

comsol vw challenge

Hurley's advantage as Phakisa challenge looms

Comsol VW Challenge

Round 3 – Phakisa – 26 April



Championship Leader James Hurley

Round three of the exciting Comsol Volkswagen Challenge takes place at Welkom's much liked Phakisa Freeway motorsport complex on Saturday 26th April and once again Free State fans are promised two action packed races.

There's no doubt that the VW Challenge is one of South Africa's most successful motorsport categories. 2014 marks the 25th anniversary of the series, which was then known as GTI Challenge and formed part of

the GTI Club of South Africa which became a branch of the Sports Car Club. In those days

it was an arena where tuners could showcase their developments and the almost unlimited modifications allowed in class A resulted in some wild, if not brutal machinery. Today it is no longer a case of bolting on a set of side-draught Webers and grinding a lumpy cam which made idling almost impossible, rather it is engine mapping and suspension expertise that are the main criteria.

James Hurley (The Starter Pack Company/Polo) heads the overall and class A championship table having scored a full house of wins and he has an eight point cushion over class B leader Darren Nathan (Sex Trader/Polo). Despite racing on a miniscule budget, class B contender Lyle Ramsay is holding third just one point clear of class A racer Waldie Meintjes (Performance Masters/Marty's Body & Spray/Polo). Another point further back is class C leader Francois van Zyl in the Jesus Saves Citi Golf, but he is only two points clear of class C sparring partner Elke van Vledder (Batmobile/Citi Golf).

Former kart racer Rory Atkinson (Comsol/Polo) lies third in class A and a good result at Phakisa will put him back in contention for the title. Teammate Ian Stevenson is five points behind while sixth in the class A standings are Etienne Prinsloo (Sasfin/Bizhub/Polo) and Peet Visagie (Polo) who each have 11-points behind their name.

Class B is also a closely contested affair and reigning VW Challenge champion Henry van Vledder is third in his unsponsored Golf2. Gerhard Henning (Toyota Replacement



Lyle Ramsay leads a varied gaggle of cars at Zwartkops.

Parts/Polo) is just one point behind him as Ryan Tholet (Prend Properties/Polo) and Tyrell Govindsamy (Petroplast International/Citi Golf) round off the top six in the class.

The class C battle promises to be a fascinating contest as Zander Roos (Polo) is currently third but in no-man's land, eight points behind Elke van Vledder and seven ahead of Wayne Masters who had a guest outing in a car from the Gossman family fleet at Midvaal, so is unlikely to be at Phakisa. Christian de Wet's car was badly damaged in that spectacular multicar shunt at Zwartkops but as he is tied for sixth with Wayne Crous (X35 Energy Drink/Polo) he's trying desperately to get on the grid at Phakisa.

With a number of new drivers expected to join the series at Phakisa, there could be some very interesting surprises and the championship standings could change dramatically when the flag falls to end race two.



The Class C pack at Zwartkops

Points

1	James Hurley	A	44
2	Darren Nathan	B	36
3	Lyle Ramsay	B	32
4	Waldie Meintjes	A	31
5	Francois van Zyl	C	30
6	Elke van Vledder	C	28
7	Rory Atkinson	A	21
8	Zander Roos	C	20
9	Henry van Vledder	B	19
10	Gerhard Henning	B	18

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