

# comsol vw challenge

1989 – 2015

## Meintjes dominates at Zwartkops

Pole position, fastest lap and two race wins in class A for Waldie Meintjes (LTR / Marty's Body & Spray Polo) at the seventh round of the 2015 Comsol VW Challenge on Thursday, 24 September has seen him close the gap on the leading trio in the overall championship. Nic Clarke (Central Technical Services Polo), who took both class B wins on the day, heads the log with a 14-point advantage over Rory Atkinson (Comsol Polo). Zander Roos (Nathan's Motorsport Polo) is a further three points back and remains in third.



Meintjes was the only driver to dip into the 1:12s around the 2.4 km long Zwartkops circuit in the morning qualifying session. His best lap of 1:12.837 was 0.374 seconds quicker than the best Atkinson could manage. Defending champion James Hurley (The Starter Pack Company Polo) was next quickest ahead of Iain Stevenson in the second Comsol Polo. Devon Piazza-

Musso (Piazza Motorsport Polo) and Wayne Crous (X35 Energy Drink Polo) completed the top six in class A. Darren Nathan (Sex Trader Polo) was the quickest in class B, just a tenth of a second ahead of Clarke. Brad Hall (Hellerman Tyton Racing Polo) and Gerhard Henning (Toyota Replacement Parts Polo), who were also separated by a tenth of a second, occupied the second row of the grid with Daine Stewart (GrandMark International Polo) and Andre Calitz (AC Honed Group Polo) filling the third row. It was a family affair at the front of class C, Wouter Roos (Nathan's Motorsport Polo) outgunning son, Zander in a similar vehicle. Henry van

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Vledder (Golf II) got the better of Simon Levin (Auto ECU Golf 1) to take third with Stuart Mack (Goldwagen JHB CBD & Wynberg) and newcomer Keagan Masters (Performance Masters Golf 1) rounding out the top six.

The classes were split for the first race of the day, classes A & B running together with a separate race for the class C competitors while all of the classes were combined for the second race.

When the lights went out to signal the start of the first race it was Atkinson who reacted quickest, taking the lead from Meintjes. The pair were considerably quicker than the rest of the field and opened up a substantial gap despite being involved in a very close fight for the lead. Atkinson managed to keep Meintjes behind him for seven of the ten laps but Meintjes forced his way through into the lead on the eighth tour. Meintjes was not able to open up much of a gap though and they were separated by just over sixth tenths of a second at the flag. Hurley's car started losing power late in the race and this allowed Piazza-Musso through into third place. Hurley managed to nurse his car home in fourth ahead of Stevenson and Gavin Ross (Norbrake Polo).

In class B Nathan and Clarke also managed to open up a lead over the rest of the field while still fighting for position. Nathan held off the championship leader until shortly after half distance when Clarke got through. Being so evenly matched, Clarke could not pull away and they were also separated by a little more than sixth tenths of a second when they crossed the finish line. The rest of the field spread out as the race progressed with Henning taking the final podium position ahead of Hall, Daine Stewart and Andy Gossman (Technikon Auto Spares Golf).



Zander Roos grabbed the lead in the class C race at the start and was never challenged on his way to a comfortable win. Wouter Roos had a poor start and dropped to third while Masters had a flyer and moved up to second from his sixth place grid slot. Experience won out in the end as Roos got past the youngster with just a couple of laps to go. Mack had a somewhat lonely race in fourth position ahead of Elke van Vledder (Golf), who worked her way through from the back of the grid after a brake disc failure in qualifying, and Philip Croeser (ATE Polo).

Race 2 saw 37 cars line up on the grid. This time Meintjes didn't want to be involved in a fight for the class A win, he grabbed the lead when the lights went out and slowly pulled away from the chasing pack going on to win by almost six seconds. Atkinson had a poor opening lap and had to fight through the field from fifth place. He made it back up to third but ran out of time to catch Piazza-Musso, who matched his best result of the season. Wayne Crous had a good run in the second race, coming home in fourth ahead of Hurley and Stevenson.

Clarke managed to keep Nathan behind him for the entire race and took the class B win by over a second. Henning had a fairly comfortable drive to third. The dice of the

day happened behind the leading trio. It eventually went the way of Hall with Daine Stewart and Jacques Smith (ELB Group Polo) in fifth and sixth respectively.



In class C a number of jump starts confused the running order. It didn't make any difference to the winner though, Masters took the win in only his second Comsol VW Challenge race. He was followed over the line by Zander Roos and Henry van Vledder. Once the 30-second penalties for jumping the start had been applied Mack, Elke van Vledder and Philip Croeser rounded out

the top six.

In the day's overall results the wins went to Meintjes, Clarke and Zander Roos.

The next outing for the Comsol VW Challenge brigade is at Zwartkops on 7 November.

### Overall Points

POS	CLASS	DRIVER	POINTS
1	B	Nic Clarke	135
2	A	Rory Atkinson	121
3	C	Zander Roos	118
4	A	Waldie Meintjes	101
5	B	Gerhard Henning	71
6	B	Brad Hall	69
7	A	Devon Piazza-Musso	64
8	A	James Hurley	63
9	B	Darren Nathan	58
10	C	Stuart Mack	55

ENDS