



John Millar (2.0 Brabham-BMW) leads Tony Charnell's Lola T55 through the tight right-hander at West Gate. This pair took the first two places in the libre event.

Ingliston: Two for Graham

By BILL HENDERSON

FOR their novices' race meeting on Sunday last at Ingliston, the SMRC started the new season in brilliant sunshine, which all hope will continue for the rest of the year, but without the bitterly cold wind. Exactly 70 competitors entered to contest five 10-lap and two 15-lap races, mainly for saloons with prod sports and an allcomers *Formule Libre* events to add spice to the programme, before a 7300 crowd.

The over 1000 cc saloons started proceedings, divided into two heats, the first of which included the two fastest cars in practice, Alan Bell (1.3 Cooper S) and Kit Myers (Lotus Cortina). The Lotus led off, Bell retiring at Bankers with a broken gearlever. Frank Gunn (1.3 S) then passed Myers and left him and Douglas Niven (1.6 Anglia) behind; Niven went on to finish a lonely second, while Myers had his work cut out to hold off Iain McLaren (1650 Viva) from third place.

The second heat was tame by comparison, Campbell Graham in the ex-Gerry Birrell 1.2 Chamois building up an unassailable lead over Ian Geddes' 1.3 S, followed initially by Max Brown (1.6 Anglia), whose passenger door flapped open on every right-hander. By half-distance the order was set after George Horne (3.0 Anglia) slowed and John Taylor (1.3 S) assumed third spot.

The prod sports 10-lapper followed, Donald Third (1.0 Turner-BMC) leading Alex Brown (Porsche Super 90) off the line, followed by Alan Napier (1.2 U2). On lap 4 the latter spurred down the back straight into the lead, leaving the other pair to dispute second. By this time the field was well spread out. P. McNaughton (1.1 Ginetta G4) holding a lonely fourth throughout as Gordon Diack (Healey 3000) dived with H. Baird (3.8 E-type), and Colin McLean, finding his way round in his Elan, pushed J. McFarlane (1.0 Sprite) out of fifth place on the penultimate lap.

The 1-litre saloons next showed their paces, the three Cooper Ss of A. J. Littlejohn, A. Fleming and D. O. Stevenson having a race to themselves after P. Marsh broadsided his similar car leaving the West Gate hairpin and was shunted by Ken Millar (Mini-Cooper), who was rammed in turn by Tab Phillip's Hartwell Imp; Jim Johnstone (Mini-Cooper) followed in, and finally Alister

Heggie slammed his Imp into the lot. Marsh and Millar shot off, leaving the others behind in a sorry mess. Further back E. Paterson (850 Mini) and J. Hannah (Mini-Cooper) now found themselves swapping places for fourth spot, the former getting the verdict.

The over 1000 cc saloon final followed, with Graham in the Chamois once again demonstrating his superiority throughout the 10 laps, to finish 1 sec ahead of Geddes' well-driven Cooper S; Geddes was over 4 secs ahead of N. Hodgson, who this time managed the complete distance in his 1.3 Cooper S, taking third spot after Frank Gunn retired his overheating Mini. J. Middleton retired when his neat 1275 Thistle Tune Mini Estate collected a flat tyre on lap 7, as did Bill Gold when the ex-Tom Sleigh 3.8 Jaguar went on to three wheels, his offside front wheel departing faster than the car when a wheel nut undid itself after the hairpin.

The 15-lap *Formule Libre* event followed, with Gerry Birrell not appearing as the Centro-Scot Crosslé 16F lacked motive power.

John Millar, his 2-litre Brabham-BMW now seeming fully sorted, shared an identical practice time (56.0 s) with Tony Charnell (1650 Lola T55), but the fastest practice time was set by Bill Dryden in John Romanes' 2.5 Climax-powered Lotus 35. Andrew Goodfellow had squeezed a 4.7 Chevrolet into his venerable Cooper T76 for F5000 purposes, but none could match for style the immaculate brilliant yellow F5000 Lola-Chevrolet T142 of Willie Forbes, who started at the back of the grid with unscrubbed Goodyears, having completed no practice laps.

Initially Dryden led Charnell and Millar, with FF men E. J. Clark and Bernard Hunter (Lotus 51s) having a rare old dust-up for fourth place. Forbes felt his way round, climbing higher through the field on each lap, the bellow from the most powerful car ever seen at Ingliston being a wonderful sound. Dryden spun at West Gate on lap 10 when an oil line fractured, letting Millar into the lead; Charnell's Lola's seat broke, but he held onto second place, with Forbes third ahead of Clark and Hunter, and J. Gemmill (FF Lotus 51A).

The final event, the 15-lap Sports Tune saloon handicap, proved a little too much for the scratch men, but Littlejohn in his 1-litre Cooper S had the satisfaction of setting fastest lap. The race was won by Paterson in the 850 Lochbank Mini from the Ss of Stevenson (999) and Jim Pinkerton (1098).

Saloons over 1000 cc, heat 1 (10 laps): 1. F. Gunn (1.3 Mini-Cooper S), 10 m 49.3 s, 57.09 mph; 2. A. D. Niven (1.6 Ford Anglia); 3. C. D. S. Myers (1.6 Ford-Lotus Cortina). **Fastest lap:** Gunn, 63.7 s, 58.21 mph.

Saloons over 1000 cc, heat 2 (10 laps): 1. J. C. Graham (1.2 Singer Chamois), 10 m 44.6 s, 57.52 mph; 2. I. P. Geddes (1.3 Mini-Cooper S); 3. J. Taylor (1.3 Mini-Cooper S). **Fastest lap:** Graham, 63.2 s, 58.67 mph.

Production sports cars (10 laps): 1. A. M. Napier (1.2 U2-Ford), 11 m 28.2 s, 53.88 mph; 2. A. Brown (1.6 Porsche Super 90); 3. D. Third (1.0 Turner-BMC). **Fastest lap:** Napier, 66.4 s, 55.86 mph.

Saloons up to 1000 cc (10 laps): 1. A. J. Littlejohn (1.0 Mini-Cooper S), 10 m 55.6 s, 55.58 mph; 2. A. Fleming (1.0 Mini-Cooper S); 3. D. O. Stevenson (1.0 Mini-Cooper S). **Fastest lap:** Littlejohn, 61.2 s, 60.58 mph.

Saloons over 1000 cc, final (10 laps): 1. J. C. Graham (1.2 Singer Chamois), 10 m 37.6 s, 58.15 mph; 2. I. P. Geddes (1.3 Mini-Cooper S); 3. N. Hodgson (1.3 Mini-Cooper S). **Fastest lap:** Hodgson, 62.0 s, 59.81 mph.

Formule Libre (15 laps): 1. J. Millar (2.0 Brabham-BMW), 14 m 40.3 s, 63.18 mph; 2. A. Charnell (1.65 Lola-Ford T55); 3. W. Forbes (5.0 Lola-Chevrolet T142). **Fastest lap:** Millar, 55.0 s, 67.42 mph.

Sports Tune handicap for saloons (15 laps): 1. E. Paterson (850 Mini), 14 m 54.8 s, 53.87 mph; 2. D. O. Stevenson (1.0 Mini-Cooper S); 3. J. Pinkerton (1.1 Mini-Cooper S). **Fastest lap:** A. J. Littlejohn (1.0 Mini-Cooper S), 62.8 s, 59.04 mph.



In the small saloon races E. Paterson (50) and J. Hannah in Minis provided the best dice. As they round West Gate, Alister Heggie's Imp can be seen in the background.