

# VW Challenge

1989 – 2017

## Pepper relishes Red Star challenge

Iain Pepper (Husqvarna Motorcycles Polo) claimed his second full-house of championship points on the trot when he won both class A races at the sixth round of the 2017 VW Challenge championship held at Red Star Raceway on Saturday, 2 September. Adrian Wood (Laserfische Polo) and Rory Atkinson (PoziDrive Polo) did the same thing in classes B and C.



In Saturday morning's qualifying session Pepper was just a tenth of a second quicker than Wayne Crous (Delway Polo) with Waldie Meintjes (Marty's Body & Spray Polo) a further five-hundredths back, giving the Lee Thompson Racing stablemates a lockout of the top three spots on the grid. Stiaan Kriel (Spanjaard Polo) was next up ahead of Devon Piazza Musso (Allegiance / Reef Supplies Polo) and Wayne Masters (Performance Masters

Polo).

In class B Wood was easily the quickest ahead of Lyle Ramsay (Monroe Racing RSA Polo) and Nic Clarke (PoziDrive Polo), who were separated by just 0.016". Deon Holliday Jnr (Centworx Polo), Jacques Smith (Hydra Arc Polo) and Luan Roos (Nathan's Motorsport Polo) rounded out the top six.

Atkinson was the fastest of the class C competitors, comfortably ahead of Shaun Crous (Ancro Building Projects Polo). They were followed by the father and son duo of Chris and Sam Dale in the PoziDrive supported cars, Chris in a Polo and Sam in a Golf. Gareth Lyke (Gaz-O-Matic Polo) and Graeme Nathan, who was giving Philip Croeser's new Polo a shakedown, filled the third row of the grid.



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When the lights went out to signal the start of the opening race, Pepper made no mistake and took an immediate lead with Wayne Crous and Kriel fighting over second. Meintjes and Piazza Musso had a coming together in the first corner which dropped them to the back of the field and let Masters through into fourth. While Meintjes was able to recover and work his way up to finish the race in fourth, Piazza Musso's race day came to an end as the damage to his car was too severe for him to continue. Out front Pepper was never challenged on his way to victory with Kriel and Crous fighting for the runner's-up spot. Kriel was in front when it counted, taking second by a couple of car lengths. Despite suffering mechanical maladies, Masters was classified fifth.

Wood had a lights-to-flag win in class B, taking victory by over seven seconds. Behind him Ramsay was doing the chasing until an off-track excursion dropped him down the field and allowed Clarke through into second, a position he held until the flag. Ramsay worked his way back through the field to take the final podium position. The duel between Smith and Holliday went down to the wire, Smith claiming fourth just over a tenth ahead of Holliday. Quinton Needham (Megatron Polo) rounded out the top six.



Atkinson also had an easy win in the opening class C race, taking victory from Shaun Crous. Chris Dale, who had an off-track excursion in the first corner, managed to work his way back through the field and take third ahead of his son. Nathan ended the 8-lap race in fifth with Lyke in sixth.

Pepper wasn't challenged in the second class A race, opening up a comfortable gap before backing off slightly in the latter stages. He took the win by just under two second from Meintjes. The scrap for third and fourth between Kriel and Wayne Crous was robust, and although Kriel took the flag ahead of Crous, their positions were reversed in the final results after the Clerk of the Course determined that Kriel had been a bit too aggressive in one of his moves.

Wood again took a comfortable class B win in race 2, this time from Ramsay and Clarke. Smith and Holliday again spent the race fighting for fourth with Smith just in front when it counted. Needham took another sixth place.

Atkinson didn't have things all his own way at the start of the second race. He and Shaun Crous spent a large part of the opening few laps running side-by-side before he was able to open up a gap and take his ninth class C win of the season. Sam Dale took the final step on the podium with Lyke not far behind him. Piet Potgieter (Nathan's Motorsport Polo) and Nathan rounded out the top six.

Two thirds of the way through the 2017 season Wood has now moved into the lead of the overall championship. He has a four-point lead over Atkinson. Pepper's two wins have moved him up to



third on the log, 12 points behind Atkinson and three ahead of Kriel who has dropped down to fourth. Ramsay and Clarke complete the top six.



Pepper has also moved up to the top of the class A standings with Kriel and Piazza Musso in second and third respectively. Wood now has a 33-point lead over Ramsay at the head of the class B log with Clarke a further six points back in third. Atkinson has a comfortable lead at the top of the class C standings with Shaun Crous and Wouter Roos in second and third.

The Midvaal Circuit in Meyerton is the location for the next outing for the VW Challenge brigade. Round 7 of the 2017 championship take place there on 14 October.

The VW Challenge would like to acknowledge the valuable support of their sponsors, ATE Brakes, Dicktator Engine Management Systems, Tron Lubricants, Glasfix Windscreen Repairs and Norbrake, who make the series possible.

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