

Hot competition at Ingliston

Scottish MRC meeting opens the season north of the Border

By BILL HENDERSON

THE opening meeting at Ingliston organized by the Scottish Motor Racing Club was held last Sunday in weather which ranged from flurries of snow to brilliant sunshine, backed up always by a teeth-chattering east wind, which in no way deterred the large attendance of spectators, who were kept glowing with excitement, particularly by the somewhat doubtful tactics of some saloon drivers.

The main event, a 50-lapper for the Edinburgh Students Charities Cup, was run in two 25-lap heats. The first was by far the more interesting, as it started in snow and witnessed the spectacle of Andrew Fletcher giving an impressive drive through the field to make amends for a temperamental motor from a start line pole position, to finish third ahead of more powerful machinery. Willie Forbes set the pace, giving his Lotus-BMW its first outing, after he overhauled D. Preston (Brabham 1,594 cc) on lap two, but was not allowed to slacken, as Bill Stein kept the Ecosse-Climax in the Aberdeen driver's mirrors. Jock Russell once more campaigning his Russell-Ford forced it through to fourth behind Fletcher as the drying track allowed him to pour on more power.

Stein pulled out all the stops at the start of the second heat to head Forbes and to finally win by 2 secs, with D. Preston (Brabham) a secure third after both Fletcher and Russell disappeared early on. R. Knight (Lotus 23B) this time turned the tables on J. B. Fletcher (Cooper twin-cam), the latter taking fourth on aggregate by just over one second.

The opening event proved a runaway win for Bill Borrowman in his Orange Box 1 from Seton Mains, but a no-quarrier squabble between Andy Barton's very scruffy but fast Minor and A. I. Robertson's yellow Imp lasted to the finish. K. Miller looked as if he might break up this trio, had he not rather overcooked things on the first two laps and Gerry Birrell's Perdal Chamois objected to this baptism, having only turned its wheels for the first time at practice.

The "big" Minis and saloons in the over 1,200 cc class had a welcome visit from Harry Ratcliffe in the Vitafoam Mini and Phil de Banks (Anglia 1650) who proceeded to give the local lads a shock, bagging first and second spots despite all Tom Christie could do with his 1275 Mini-Cooper S. D. N. Smith (1275 Mini-Cooper S) held fourth, but was chased by W. F. Heaney in the Downton 1400 Mini-Cooper S who

slashed his way through taking to the lawn on one occasion, while L. Paladini (1275 Mini-Cooper S) kept Ronnie and Logan Morrison at bay with his antics at Shepherds Bend.

By comparison the 10-lapper for over 1,200 cc sports cars was quiet, when Bill Dryden in the Nick Cuthbert Elan slotted into a secure lead, but Sandy McCracken and John Lepp in Elans provided the spectacle, after first R. Scott (Elva-BMW) and then J. Watson (Crosslé) vacated second place.

The second race for up to 1,200 cc saloons followed a similar pattern when J. W. Pinkerton stormed his lightened A40 into first place from the off, leaving G. Carr (997 cc Mini-Cooper) a lonely second. R. C. Little (997 cc Anglia) scattered the marshals at Shepherds, but J. Fewell, J. A. J. Currie and R. J. S. Haining circulated their Minis information until the last-named decided to better his position at half-distance to third. Peter Henderson and H. M. Waddington held their peace until the former overtook, in front of the new Shepherd's stand, taking Waddington's Mini with him as they contacted.

John Nicholson led off the up to 1,200 cc sports class with the Lotus 23B, much to the discomfort of Bill Turnbull, whose LWS had annexed pole position, and J. Corfield (Diva GT). Both made a bid and surprisingly Nicholson slowed on lap five, to let them through at Merchants, the Diva harrying the special until it moved up to lead on the penultimate lap while Andy Barton from a back-row start hurled his Mini-Marcos up into fourth place in spite of some unorthodox cornering lines, including use of the crash barrier around Merchants on the final lap.

