

# comsol vw challenge

1989 – 2016

## Atkinson and Pepper share Phakisa wins

Rory Atkinson (Comsol Polo) and Tasmin Pepper (Campos Transport / Alpine Motors Polo) shared the class A wins when the Comsol VW Challenge took to the track at Phakisa Freeway on Saturday, 23 April for the third round of the 2016 championship. Darren Nathan (Sex Trader Polo) took both class B victories while Wouter Roos (Nathan's Motorsport Polo) cruised to two class C wins.



Polo). Iain Stevenson (Comsol Polo) and Gavin Ross (Norbrake Polo) filled the third row of the grid.

Atkinson set the benchmark in the morning qualifying session, going out for just one flying lap and setting a time almost half a second quicker than James Hurley (The Starter Pack Company Polo). Lee Thompson Racing stablemates were next up, Tasmin Pepper (Campos Transport / Alpine Motors Polo) just edging Waldie Meintjes (LTR / Marty's Body & Spray

In class B Nathan was quickest, just over half a second faster than Adrian Wood (Laserfische Polo). Defending champion Nic Clarke (Central Technical Services Polo) headed the second row of the grid alongside Daine Stewart (RCS Security



Services Polo). Francois van Zyl (Jesus Saves Polo) and Mile Stewart (RCS Security Services Polo) rounded out the top six.

The father and son Roos duo filled the front row of the class C grid in their Nathan's Motorsport Polos, Wouter just getting the better of his son Luan. Stuart Mack (Goldwagen JHB CBD and Wynberg Golf) was next up just getting the better of Shaun Crous (Ancro Building Projects Polo). Graham Savage (Goldwagen JHB CBD and Wynberg Golf) held off Philip Croeser (ATE Polo) to head the third row of the grid.

Atkinson used his pole position in the first race to full effect, grabbing the early lead and extending it until the safety car came out when Lindsay Clur's Mirage Leisure Polo was stranded in the kitty litter. When racing resumed he again set about building his lead, going on to win by almost a second. Behind Atkinson, Pepper came out on top of a three-way battle for the runners-up spot with Hurley taking the final podium position and Meintjes having to settle for fourth. Wayne Crous (King Price Insurance Polo) and Stevenson rounded out the top six.

Nathan took the early lead in class B but he didn't have an easy ride to victory. First it was Clarke trying to find a way through and then Wood took his turn. Nathan, however, managed to hold them both off, with Wood taking second ahead of Clarke. Behind the leading trio, Daine Stewart won the battle of the brothers, crossing the line in fourth ahead of Mile.



Brad Hall (HellermannTyton Racing Polo) finished in sixth.

In class C Wouter Roos opened up a substantial lead over the chasing pack led by Luan Roos. Wouter slowed on the final lap allowing Luan to get through and take the win. Mack lead the Golf brigade taking the final podium position. Savage, Crous and Elke van Vledder (Golf) completed the top six.

In race two Pepper, by virtue of her fastest lap on race 1, started in pole position. She used this to take the lead when the lights went out, a position she held until the flag. With Hurley out of the picture due to a failed gearbox linkage, it was left to Meintjes and Atkinson to do the chasing. Despite their best efforts, Pepper held on to take the win from Meintjes with first race winner Atkinson having to settle for third. Stevenson finished fourth with Ross and Crous in fifth and sixth respectively.

Clarke got a great start in class B but Nathan took the lead part way through the opening lap. Clarke and Daine Stewart were right on his bumper for a couple of laps until Stewart's motor let go in spectacular fashion. This left Nathan and Clarke to fight for the win but Nathan had the advantage going on to win by over a second. Behind them van Zyl, Mile Stewart, Wood and Hall were involved in a fight for the final podium position. Contact between Wood and van Zyl through the fast sweep at

the end of the back straight dropped them back and left Hall and Stewart to fight it out with Hall just managing to take third. Wood recovered to claim fifth from van Zyl.

In class C it was again Wouter Roos who took the early lead. This time he held it to the finish taking the win from Elke van Vledder and Savage. Shaun Crous just got the better of a three-way battle for fourth beating Luan Roos and Mack to the line.



The overall wins for the day went to Pepper in class A, Nathan in class B and Wouter Roos in class C.

The VW Challenge competitors return to the circuit on 21 May 2016 when the fourth round of the championship takes place at Zwartkops Raceway.

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