

comsol vw challenge

1989 – 2014

25th Anniversary Year

Hurley still leads after Kyalami challenge

James Hurley's incredible winning streak came to an end after the fourth round of the Comsol Volkswagen Challenge which took place at Kyalami in front of an appreciative crowd. Despite this he still tops the overall and class A championship logs with a slightly increased margin.

Rory Atkinson (Comsol Polo) grabbed pole position from Hurley in his Starter Pack Company Polo in the morning qualifying session when he was the only driver to break the two minute barrier on the 4.2 km circuit. Etienne Prinsloo (Sasfin Polo) and Waldie Meintjies (Performance Masters / Marty's Body & Spray Polo) filled the second row.

In class B Lyle Ramsay claimed pole in his unsponsored Polo with Gerhard Henning (Toyota Replacement Parts Polo) alongside him while class C went the way of Francois van Zyl (Jesus Saves Golf) who had Jacques Smith (Ambilube / ELB Construction / UTI Logistics Polo) chasing him hard.

Race 1

Hurley reacted quicker than Atkinson when the lights went out to signal the start of the first race and overtook the pole man before they got into the first turn. Despite some serious pressure from Atkinson he was never headed on his way to the chequered flag, eventually taking the win by nearly one and a half seconds. Iain Stevenson made it a Comsol two-three, working his way up from the third row of the grid to take a well-deserved third in his Polo ahead of Meintjies.



Driven by Powertech



Ramsay controlled things from the front in class B, opening up a comfortable gap in the first four laps and then managing it to the flag. Darren Nathan (Sex Trader Polo) was nearly a second and a half back when the flag came out with Henning a distant third.

Smith, who took his first win last time out at Phakisa, decided he like the top step of the podium and grabbed the lead from the start. Despite van Zyl's best efforts Smith went on to take his second career win. Adrian Dalton (Xtra Shoes Golf) had to settle for third although he did have the satisfaction of claiming the fastest lap bonus point.

Race 2

Delays during the course of the day meant that second race was reduced to six laps from the scheduled eight to try and get some racing in before the winter sun disappeared completely.

Atkinson and Hurley again shared the front row of the class A grid but this time Hurley couldn't stay ahead of the pole sitter. The race, as a spectacle, came to a premature end when the safety car was deployed after Meintjies hit the wall near turn three. Luckily Meintjies escaped unscathed but the same cannot be said for his car. The drivers had no choice other than to hold position and circulate until the chequered flag came out. Atkinson led Hurley, Etienne Prinsloo and Stevenson across the line.

Ramsay again took class B honours, this time from Henning with Nathan in third.

Graeme Nathan (Nathan's Motorsport Polo) normally races a Golf in the national Production Cars championship, but decided that he would come and mix it up with the class C brigade. He took the runner's up spot behind van Zyl with Smith in third.

The next event takes place at the East London Grand Prix Circuit on 19 July 2014.

Overall Points

POS	CLASS	DRIVER	POINTS
1	A	James Hurley	84
2	B	Darren Nathan	72
3	B	Lyle Ramsay	64
4	A	Rory Atkinson	58
5	C	Francois van Zyl	51
6	C	Elke van Vledder	48
7	A	Waldie Meintjes	48
8	B	Henry van Vledder	40
9	B	Gerhard Henning	38
10	C	Jacques Smith	32

ENDS

Photographer: Paul Bedford



James Hurley grabs the lead at the start of race 1



James Hurley



Lyle Ramsay on his way to victory



Iain Stevenson leads Waldie Meintjies



Jacques Smith holds off Francois van Zyl

