

# COMSOL VW CHALLENGE

1989 – 2017

## Kriel Dominates at Red Star

Stiaan Kriel (N4 Autocraft Polo) dominated proceedings at Red Star Raceway during the second round of the 2017 Comsol VW Challenge on Saturday, 29 April, taking pole position and both class A wins. Adrian Wood (Laserfische Pole) missed out on the class B pole, that went to defending champion Nic Clarke (Pozi Drive Polo), but he did take both races. In class C Rory Atkinson (Pozi Drive Polo) made it a full house, claiming pole position and both heat wins.



Morning qualifying hinted at things to come later in the day when Kriel posted a time almost a second quicker than his closest class A rival, Iain Pepper in the Campos Transport Polo. Delon Thompson (A and L Materials Handling Polo) was next up ahead of Devon Piazza Musso (Allegiance Polo) who was making his first VW Challenge appearance of the season. Behind them the two Waynes, Masters (Performance Masters Polo) and Crous (Delway Polo), were separated by just a thousandth of a second in fifth and sixth.

Class B went the way of Clarke who was just three hundredths of a second quicker than Wood. Jacques Smith (Hydra Arc Polo) headed the second row of the grid with Lyle Ramsay (Monroe

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Racing RSA Polo) alongside him. Quinton Needham and Luan Roos (Nathan's Motorsport Polo) rounded out the top six.

Atkinson emerged as the leader of the class C brigade, exactly a second ahead of Chris Dale (Pozi Drive / Dale Automation Polo). Shaun Crous (Ancro Building Projects Polo) got the better of Wouter Roos (Nathan's Motorsport Polo) to head the second row of the grid while the third row was occupied by Gareth Lyke (Polo) and Piet Potgieter (Polo).

In the opening race Kriel was in a class of his own at the head of the field, pulling away from the chasing pack at over a second a lap, and taking the class A win by over 13 seconds. Behind him Pepper managed to stay in front of Piazza Musso, the pair separated by just a car length or so after 8 laps of racing. Masters won the battle of the Waynes, taking fourth ahead of Crous with Andre de Lange not far behind in sixth.



Despite being quickest in qualifying, Clarke could not keep Wood behind him in the opening class B race and had to settle for second behind the Laserfische Polo. Smith had a somewhat lonely race to third ahead of Ramsay who, in turn, was comfortably ahead of Needham and Deon Holliday Jnr (Centworx Polo).

Current class A champion Atkinson showed that he has mastered the lower grip levels of the class C car he is now driving. He was never challenged on his

way to a comfortable first race win. Wouter Roos and Shaun Crous claimed the other podium positions. Dale had to settle for fourth ahead of Lyke and Reno van Heerden (Remington Polo).

Race 2 again saw Kriel disappear at the head of the class A field to make it four wins out of four races so far this season and consolidate his lead at the head of the class A championship log. Pepper challenged for the lead early on, but gearbox problems forced him to drop down the field and he eventually crossed the line in sixth. This left Piazza Musso to hold off the challenge of Masters to take second. Shaun and Bob Neill were fourth and fifth respectively.

Wood didn't have things all his own way in the second class B race, but was in front when it mattered, taking the chequered flag by just over half a second from Clarke. Ramsay again got past Smith at the start of the race but, being a little bit down on power, couldn't keep Smith behind him and again had to settle for fourth place. As in the opening race, Needham and Holliday were fifth and sixth.

Atkinson had another comfortable win in class C, this time from Shaun Crous with Dale and Wouter Roos in third and fourth. Lyke and Piet Potgieter rounded out the top six.

The Comsol VW Challenge next takes to the track on 20 May when the drivers make their way down to the East London Grand Prix Circuit for their away race.

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