

comsol vw challenge

1989 – 2015

New champions crowned at Zwartkops

New champions in all three classes were crowned at the final points scoring round of the 2015 Comsol VW Challenge held at Zwartkops on Saturday, 7 November. The event should have been the penultimate round of the championship but, with work continuing at Kyalami, the final round had to be cancelled. This left an eight-round championship with all rounds counting towards the title.



Coming into Saturday's races the class B and C titles had already been decided, B going the way of Nic Clarke (Central Technical Services Polo) and C to Zander Roos (Nathan's Motorsport Polo), but the class A and overall titles were still up for grabs.

With the full program of events scheduled for Saturday, qualifying was held on Friday afternoon. Outgoing champion James Hurley has been battling with electrical problems in his Starter Pack Company Polo all season but lots of changes on Friday morning seemed to work and he claimed the class A pole with a lap of 1:12.825. Rory Atkinson (Comsol Polo) was 0.17 seconds back with Waldie Meintjes (LTR / Marty's Body & Spray Polo) in third. Derick Smalberger (Sabertek / Tyremart Beetle), Devon Piazza-Musso (Piazza Motorsport Polo) and Iain Stevenson in the second Comsol Polo completed the top six.

Clarke set the benchmark in class B with Daine Stewart (Grandmark International Polo) not far behind. Gerhard Henning (Toyota Replacement Parts Polo) and Brad

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Hall (Hellerman Tyton Racing Polo), who were separated by just 2 points in the battle for the class B runners-up spot, qualified in third and fourth respectively, less than three-tenths of a second apart. Mile Stewart (Grandmark International Polo) and Francois van Zyl (Jesus Saves Polo) filled the third row of the grid.

The Nathan's Motorsport polos of Wouter and Zander Roos filled the front row of the class C grid followed by Stuart Mack (Goldwagen JHB CBD & Wynberg) and Elke van Vledder (Golf) on the second row. Henry van Vledder (Golf) and Philip Croeser (ATE Polo) completed the top six.

Class A and B ran together in the first race of the day and Hurley wasted no time in opening up a gap at the head of the field leaving Meintjes and Atkinson to fight for the other podium positions. Hurley controlled the gap at the front, taking the win by almost a second. About a third of the way through the race Meintjes managed to get past Atkinson and open up a gap to secure second, Atkinson coming home in third. Piazza-Musso took a while to get onto the back of Smalberger in the Beetle but, once he did, he got past comfortably and took fourth place. Smalberger crossed the line in fifth but was later excluded for a technical infringement. This promoted Stevenson to fifth and Gavin Ross (Norbrake Polo) to sixth.

Daine Stewart's best qualifying position of his Comsol VW Challenge career came to nothing as his car cried enough before the lights went out for the class B start. Nobody came close to challenging Clarke at the head of the field and he went on to win by just over seven seconds. Henning and Hall were involved in a titanic struggle for second, Henning eventually claiming it by less than quarter of a second. Van Zyl had a steady, if somewhat lonely race to fourth place. He was followed home by Andy Gossman (Technikon Auto Spares Golf) and Piet Potgieter (Polo).



Class C ran on their own for their first heat of the day and Wouter Roos soon opened up a substantial gap at the head of the field. While he had the pace to take an easy win he slowed a couple of laps before the flag to let son Zander, who was involved in a fight for second in the overall championship, through to take the win. Elke van Vledder followed the elder Roos over the line in third. She was followed home by husband Henry with Mack and Sam Dale (Dale Automation Golf) completing the top six.

All three classes ran together for their second race of the day. In class A Meintjes grabbed the early lead but Hurley found a way past on lap 3. Hurley managed to hold the lead until the flag although the pair were never separated by more than about half a second. Interestingly they set identical fastest lap times in the race having to share the bonus point on offer for that. Atkinson and Piazza-Musso finished in third and fourth respectively and they did in the first race. Stevenson and Smalberger rounded out the top six.

Clarke again had a comfortable win in class B although he was pushed had by Hall for the first half of the race. Henning came home in a distant third. Daine Stewart's crew managed to get his car repaired and onto the grid after his first race problems. He rewarded them with a fine drive to fourth ahead of van Zyl and brother Mile.



Class C was again all about Wouter Roos at the head of the field until he slowed to let Zander get as many points as possible it the fight for second in the overall championship. Mack then inherited the lead and took the flag ahead of Zander who got past Henry van Vledder on the final lap. Elke van Vledder came home just over a tenth behind Henry with Graham Savage (Goldwagen JHB CBD

& Wynberg) hard on her heels. Chris Dale (Dale Automation Golf) crossed the line in sixth but, at the time of writing, a possible jump-start penalty was being investigated so that could change.

Overall wins on the day went to Hurley, Clarke and Zander Roos.

Nic Clarke won the overall championship from Zander Roos and Rory Atkinson. Atkinson claimed the class A title from Meintjes and Hurley. Clarke has a comfortable win in class B but the runners-up spot went down to the wire, Henning claiming it by just two points from Hall. Class C went the way of Roos with Mack in second ahead of Elke van Vledder.

The next outing for the Comsol VW Challenge brigade is a non-championship event at Midvaal on 14 November.

Overall Points

POS	CLASS	DRIVER	POINTS
1	B	Nic Clarke	158
2	C	Zander Roos	136
3	A	Rory Atkinson	133
4	A	Waldie Meintjies	118.5
5	B	Gerhard Henning	85
6	A	James Hurley	84.5
7	B	Brad Hall	83
8	A	Devon Piazza-Musso	74
9	C	Stuart Mack	69
10	C	Elke van Vledder	60

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