

# COMSOL VW CHALLENGE

1989 – 2017

## Kriel's winning streak comes to an end in East London



Thanks to a handbrake left on at the start, Stiaan Kriel's series of class A wins in the 2017 Comsol VW Challenge came to an end at the East London Grand Prix Circuit. The championship leader was, however, able to bounce back in the second race and claim another win in his Spanjaard Polo. In class B the wins were shared by Nic Clarke (Pozi Drive Polo) and Adrian Wood (Laserfische Polo) while Rory Atkinson (Pozi Drive Polo) and Shaun Crous (Ancro Building Projects Polo) took a win each in class C.

Kriel was quickest in Saturday morning's qualifying session, taking pole position by 0.105" from Devon Piazza Musso (Alliance Polo) with the Lee Thompson Racing pair of Iain Pepper (Campos Transport Polo) and Waldie Meintjes (Marty's Body & Spray Polo) filling the second row. Delon Thompson (Performance Masters Polo) and Wayne Crous (Delway Polo) completed the top six.

In class B Clarke, Wood and Ramsay (Monroe Racing RSA Polo) have been involved in a battle for supremacy from the start of the season. They qualified in that order with Quinton Needham (Tron Polo), Jacques Smith (Hydra Arc Polo) and Deon Holliday Jnr (Centworx Polo) rounding out the top six.

Atkinson took the class C honours from Wouter Roos (Strata Drilling Polo) with Shaun Crous and Chris Dale (Dale Automation Polo) not far behind. Gareth Lyke (Polo) and Philip Croeser (ATE Polo) filled the third row of the class C grid.



Kriel's mistake in leaving the handbrake on at the start of race 1 meant he dropped down to third, behind Piazza Musso and Pepper at the start. Piazza Musso took full advantage, and by the time Kriel got past Pepper when the latter slowed with mechanical issues, the gap that Piazza Musso had opened was too big to close down in the time remaining. Piazza Musso took the flag over five seconds ahead of Kriel with Wayne Masters in the Performance Masters Polo in third. Thompson just managed to hold off Meintjes to take fourth with Wayne Crous completing the top six.

Clarke used his class B pole position to good effect, taking a light-to-flag victory from Wood and Ramsay. Deon Holliday Jnr claimed fourth ahead of Smith who had Deon Holliday Snr (Polo) not far behind.

In class C Atkinson had some withstood some early pressure from Roos but after the latter ran off in the complex, damaging his car in the process, he had a relatively easy run to victory. Shaun Crous followed him across the line with Dale completing the podium. Lyke, Croeser and Potgieter (Polo) rounded out the top six.



Kriel made no mistake in the second race although Piazza Musso spoilt any real chance of challenging him with an off-track excursion on the opening lap. Kriel finished almost five seconds clear of Pepper with a recovering Piazza Musso just ahead of Meintjes in third. Bob Neill (CK Aerial Surveys Polo) ended in fifth with Gavin Ross (Norbrake Polo) in sixth.

Clarke had a clutch problem that ruled him out of contention for the class B win, leaving Wood, Ramsay and Smith to fight for victory. They finished in that order with just over a second covering the three of them. Holliday Jnr was again fourth ahead of Andre Calitz (AC Group / Full Blast Hydraulics Polo) and Needham.



In class C a race-long battle between Shaun Crous and Atkinson went the way of the former, his first win of 2017. Roos brought his repaired car home in third ahead of Dale and Lyke.

Kriel now has a 3-point lead over Atkinson at the top of the overall standings with Wood six points further back in third. Shaun Crous is in fourth with Ramsay and Clarke tied just a point behind him.

Round 4 of the 2017 Comsol VW Challenge takes place at Zwartkops Raceway in Pretoria on 16 & 17 June.

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