

## Davies's hopes dashed

TIM Davies won and lost the 12th round of the Marlboro British Formula Three championship in a dramatic race of two halves at Donnington Park yesterday.

Although the rain had stopped by lunchtime at the start of the 25 lap race the track still looked damp and with only one second separating the practice times of the first 10 drivers it looked a close race.

Davies screamed into the lead with Scott, Wal-

lace and Spence in a very tight bunch behind.

However the rain returned during lap five and with Davies, who had already set the fastest lap, holding a huge slide to lead across the line on lap six, the stewards stopped the race to enable the field to change to wet weather tyres.

After half-an-hour the race was restarted for a further 14 laps and although the rain had stopped again Davies led away followed this time by Wallace, and Scott with Spence well adrift.

On the sixth lap of the

restarted race Davies, who was having trouble selecting gears, was passed by Scott and Wallace as they crossed the line. Davies had lost the drive to his rear wheels and coasted to a stop half-way round the track.

Scott took the lead holding on to the end as Ross Cheever sliced through the field to finish second.

After the race Davies said, "I just can't believe it this is the fourth race that I have led and lost. Things must get better, but I think it's just one of those years."

## Second place Gugelmin closes gap

MAURICE Gugelmin closed the gap at the top of the Marlboro British Formula 3 championship after taking second place in the latest round at Snetterton.

Lampeter's Tim Davies also maintained his title bid with a fine fourth place as series leader Russell Spence failed to finish.

Davies was only ninth fastest in the first practice session, but improved to start in fourth place.

Dutchman Gerrit Van Kouwen shot into the lead at the start of the 25 lap race with Gugelmin and Davies close behind, however, Davies began to lose ground and was passed in the later stages by Ross Cheever before coming under heavy pressure from Gary Evans.

Evans and Davies clashed three laps from home and although both cars appeared undamaged Evans had a big accident a bit further on and the race was ended after 23 laps.

Evans later confronted Davies in an angry scene in the pits, but the drivers' views on the accident differed.

Davies said, "I lost grip halfway through the race otherwise I was sure I was going to get third place. Gary and I were alongside at the end of the straight and he just kept coming at me. It's one of those things."

The next race is at Oulton Park on Saturday.

Marlboro British Formula 3 championship: 25 laps Snetterton: 1, Gerrit Van Kouwen, 24 mins 18.46 secs 108.83mph; 2, Maurice Gugelmin; 3, Ross Cheever; 4, Tim Davies; 6, Cathy Muller; 6, Andy Wallace.

Fastest lap: Maurice Gugelmin, 1 min 2.71 secs; 110.4mph; Championship positions after 13 rounds: 1, Russell Spence 61pts; 2, Maurice Gugelmin 57pts; 3, Andy Wallace 54pts; 4, Tim Davies 39pts.

often represent something of an experi-

## Tim looks for boost

THE MARLBORO British Formula three Championship moves to Snetterton on Sunday for its 13th round and Tim Davies is hoping that 13 will be his lucky number.

Davies has not won this year, but his class was fully illustrated at Donnington in the last round.

He has taken the Autowindscreens Alfa Reynard from an unknown quantity to a potential race winner in two races and only a freak gearbox failure kept him from winning.

However he explained, driving is the least of his problems at present, "I really needed a win to help get more sponsorship for the rest of the season. In the week before the last round I drove 600 miles trying to clinch enough deals and was still trying on Saturday night.

"Even so we were £900 short on race day and although it all came through I

must admit I felt very tired when I got into the car at the start of practice. Davies ended up with 10 on his car, some for £500 or less gathered by his friends in the

He certainly gave them a return for their money and the trip to the Donnington circuit could be fruitful as a combination of the super fast straight and tight infield section is just what the powerful Alfa Romeo likes.

However, after the last round Ralt cars finished 1-2-3 on the third time in a row, the title became even more open with experienced Dave Scott hauling into contention.

Marlboro British Formula Three Championship after 12 rounds: 1, Russell Spence 61pts; 2, Maurice Gugelmin 57pts; 3, Andy Wallace 54pts; 4, Tim Davies 39pts; 5, Scott 30pts.

## Davies faces a busy weekend

LAMPETER'S Tim Davies faces a busy weekend as he tries to fit in the 14th round of the Marlboro British Formula 3 Championship at Oulton Park with the 3-day Multipart Truck Grand Prix at Silverstone.

Last year's Truck Grand Prix was a huge success and the organisers have put together a packed programme with continuous action from 8am in the morning to 5pm.

The 72 entries accepted have been split into three classes and there are seven heats to go through before the 15 lap final on Sunday.

Although initially regarded as a fun event there is a serious side and a prestigious European Championship is beginning to emerge with tough opposition. In addition to star names like Davies and Barry Sheene the entry includes Euro title leader Richard Walker, and last year's winner Dulio Ghisloti from Italy.

### Revised

In between Davies will be commuting to Oulton Park for the Formula 3 race after keeping in the picture with a hard fought fourth place at Snetterton.

His current cash crises reached a peak last week and he was well short of a proper budget until Tom Alpern of Grid Com Computers, generously agreed to make up the difference from his own pocket and at the eleventh hour the team left for the circuit.

Davies was the quickest of the Reynard drivers, but Ralt cars finished 1-2-3 for the fourth race in a row and it is clear that something extra is needed.

Car designer Adrian Reynard was quick to suggest an intensive development programme, but it all depends on the success of Davies' fund-raising efforts.

However, with the title leader failing to score in the last round the points gap is closing.

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## Big boost for Davies

RACING DRIVER Tim Davies's career got a timely boost after Donald Jenkins Transport and International Hide Exporters F R Chestwin of Lampeter announced sponsorship for today's race at Oulton Park.

Chestwin confirmed, "We think of Tim as a local lad with a great future and we were happy to give him as much help as we could." Donald Jenkins said, "I've known Tim since his grass track days and we've been following his progress every week in the Western Mail. We knew all about his money problems and were happy to help."

In order to concentrate on the more important event Davies has had to withdraw from the Silverstone Truck Grand Prix and his place will be taken by the experienced Dane Slim Borgudd.

leader Mark Lovell's Nissan 240RS is next followed by all the usual series contenders.

Former Motoring News Road Rally Champion, Gwyndaf Evans, makes a welcome return to the series after his excellent result on the Nexus Manx Stages Rally earlier in the season.