

# comsol vw challenge

**1989 – 2014**

**25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year**

## **VWs meet the East London challenge**

The Comsol VW Challenge teams made the journey down to East London for the fifth of the 2014 championship which took place on 19<sup>th</sup> July 2014. An enthusiastic crowd braved the chilly wind and the drivers did not disappoint them with tight racing all the way through the field.

Championship leader James Hurley (The Starter Pack Company Polo) signalled his intentions when he set the fastest time in the morning's qualifying session to take pole position nearly half a second ahead of class A rival Rory Atkinson (Comsol Polo). The second row of the grid was filled by the Prinsloos, Etienne (Sasfin Polo) ahead of Ian (VCX Polo) with Waldie Meintjies (Performance Masters / Marty's Body & Spray Polo) in fifth alongside Gavin Ross (Norbrake Metal Used Spares Polo).

Lyle Ramsay claimed the class B pole in his unsponsored Polo from Ryan Tholet (Prend Properties Polo). Class B championship leader Darren Nathan (Sex Trader Polo) headed the second row of the grid with Andre Needham (Ultra Gas Polo), Elna Croeser (Polo) and Deon Holiday (Snap on SA Polo) rounding out the top six.

Class C went the way of Zander Roos (Nathan's Motorsport Polo) from Elke van Vledder (Golf), Jakes Jacobs (Nathan's Motorsport Polo) and Wouter Roos (Nathan's Motorsport Polo).



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Hurley used his pole position to full advantage at the start of race 1, opening up an early gap on the chasing Prinsloos. Atkinson did not have a great opening couple of corners, dropping down to seventh by the time the field entered Cocabana for the first time. He didn't let that stop him though and worked his way through the field, setting the fastest lap time of the race on the way, to eventually finish in second place behind Hurley. Etienne Prinsloo took third from Meintjies with Iain Stevenson (Comsol Polo) fifth.

Ramsay spoilt the advantage of his class B pole position by jumping the start and incurring a 30 second penalty. Despite crossing the line in second place just behind Tholet he was classified in sixth place once the penalty was applied. Ramsay's misfortune promoted Andy Gosman (Chamdor Veridot & Police Clearance Golf) to second ahead of Elna Croeser. Tyrell Govindsamy (Petroplast International Polo) finished in fourth, despite being punted off the track in the early stages of the race, with Needham fifth.

The multi car battle in class C eventually went the way of Jacques Smith (Triplicon Construction / ELB Construction / UTI Logistics Polo) – he took the class C win by just over four one hundredths of a second from Wouter Roos. Zander Roos crossed the line in third ahead of Philip Croeser (Golf).

The engine in Tholet's Polo let go during the warm up lap for the second race causing a delay while the marshals cleaned up the resulting oil spill. Once the race got underway it looked like the class A battle would again be between Hurley and Atkinson but a broken flywheel in Atkinson's car put paid to that. Hurley went on to win from Meintjies and Stevenson with Ross in fourth.

Ramsay made no mistake in class B taking a comfortable win from Nathan and Gosman. Smith did the double in class C although his path to victory was made a lot easier when Wouter Roos went off in the complex. Smith took the win from Elke van Vledder and Jakes Jacobs.

Overall honours for the day went to Hurley in class A while Gosman's consistency gave him the class B win. Smith took class C.

Hurley's brace of wins has extended his lead at the top of the overall championship to 26 points ahead of Nathan and Ramsay who are now locked together on 80 points.

The next round of the championship is scheduled to take place at Kyalami on 23 August 2014.

## Provisional Overall Points

POS	CLASS	DRIVER	POINTS
1	A	James Hurley	106
2	B	Darren Nathan	80
3	B	Lyle Ramsay	80
4	A	Rory Atkinson	67
5	A	Waldie Meintjes	61
6	C	Francois van Zyl	59
7	C	Elke van Vledder	57
8	C	Jacques Smith	52
9	B	Henry van Vledder	47
10	A	Iain Stevenson	42

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Image attachments

