

comsol vw challenge

1989 – 2014

25th Anniversary Year

Hurley extends his lead at Kyalami



James Hurley (The Starter Pack Company Polo) had another perfect race meeting at Kyalami on Saturday, 23 August extending his already considerable lead on the 2014 Comsol VW Challenge championship log.

Qualifying took place early in the morning with the air temperature in the low single figures. The cold track and cold tyres caught out a few of the competitors and the session was red flagged while Brad Hall's Piazza Motorsport Polo was removed from the kitty litter at Clubhouse corner.

Once the session restarted Rory Atkinson (Comsol Polo) topped the class A time sheets after the first flying lap but Hurley saved his best effort for his final tour to grab pole by nearly four tenths of a second. Derek Smalberger (Sabertek / Tyremart VW Beetle) ended the session with the third fastest time just ahead of Iain Stevenson in the second Comsol Polo. Peet Visagie (VW Polo) and Gavin Ross (Norbrake Polo) rounded out the top six.

In class B Lyle Ramsay claimed pole in his unsponsored Polo ahead of Gerhard Henning (All Toyota Parts Polo) with Darren Nathan (Sex Trader Polo) and Tyrell Govindsamy (Petroplast International Polo) filling the second row.

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Class C championship leader Francois van Zyl (Jesus Saves Golf) was nearly four tenths of a second quicker than Jacques Smith (Triplicon Construction / ELB Construction / UTI Logistics Polo) to head the class C field. Jakes Jacobs (Nathan's Motorsport Polo) and Elke van Vledder (VW Golf 1) were in close attendance.

When the lights went out to signal the start of the first race it Hurley and Atkinson who opened a gap on the rest of the field. It looked like the fight would be between the two of them but a mistake through turn two by Atkinson dropped him down the field. Hurley could then control things from the front and cruised to a comfortable win. Smalberger had his best result of the season coming home in second ahead of Waldie Meintjies (Performance Masters / Marty's Body & Spray Polo). Atkinson recovered to finish fourth ahead of team mate Stevenson.

Ramsay looked to have things going all his own way in class B, opening up a five second gap over the rest of the field but a clutch problem made it difficult for him to change gear and allowed Henning through to take the win. Ramsay did manage to hold off Govindsamy to take second. Nathan, who had gearbox problems that prevented him mounting a serious challenge for the lead, came home in fourth. Ryan Tholet (VW Polo) and Andy Gosman (Chamdor Veridot & Police Clearance Golf) rounded out the top six.



Class C pole sitter van Zyl did not have a great start and the early fight at the front of the field was between Jacobs and Smith. Van Zyl set the fastest class C lap of the race on his charge back to the front and took the flag from Jacobs. Smith had to settle for third ahead of Wayne Crous (X35 Energy Drink Polo). Wouter Roos (Nathan's Motorsport Polo) and Gina Munro (VW Golf) completed the top six.



Two big accidents, which luckily left the drivers unscathed, were the hallmark of the second race. Van Zyl went wide going through turn two, hit a bump of the outside of the track and was then just a passenger as his car eventually end up in the fence at turn three. A few laps later Elna Croeser had a front wheel bearing fail in her Polo. When she tried to slow down for turn three she had no brakes and flew through the kitty litter and into the tyre barrier.

On the track Hurley and Atkinson resumed their battle in class A with Hurley again victorious, albeit by less than a second. Meintjies was third ahead of Smalberger with Stevenson and Ross fifth and sixth.

Ramsay had no clutch problems in the second race and took a comfortable class B win. Henning ended second ahead of Govindsamy. Nathan, Tholet and Gosman were again fourth, fifth and sixth.

Wayne Crous was the early class C leader after van Zyl again had a poor start but it didn't take long for Jacobs and Smith to get past him. This time it was Smith who took the chequered flag from Jacobs with Elke van Vledder (VW Golf 1) in third. Henry van Vledder brought his Golf 2 home in fourth followed by Crous and Wanye Masters (Performance Masters Golf 1).

Overall wins for the day went to Hurley in class A and Ramsay in class B. Jacobs did enough in class C to take the win from Smith.

Hurley now has a 28 point lead over Ramsay in the overall championship with Nathan a further 11 points back.

The VW Challenge returns to Kyalami for the seventh round of the 2014 championship on 24 September 2014.

Overall Points

POS	CLASS	DRIVER	POINTS
1	A	James Hurley	129
2	B	Lyle Ramsay	101
3	B	Darren Nathan	90
4	A	Rory Atkinson	80
5	A	Waldie Meintjes	73
6	C	Francois van Zyl	71
7	C	Jacques Smith	70
8	C	Elke van Vledder	64
9	B	Gerhand Henning	56
10	C	Henry van Vledder	55

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