

Jenny ahead

17-8-83

BRILLIANT weather and enthusiastic publicity brought a good crowd to Ingliston on Sunday, where the SMRC's seven race programme was sponsored by the Scottish GM Dealers. For the first time ever — thanks to the sponsors — free admission to the circuit was possible. As well as a parade of Vauxhall and Opel cars before the start, there was some tyre-bending demonstration driving: Peter Swire and Phil Wright put on an autotest display in front of the main grandstand with a Nova SR and an Astra GT/E, while John Cleland swept round for a few laps in a Monza production saloon racer.

Racing itself started with the junior FF1600 event, Sandy McEwen's Crosslé and Lance Gauld's PRS sharing the front row. McEwen led all the way, but Gauld was overtaken by Mike MacPherson and Harry Minty before losing his nose-cone in a mid-race incident, while Minty was also a victim, and just made it to the line after a last-lap spin at Arena.

Derek Butcher's Caterham 7 led from the start of the under-1600 cc road cars race, with Sid Harrison's Clan Crusader and David Nisbet's Caterham 7 following on, out-classing the saloons. Nisbet began to press Harrison hard, then spun at Lefthander on lap six.

Butcher, setting the only new class record of the day, looked a certain winner, until he too spun at Arena within sight of the flag, dropping to second place behind the Clan. The saloons put on a good show, Jimmy Fleming in a trade-in Celica, whose retired owner had come along to watch how his old car was being treated, leading Olly Ross's VW Scirocco home. But Charles Campbell's Davrian finished fourth overall, after some mid-race hesitations.

John Fyda and Kenny Allen in the Agra Mallocks shared the front row for the sports cars race, and Fyda was in aggressive form away from the line, to lead all through the 12 laps. John Mackie

JOHN CLELAND (left) is subjected to a spirited attack from Jenny Birrell in the over 1600 cc Road Saloon race.

was third overall, while Laurence Jacobsen in fourth place was the leading Sports 2000 driver, the works Chevron B54 keeping a few lengths ahead of Willie Hourie in the Ecurie Ecosse "customer" car.

Tom Brown's Van Diemen had an easy win in the senior FF race, even though he seemed to fumble a gear change in front of the grandstand starting lap five. Peter Jamieson was second until passed by Chic Stenhouse at Lefthander on lap three. These three plus Stewart Roden in fourth place held station to the end, but

McEwen's Crosslé and Gemmill's PRS were bundled off out of Arena on lap eight, only the Crosslé restarting.

To make time for two road-car events, the GT field was lumped into one race. Eric Munnoch's Rover-engined Davrian Stiletto led from the flag, but George Coghill's Norfrost Esprit was by a long way the fastest car on the circuit and soon blasted past. Harry Simpson's Davrian nudged the rear of the Stiletto at the hairpin first time round, then dropped briefly behind Kenny

Coleman's Davrian, before getting third place back by Arena. Munnoch's car faded a bit in mid-race, letting Coleman back into third with two laps to go.

In the Formule Libre race, George McMillan in the Ralt RT2 looked as if he thought he'd just jumped the start. There was no penalty, but Dave Duffield's RT4 was soon through into its usual lead, while John Bothamley's Lola made a tigerish start from the back of the grid. McMillan slowed towards the end, which narrowed the gap to Stewart Robb, who was himself pressed very hard by John Fyda in the first of the Mallocks.

Up to this point there hadn't been much in the way of lead-swapping, but the over-1600 cc road cars race made up for it. Jenny Birrell's 2-litre Sunbeam led away, second place being picked up by rallyman Alistair Brearley, in his first-ever circuit race with his special-stage Chevette. His sideways forest style held off John Cleland's Astra GT/E, until on lap four the Chevette came through in the lead, Jenny Birrell having dropped to third. Watching Birrell and Cleland out-muscling each other would have been worth paying for any day of the year. The Sunbeam was up to second place by lap six and took the lead again two laps later. That won Jenny the "Person of the Meeting" award, but there had to be a high commendation for Alan Lamb, who survived something like an

810-degree spin in his blown Morgan 4/4 right in front of the grandstand, kicking up a huge dust cloud from the outfield, only to select first gear again and get straight back into the race. R.F.

RESULTS

FF1600 Junior — 10 laps: 1. S. McEwen (Crosslé 32F), 9m 17.4s (66.52 mph); 2. M. MacPherson (Van Diemen); 3. R. Mitchell (PRS 80F); 4. C. Harper (Hawke DL15). Fastest lap: Harper, 54.4s (68.16 mph).

Road Cars up to 1600 cc — 10 laps: 1. S. Harrison (Clan Crusader), 10m 20.1s (59.8 mph); 2. D. Butcher (Caterham 7); 3. D. Nisbet (Caterham 7); 4. C. Campbell (Davrian). Fastest lap: Butcher, 60.4s (61.39 mph), new road sports car class record.

Sports Cars — 12 laps: 1. J. Fyda (Mallock Mk24), 9m 30.0s (77.94 mph); 2. K. Allen (Mallock Mk24); 3. J. Mackie (Vision); 4. L. Jacobsen (Chevron B54). Fastest lap Clubmans A: Fyda, 46.5s (79.74 mph). Fastest lap Clubmans B: A. Dobbie (Mallock) 53.2s (69.7 mph). Fastest lap Sports 2000: W. Hourie (Chevron B54), 51.3s (72.28 mph).

FF1600 Senior — 12 laps: 1. T. Brown (Van Diemen), 10m 41.1s (69.41 mph); 2. C. Stenhouse (Van Diemen); 3. P. Jamieson (PRS); 4. S. Roden (Van Diemen). Fastest lap: Brown, 52.8s (70.25 mph).

GT cars — 12 laps: 1. G. Coghill (Norfrost Esprit), 10m 22.6s (71.47 mph); 2. H. Simpson (Davrian); 3. K. Coleman (Davrian); 4. E. Munnoch (Davrian Stiletto V8). Fastest lap over 1500 cc: Coghill, 49.6s (74.76 mph). Fastest lap 1000-1500 cc: G. Young (Agra Scirocco), 52.2s (71.03 mph). Fastest lap under 1000 cc: Simpson, 51.3s (72.28 mph).

Formula Libre — 15 laps: 1. D. Duffield (Ralt RT4), 11m 27.2s (80.93 mph); 2. G. McMillan (Ralt RT2); 3. S. Robb (March 75/782); 4. J. Fyda (Mallock Mk24). Fastest lap over 1700 cc: Duffield, 44.1s (84.08 mph). Fastest lap under 1700 cc: Fyda, 46.0s (80.61 mph).

Road Cars over 1600 cc — 10 laps: 1. J. Birrell (Talbot Sunbeam), 10m 39.2s (58.01 mph); 2. A. Brearley (Vauxhall Chevette); 3. J. Cleland (Vauxhall Astra GT/E); 4. H. McCaig (BMW). Fastest lap: Birrell, 61.8s (60.00 mph).