The up to 1,200 cc racing class next took the track for 15 laps, but Andrew Fletcher's Brabham had the edge on J. S. Calvert, while J. Millar made it three for Brabham by trouncing local driver Andy Goodfellow (Cooper FJ).

Then followed a real carve-up as the 12 fastest saloons were let loose, with Tom Christie hurling his Mini after Phil de Banks' Anglia with Harry Ratcliffe, Ronnie and

Logan Morrison in close attendance, so close one could not say who was where, until D. N. Smith and the de Banks Anglia waltzed at Gardners', only Christie passed through unscathed leaving Ronnie Morrison and a somewhat tattered Vitafoam car disputing second place until the latter got past by taking to the bank coming out of Gardners'. Bill Borrowman won fourth in his 999 cc Mini after this mêlée and J. W. Pinkerton (Austin A40) kept Logan Morrison (1275 Mini-Cooper S) at bay until the last lap.

The meeting ended on a slightly quieter note as John Milne howled his Dick Jacobs bodied Midget well ahead of the duelling open Midgets of A. W. Hutchinson and D. D. Carmichael. T. N. Thomgan (Sprite) unsuccessfully tried to take fourth from the Sprite of T. Walkinshaw.

RESULTS

Saloons up to 1,200 cc (10 laps): 1, W. Borrowman (Mini-Cooper S), 54.48 mph; 2, A. A. Barton (Morris Minor); 3, A. I. Robertson (Imp). **Fastest lap:** Borrowman, 56.76 mph. **Edinburgh Students Charities Cup (50 laps, two 25-lap heats):** 1, W. Stein (Ecosse-Climax), 34 m 44.6 s; 2, W. Forbes (Lotus-BMW); 3, D. Preston (Brabham). **Fastest lap:** Forbes and Stein, 70.15 mph. **Saloons over 1,200 cc (10 laps):** 1, H. W. Ratcliffe (Mini-Cooper S), 62.78 mph; 2, P. de Banks (Anglia); 3, T. B. D. Christie (Mini-Cooper S). **Fastest lap:** Ratcliffe, 64.23 mph. **Sports Cars over 1,200 cc (10 laps):** 1, W. N. A. Dryden (Elan), 64.07 mph; 2, J. Lepp (Elan); 3, S. McCracken (Elan). **Fastest lap:** Dryden and McCracken, 65.45 mph. **Saloons up to 1,200 cc (10 laps), second heat:** 1, J. W. Pinkerton (Austin A40), 57.55 mph; 2, G. Carr (Mini-Cooper); 3, R. J. S. Haining (Mini-Cooper). **Fastest lap:** Pinkerton, 59.9 mph. **Sports cars up to 1,200 cc (10 laps):** 1, J. Corfield (Diva GT); 2, W. J. Turnbull (LWS); 3, J. Nicholson (Lotus 23B). **Racing Cars up to 1,200 cc (15 laps):** 1, A. D. T. Fletcher (Brabham F3), 66.47 mph; 2, J. S. Calvert (Brabham F3); 3, J. Millar (Brabham F3). **Fastest lap:** Fletcher, 68.06 mph. **Fastest Saloons, Hartley Whyte Championship (10 laps):** 1, T. B. D. Christie (Mini-Cooper S), 61.31 mph; 2, H. W. Ratcliffe (Mini-Cooper S); 3, R. F. Morrison (Mini-Cooper S). **Fastest lap:** Christie, 63.04 mph. **Marque Cars up to 1,200 cc (10 laps):** 1, J. E. Milne (Midget), 58.45 mph; 2, A. W. Hutchinson (Sprite); 3, D. D. Carmichael (Midget). **Fastest lap:** Milne, 60.53 mph.

ANDY BARTON cornering literally on rails (below). TOM CHRISTIE leads Phil de Banks through Shepherds (bottom).

