

Brands Hatch GP July 14th/15th
FIA Formula Two and International GT Open Meeting

Team Bond arrived on the Friday evening, after the usual delays on the M25, to find the Paddock filled by a mass of enormous F1 style transporters all with giant awnings. The Formula Two and Three teams, not to mention the Aston Martin GT4's and Britcar's, really are impressive. We set up our trailer and modest awning with the other Juniors at the very bottom of the paddock!

The Junior entry was an unusually low 20 cars. The Lurani Trophy race had been here only a couple of weeks before and many people were saving their cars for the Silverstone Classic.

The programme was Qualifying on Saturday and the race on Sunday. Saturday was - as normal this year - wet. As we waited in the assembly area there was a heavy crash involving a couple of GT cars. The delay for barrier repairs and the pressure of a TV schedule caused our session to be cancelled. The new timetable was, qualify on Sunday, in our original race slot, and race late in the afternoon.

Qualifying

Sunday was dry and even sunny at times. Andrew set a cracking pace and qualified 6th overall and 1st Front Engined at 1:48.069 - a full 2 seconds ahead of Justin Fleming. Gil was next up in the 'front engined' just over 5 seconds behind. It had been some 20 years since Gil last drove the GP circuit but he was a comfortable 8 seconds faster than the next 1000cc car!

The Race

Andrew made a pretty good start and lost only one place into Paddock Hill. He kept the leading group in sight for several laps, but then enjoyed a rather lonely race, circulating at an impressive pace to cut 8/10ths of a second off his qualifying pace. A clear win from Justin and 6th overall.

Gil had a bit of a 'Bond' start and lost a couple of places in the mid field traffic on the first lap. He recovered to have a great race with Keith Roach's Condor and Mike Gregory's rear engined De Tomaso. He eventually passed them both and shaved 4 /100ths off his lap time to finish 1st 1000cc and 3rd Front Engined car.

Overall Winners

David Methley (Brabham BT6), was less than 2 seconds ahead of Pete Morton's Lightning Envoyette, at the flag with Richard Smeeton's pretty Wainer third.

One advantage of a large meeting like this is that we did receive all sorts of timing information. One sheet showed each car's speed on the straight up to Hawthorn Corner. Bond 2 was actually third fastest ahead of most of the rear engined cars, and Bond 1 was only a fraction slower than the second best front engine (Justin Flemings Elva 100) in spite of the smaller engine.

Overall a good weekend for Team Bond and the Weather on Sunday made up for the frustration on Saturday.

The late race and the M25 did mean a very late home-coming but the cars are in good shape for the next race

Next Race

Silverstone Classic July 20th/21st/22nd