

Davies close to title

Robert Davies, the 25-year-old caravan park manager from Tenby, can clinch a great triumph at Castle Combe tomorrow when he lines up for the final round of the Steve Llewellyn Formula Ford Championship.

Davies leads the series by five points and has the apparently simple task of finishing in the top three to take the title with the Chequers Club car.

His main rival, Ringo Hine, must win and set the fastest lap if he is to prevent the Castle Combe title from going across the Severn Bridge for the first time in 17 years.

But even a win will not be enough for Hine if Davies takes third place.

One man who has experienced the difficulty

of clinching a Formula Ford title is fellow Welshman David Llewellyn of Bargoed.

He has been runner-up at Castle Combe twice and missed out by a single point in 1983 despite a fine run at the end of the season which earned him the "Driver of the Year" award.

Llewellyn summed up Davies's prospects and said, "He should do it."

"I was in a similar position to Ringo in 1983 and although I won the last round I knew there was nothing I could do if the other fellow scored points."

On race day Llewellyn will have his own problems as he has only a one-point lead for third place in the championship over Gordon Allen of Chippenham, so points and positions will be vital for both Welsh prospects.

Forwards missing

Northampton travel to Cardiff tomorrow without their two most experienced forwards — England prop Gary Pearce and veteran lock Vince Cannon.

Pearce, who will be at Twickenham for the international against Japan, is replaced by Ian Heywood, while Richard Eales takes over from the injured Cannon.

Michael's C 54, 35, Gower Sports C 67, 84.

Marshall injured in race

BARGOED'S David Llewellyn maintained his bid for the Castle Combe formula Ford title by beating title-leader Robert Davies, of Tenby, into third place in the latest round on Saturday.

Llewellyn and Davies had a race-long tussle and only 12 points separate them with four rounds to go.

The even was marred, however, by an after-race accident when a group of drivers continued racing.

They failed to see the chequered flag and as they continued around one of the cars collided with a marshal, who was taken to hospital apparently suffering from two broken legs.

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Llewellyn breaks spell with super win

BARGOED'S Dave Llewellyn scored his first race win after a 12-month barren spell at Chippenham.

He had a superb victory in the penultimate round of the Castle Combe Formula Ford championship.

Llewellyn took the lead at the first corner, but had to resist intense pressure throughout the 10-lap race.

After his initial pursuers had crashed out, Robert Davies, of Tenby, took up the challenge after a strong drive from a poor grid position, but the Chequers Club car could not loosen Llewellyn's grip on the race and the Bargoed man kept the promising newcomer at bay to score an unique Welsh one-two.

Swansea's David Lewis finished fourth with Steve "Rocky" Clark, of Abertillery, ninth, and Llanelli's Phillip Stevenson 11th.

The results have moved Davies into second place in the championship, with Llewellyn third, and there is everything still to gain at the last round on October 12.

Meanwhile, Antonio Aremlin, of Barry, has become Wales's most successful driver of 1985 by taking the 750 Motor Clubs' Formula Ford championship.

It's third spot for Davies

WELSHMEN provided a quarter of the entries for the Formula Ford race at Castle Combe and with all of them in the first 20 after practice a good race was in prospect.

However, the numbers were depleted when David Lewis and the Taylor Tiles team scratched their entry.

Trinant's Ken Harvey didn't last much longer, losing a wheel after being hit following a spin. Happily the rest made it to the

finish with Robert Davies showing well.

David Llewellyn looked strong just behind the leaders and took the points for fifth place. This gave him a point lead for third spot in the championship.

Farther back Mike North had his best race this year with the Fraser car and finished eighth while Steve Clark of Abertillery reckoned himself unlucky to only finish 10th in his new car. Phillip Stevenson took his new car to 12th place.

Meanwhile, at the front

Davies had the Chequers Club car right with the leaders looking for an opening. His chance came just before the end and the Tenby man slipped through for third place after a superb drive.

In the Uniroyal Saloon Car race, Llantwit Major's Martin Williams took sixth place in the top class with his Toyota, a splendid effort against some heavyweight opposition.

The final meeting of the year at Castle Combe is on October 13.

Davies laps up success

TENBY'S Robert Davies became the first Welshman to take the 17-year-old Castle Combe Formula Ford title after a tense struggle at the Chippenham circuit on Saturday.

Davies took the title with a champion performance while under great pressure — after damaging his car in pre-race testing on Friday, he managed to qualify for the front row and led the first of the 10 lap final.

Title rival Ringo Hine slipped through on lap four and although the Marlboro man charged on to win the race and equal a lap record, it was not enough as Davies held on to second place to take the title by three points.

Afterwards a relieved Davies said, "I must admit I lost my nerve after Ringo had passed me, and after that I was content to watch and wait, as it would have been really silly to throw the title away by trying too hard."

Bargoed's David Llewellyn finished third to take third place in the championship, thereby completing the Welsh raid on the top honours. Davies now hopes to move onto Formula Ford 2000 for the 1987 season.

Results: Steve Llewellyn Motor Spares and Equipment Formula Ford Championship, round Eight, 10 laps. Castle Coombe Circuit — 1, Ringo Hine, 11min 10.1sec, 88.41mph; 2, Robert Davies, 11min 14.6; 3, David Llewellyn, 11min 27.9. Fastest lap: Ringo Hine, 1min 6.2sec, 106mph.

Championship positions: Winner — Robert Davies (Tenby) 67pts; 2, Ringo Hine, Marlboro 64pts; 3, David Llewellyn, Bargoed 44pts; 4, Gordon Allan, Chippenham 42pts; 5, David Lewis (Swansea) 27pts.

Llewellyn helped by crashes

David Llewellyn of Bargoed clinched runners-up spot in the Castle Combe Formula Ford championship for the second time in three years by finishing the final round with a fine second place.

Llewellyn's chances did not look good after practice and he admitted he was more interested in defending his third place than trying to catch Tenby's Robert Davies.

However, luck played a hand and Llewellyn looked good to make up the points difference when seven cars, including Davies' crashed out at the first corner.

Further luck was in store as his other challengers tangled late in the race and let Llewellyn through into second place.

He said after: "I'm absolutely delighted but although the title eludes me here, I didn't think I had a chance for any of the places until I started to pick up the results in these last three races."

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