



## Brands Hatch

The latest round of the Saker Challenge was held at Brands Hatch on 13th and 14th August. A heavy downpour overnight on Friday meant a damp track for Saturday's qualifying session. The debate in the pits was over whether slicks or wets were the way to go for the 40 minute session; there was no standing water, but it was clear that slicks would be a risky option. Every team sat tight in their garages until the last minute. The Dutch 102 car of Herbert Boender and Rudolph Meyer left the pits on full wets and every other team followed their lead. On a drying track, the times tumbled and overall pole was taken by Iain Dockerill in the invitation-class entered BTCS Kia with a time of 56.311. Saker pole was the pairing of Meyer/Boender with a 56.975, a mere 5-hundredths ahead of Paul Rose in the JPR entered car 48. Behind Rose, was Tim Wheeldon in Fluent Motorsport's Car 43.

The rolling start for the first race was on a completely dry track. The Saker of Rose took the lead, leaving Dockerill in the Kia struggling for grip on cold tyres in 2nd place, closely followed by Meyer and Wheeldon. Meyer found his way around the outside of Wheeldon at Paddock Hill Bend and briefly held 2nd place, but out-braked himself into Druids and buried the car in the gravel, resulting in a safety car. Steve Harris overtook Wheeldon under the safety car and paid for his mistake with a stop/go penalty three laps after the restart.



The Saker races were great fun to watch.

Rose persistently hung onto the back of Dockerill's more powerful BTCS Kia, whilst Wheeldon dropped back 5 seconds with the rest of the field 8 seconds further back down the track. By lap 16, Dockerill had built a 2-second cushion over Rose, whilst Wheeldon had slipped 10 seconds back. A chasing Paul Spencer in his invitation class Prosport LM3000 had closed the gap on Wheeldon, but couldn't get closer than 2 seconds. Bob Tomlinson in the CCS Media car was running 3rd in the Saker class, 17 seconds behind Wheeldon, but with 4 laps to go, he lost the place to Mark Burton in the Team OBR car.

The race finished in that order after 28 laps, with Dockerill winning overall by a margin of 8 seconds over Rose in the Saker. Wheeldon finished 3rd overall and 2nd in the Saker class, 17 seconds behind Rose and in 3rd place in the Saker class was Mark Burton in car 61.



Saker UK welcomed two Dutch teams to Brands Hatch.

For the second race, Boender in car 102 replaced Rose on the front row of the grid alongside Dockerill's Kia. Rose and Wheeldon made up the second row, followed by Pattle and Harris. Dockerill made another strong getaway and Rose managed to get ahead of Boender, whilst Wheeldon kept ahead of Harris and Pattle. By lap 4, the field had split; Dockerill had made 1.5 seconds over Rose, Boender and Wheeldon, with a gap back to Pattle and Harris of 2.5 seconds. On lap 6, Boender passed Rose, but Rose didn't give in and took him back on the next lap.

Dockerill was inching his lead out lap by lap, but the battle between the three leading Sakers was holding the crowd's interest; their lap times were separated by tenths. The differences between the 6-speed sequential GT cars of Rose and Wheeldon and the lighter 5-speed Sprint car of Boender were clear: Rose and Wheeldon were quicker through Paddock Hill and on the run down to Graham Hill, but Boender was faster out of the crucial bend of Clearways.

By lap 17, Dockerill had 17 seconds over Rose, but the Rose/Boender/Wheeldon battle was covered by 1.2 seconds. The leaders had allowed Pattle to catch them and he was now only 2 seconds back. On lap 19, Boender made a mistake on the exit of Paddock Hill and ran wide, allowing Rose, Wheeldon and Pattle to pass. By lap 26, Dockerill was 24 seconds ahead, with Rose, Wheeldon and Pattle separated by 2 seconds and only just ahead of Spencer's invitation-class Prosport LM3000. By lap 33, Spencer had overhauled both Wheeldon and Pattle and was a mere 2-tenths behind Rose. At the start of the next lap and with only 2 minutes remaining, Rose's clutch let go.



