made his way into the points to take eighth place.

After practice the Formula Ford looked a four-cornered fight with Bargoed's Dave Llewellyn 0.5sec off pole position and tied with the third placed driver. The fourth man was only 0.1sec away

and provided only token

Race records — and crashes

TONY Trimmer broke the outright circuit lap record at Castle Combe on Saturday and a couple of the Welsh drivers broke their cars in the Formula Ford race.

Trimmer, driving the Huttons car in the Maclean Hunter Libre race, blasted the 14-year-old circuit record after lapping at an average speed of 120mph but he still only finished 4th.

In the Formula Fords, Steve Clark set his best-ever practice time but then flipped the car right over on the next lap. Clarke was uninjured but the cars' chassis was badly bent and he missed the race.

David Llewellyn was another in the wars, after leading the race for the

first two laps he lost four places in one lap and as he battled to reassert himself became involved in an accident with one of the other leading drivers.

Both cars left the circuit at high speed but Llewellyn's cleared the barrier and thumped down on the bank behind, tearing off one of its rear wheels. Happily, Llewellyn was able to climb out uninjured.

With Mike North dropping to 13th after a big spin and David Lewis coming out of a bunch of cars to take 8th place, it was Ken Harvey who was now making the news.

The Newbridge driver was having one of his best races after practising well and was involved with several other cars disputing 4th place.

LLEWELLYN CRASHES — WITH A LAP TO GO

BARGOED'S Dave Llewellyn had his championship hopes dented at Castle Combe on Saturday after a spectacular accident put him out of the Formula Ford race with only a lap to go.

It was also an unhappy weekend for some of the other drivers, Steve Clark, of Abertillery, in particular, would have started from a very respectable grid position after setting his best-ever practice time.

However, he overdid it and flipped over after riding up one of the kerbs and the car crashed to earth upside down.

Clark was unhurt but sprained his ankle scrambling out of the car. The car was too bent to continue.

Tangled

Ken Harvey kept it all together to set his fastest practice time and started from the third row.

Llewellyn was on the front row and looked to be creeping forward just before the lights changed and was well away into the lead. Holding on to the lead proved more difficult and after being under extreme pressure for the first couple of laps, he was suddenly down to fifth place at the tail of the leading bunch.

A little way back Harvey was moving through the next bunch which suddenly formed the dice for fourth place when Llewellyn tangled with one of the bunch and both cars went crashing out.

Llewellyn's car flew over the barrier to crash land in a field minus the right rear wheel and hub. He was uninjured but the car looked a sorry sight.

Meanwhile, Mike North had dropped to 13th after a big spin but David Lewis was able to bring the Taylor Tools car into eighth place. Harvey, however, went on to post his best finish with the County Models car in sixth place.

The Trinant hard trier said afterwards: "I thought I could get up to fourth place but it was certainly my best race for some time."

"I've got a new set of tyres on order for the next race so I'm looking forward to picking up more points towards the end of the year."

Also on hand was Tim Davies, of Lampeter, who had a warm-up in the Formula Ford 2000 race. Davies finished fourth in the Swallow Reynard but his lap record, set last year, was not beaten.

The outright circuit record, however, fell to Londoner Tony Trimmer, who lapped the 1.8 mile circuit at 120mph in the Maclean Hunter Libre race.

Parkes of America.

Div.2. Going Broke 3 8 5 J Reid 14-1 P Cole 12 ran.

Llewellyn narrows the gap

DAVE LLEWELLYN of Bargoed moved to within 9 points of the leader Castle Combe Formula Ford championship after he claimed a fortunate second place at the Chippenham circuit on Monday.

Although he was only

tenth fastest in the wet morning practice session, Llewellyn made a superb start and moved up to third place on lap four.

Ken Harvey of Trinant, Steve Clark of Abertillery and Mike North of Penhow, crashed out of a big bunch dicing for tenth place, leaving Dave Lewis to work his way up

to seventh place.

Llewellyn was having his work cut out to keep in sight of the leaders but he was in an ideal position to profit from any mistakes.

The mistakes did come and Llewellyn was able to sweep by when the series leader tried too hard on the last lap and spun off. The next race is on July 7.

Mixed fortunes for Llewellyn

BARGOED'S Dave Llewellyn started off the 1984 Castle Combe Formula Ford Championship with some good news and bad news — he failed to finish after an engine failure but the good news was that he had already set the fastest lap and so at least he scored his first point.

Penhow's Mike North also failed to finish but Steve Clark of Abertillery posted his best finish in 12th place despite having his rear brakes coated with oil from his leaking engine. Newbridge's Ken Harvey scored the best points with seventh place in the County Models car.

Wallace looks good

VIV "Buster" Wallace, the Pontypridd saloon car racer, looks certain to mount a strong challenge for the 1984 Wendy Wool championship following a promising outing with the Aalco Metro at Silverstone yesterday.

Wallace was third fastest in practice and after a good start looked set to score when his engine unfortunately developed a misfire.

The subsequent trip to the pit cost him two laps but he managed to recover well enough to finish fifth.

The next round will be at Brands Hatch in four weeks time.

LATE NEWS