

COMSOL VW CHALLENGE

1989 – 2016

Comsol VWs thrill in Cape Town

The Comsol VW Challenge competitors made their way down to Cape Town for round 7 of the 2016 championship which took place at Killarney Raceway on Saturday, 24 September. For many of the drivers it was their first visit to a circuit that the series last visited in 2010.

Rory Atkinson (Comsol Polo), Darren Nathan (Sextrader Polo) and Lyle Ramsay (Monroe Polo) claimed the overall victories in their respective classes but that only tells part of the story.



After suffering mechanical maladies last time out, Tasmin Pepper (Campos Transport / Alpine Motors Polo) was looking to get her class A championship chase back on track. She started off the right way by setting the fastest time in Saturday morning's qualifying session to head the grid for the first race. She had Atkinson alongside her with championship leader Waldie

Meintjes (LTR / Marty's Body & Spray Polo) in third place. Devon Piazza Musso (Allegiance Polo), Iain Stevenson (Comsol Polo) and Wayne Masters (Performance Masters Polo) completed the top six in class A.

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The top three in class a were separated by just over half a second but the class B grid showed just how evenly matched the top competitors are. Just 0.08 seconds separated Nic Clarke (Central Technical Services Polo), Nathan and Adrian Wood (Laserfische Polo). Deon Holiday Jnr (T & T Windscreens Polo) set the fourth quickest time, just ahead of Jacques Smith (Hydra Arc Polo). Smith's time was disallowed after a technical infringement was noted at the post-session check which promoted Deon Holiday Snr (Centworks Polo) to fifth and Daine Stewart (RCS Security Services Polo) to sixth.

Red Star race winner Shaun Crous (Ancro Building Projects Polo) was ruled out of any further class C action after a massive crash in the opening practice session on Friday morning. While he emerged unscathed, the same cannot be said for his car. This left the way clear for Ramsay to claim pole in only his second event back in the series with Graham Savage (Goldwagen JHB CBD and Wynberg Golf) alongside him. Luan Roos (Nathan's Motorsport Polo) and Elke van Vledder (Golf) shared the second row of the grid ahead of Stuart Mack (Goldwagen JHB CBD and Wynberg Golf) and Sam Dale (Dale Automation Polo).

Pepper and Atkinson made the best of their front row starting positions in the opening race, with Pepper leading the way, a position she was able to hold to the flag despite coming under a great deal of pressure from Atkinson.

Behind the leading pair the chasing pack was led for most of the race by Piazza Musso with Stevenson, Meintjes - who had a poor start - and Masters in close attendance. Stevenson's race came to a premature end when his clutch failed leaving three drivers to battle for the final podium position. A last lap move by Meintjes allowed him to get past Piazza Musso and take third with Masters crossing the line in fifth. James Hurley (The Starter Pack Company Polo) rounded out the top six.

In class B the leading trio were involved in a race-long battle. Clarke held the early lead but Nathan found a way through after a couple of laps. He was able to open a slight gap over Clarke and Wood as they battle for second but was never certain of the win until he took the flag. Clarke took second with Wood in third.



Smith fought his way from the back of the class B grid to take fourth ahead of the Holidays, with father having to play second fiddle to son on this occasion.

Savage had a lightning start and led the class C field into the first turn before Ramsay and Luan Roos recovered and found a way through. Roos then took the lead but a couple of off-track excursions dropped him down the field. Ramsay then took over at the front and, despite the attentions of van Vledder, managed to take the win. Van Vledder crossed the line in second place but a 30-second penalty, applied after she

was adjudged to have overtaken another car while yellow flags were being shown, spoilt her result.

Savage was then credited with second with Mack in third. Christiaan de Wet (Polo), Wouter Roos and Luan Roos rounded out the top six.

In the opening stages of race 2 it looked like Pepper was headed for another win but gearbox problems put paid to her challenge. This allowed Meintjes to take over at the front with Atkinson again having to settle for second place.

Piazza Musso had a somewhat lonely drive to third with Stevenson getting the better of a battle with Hurley to take fourth. Masters ended in sixth.

Class B again provided some of the closest racing of the weekend with Clarke, Nathan and Wood fighting it out for the podium positions. They crossed the line in that order with just one thousandth of a second between Clarke and Nathan at the flag. Smith again took fourth, this time ahead of Holiday Snr with Mile Stewart (RCS Security Services Polo) in sixth.



Ramsay took another class C win with Savage and van Vledder in the other podium positions. Luan Roos had to settle for fourth ahead of de Wet and Chris Dale (Dale Automation Polo).

The next round of the Comsol VW Challenge takes place at the Kyalami Grand Prix Circuit in Midrand on the weekend of 22 and 23 October 2016.

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