Rose said: **“I noticed my clutch was slipping and then I realised I was riding it out of Clearways, but by then it was too late. I had to retire, which was such a disappointment!”**

Sunday’s two races were to be aggregated into one result, with the finishing positions of the first race deciding the grid position for the second race. The grid for race one had Meyer on pole, followed by Rose, Wheeldon and Burton with Harris and Tomlinson on the 3rd row. At the start, the first three maintained position, but Harris took Burton to move into 4th place. The racing between the top three was amazingly close and by the end of lap 10, Meyer, Rose and Wheeldon were covered by a mere 0.551 seconds with Harris 3 seconds behind. By the end of lap 20, the gap had increased marginally to 0.891 seconds and Spencer’s LM3000 had passed Harris and they were 4 and 8 seconds back respectively.

Lap after lap, Rose tried with all his might to get past Meyer, who was slower out of Paddock Hill and up to Druids. Rose then made his move down the inside into Druids and the pair made contact, with Rose’s left rear wheel climbing over the right front wheel of Meyer. Wheeldon was slow to capitalise on the situation and only briefly held 1st place on the run down to Graham Hill Bend, where Rose re-took the lead and after a brief swapping of paint, Meyer moved back into 2nd ahead of Wheeldon. By the chequered flag, Rose had pulled out 2 seconds over Meyer and Wheeldon in the Saker class, whilst Spencer finished 2nd overall in his LM3000.



**The battles will continue at Snetterton in September.**

The grid for Race 4 saw Rose ahead of Spencer, with Boender and Wheeldon on the second row and Harris and Pattle on the third row. Rose made a flying start, taking Spencer into the first corner and Harris moved ahead of Wheeldon into 3rd place in the Saker class. By lap 10, Rose was maintaining a small margin over Spencer, with Boender a second behind and the battling Harris and Wheeldon trailing by 3 seconds.

On lap 15 however, mechanical problems forced Rose to retire, handing the overall lead to Spencer, with Boender, Harris and Wheeldon making up the top three Sakers. By lap 20, Harris and Wheeldon had managed to close the gap to Boender and each lap they were gaining on him by tenths, until by lap 28 the three were covered by less than half a second. With 2 laps to go, Harris stormed past Boender after putting him under immense pressure and moved into 2nd overall and the lead of the Saker class. He held his position until the finish, with Spencer taking the overall win and Boender and Wheeldon finishing 2nd and 3rd respectively in the Saker class.

Steve Harris, said: **“All weekend the racing has been fantastically close! Anyone that finished on the podium had to work so hard for it, but it was brilliant fun! I can’t wait to get back out there at Snetterton!”**

### Fastest Laps

RACE 1	ROSE	50.249
RACE 2	BOENDER	50.677
RACE 3	ROSE	50.211
RACE 4	WHEELDON	50.687

### Results

To view the full results, please visit:

<http://www.sakercars.co.uk/calendar/results.html> .

### Photography

Thank you to Marvin Hall and Az Edwards for their great pictures.

More pictures by Az Edwards can be seen at: [www.AE-Photography.co.uk](http://www.AE-Photography.co.uk) and he will be happy to offer discount if you wish to purchase any prints.



Az Edwards ©



**TV Schedule**

**Oulton Park** RACEMAX on **SKY SPORTS**

**Thurs 25th August:**  
19.00hrs (Sky Sports 3)

**Fri 26th August:**  
10.00hrs, 13.00hrs & 16.00hrs (Sky Sports 3)

**Sat 27th August:**  
04.00hrs (Sky Sports 3)

**Sun 28th August:**  
06.00hrs (Sky Sports 3)

**Oulton Park & Brands Hatch** **MOTORS TV**

**Wednesday 3rd September:**  
18.23hrs plus repeats (still awaiting full schedule - expecting this next week)

**Brands Hatch** RACEMAX on **SKY SPORTS**

**Thursday 15th September:**  
19.00hrs & 24.00hrs (Sky Sports 4)

**Friday 16th September:**  
13.00hrs (Sky Sports 3) & 17.00hrs (Sky Sports 4)

**Sunday 18th September:**  
06.00hrs (Sky Sports 3)

**SAKER SPORTSCARS UNITED KINGDOM** **NEXT ROUND** **SAKER SPORTSCARS UNITED KINGDOM**

**Snetterton 300**  
**17th and 18th September**



Az Edwards ©

**Finally**

We have a Saker for hire at Snetterton. If you are interested, please email me at [roxie@sakercars.co.uk](mailto:roxie@sakercars.co.uk). Alternatively, you can join the Saker race in your own invitation car.

I look forward to seeing you all there for the final UK round of the first Saker season.

Kindest regards

Roxie Marandi Rose  
Fun Cup UK/Saker Sportscars UK  
Race Co-ordinator

