INGLISTON

Roden browned off

AFTER its warm-up meeting in March, the Scottish MRC kicked off the season proper with a 10-race programme at Ingliston, supported by Austin Rover. The latter made its presence felt with demonstration lappery in a TWR Rover (Jeff Allam) and rally Metro 6R4 (Jimmy McRae and David Gillanders), plus round two of the Esso MG Metro Challenge, featuring Scottish Televison presenter and rally driver Mike Gower in the celebrity car.

Some 140 drivers entered the meeting, not including the local fire brigade, which received a hoax call saying that the MacRobert Pavilion, containing several dozen Austin Rover people and the gentlemen of the press, was blazing away merrily. This brought the sports car race to a halt four laps early, but apart from this and some cloth-headed behaviour in certain parts of the road car fields, it was generally an excellent meeting, with four lap records broken and one equalled.

A great deal of the record-altering was done in the first race, for the recently-formed modified saloon / sports car class. Ray MacDowall and Tom Bell had the race to themselves up front, the former's Sunbeam Lotus finally succumbing to nearly 11 laps of pressure from the latter's Chevette at Lefthander. After a long charge from the back of the field in his Caterham, Allan McGregor reached third on lap eight and finished there ahead of Bruce Lyle's Fiesta, the first 1600cc saloon home.

It took Andy Sim five laps to get to the front in the FF1600 heat with his JBMSL Reynard, but once there he pulled away steadily from early leader Geordie Taylor in his smart new Royale. Willie Rose retired on lap 10 with possible valve trouble in his Reynard, leaving third to Brian Gowans's PRS.

With 1,000 cc advantage over the rest of the field, Bill Paul's AC took an immediate and not unexpected lead in the GT race from Eric Munnoch's Davrian, which was overhauled by Ian Forrest's Drambuie Imp at Lefthander fifth time round. A lap later Paul briefly lost control and spent several seconds slithering over the grass at Arena, and shortly afterwards he dropped two places at Lefthander while trying to negotiate a backmarker. Forrest made valiant attempts to stay ahead, but Paul powered back into the lead at Southstand on lap nine.



DAVE CARVELL and Dave Loudon tussle for Metro honours.

Scotland's round of the Metro Challenge saw Dave Loudon in the lead for the first two laps before being passed by David Carvell at Arena next time round. Loudon dropped to fourth in the next few laps, letting local man Vic Covey fight it out for second with Chris Lewis. Covey held on until lap 11, when Lewis got past round the back of the circuit, and with Loudon still right up with them it was a nose-to tail finish between these three. Carvell having kept himself a steady two seconds in front of them over the last few laps.

John Fyda's lead in the Clubmans / sports car race lasted from the start line to the end of the Esses, where his Agra Vision V85 was overhauled by the Lowland Tyres V84 Kenny Allen. Eric Paterson followed in yet another Vision, with Les Duncan fourth in still another and Laurence Jacobsen's Chevron B61 comfortably the quickest sports car in fifth. Then came the fire brigade, and the results were taken from the end of lap eight in the above order.

There were shades of 1985 in the road saloons up to 1,600 cc event when Olly Ross planted the Ritchie Builders Fiesta firmly in the lead from pole. However, Iain Gardner hounded him for 10 laps in the Autofit 205 before diving through the slightly less than 205-sized gap inside Ross at Clock. After some door-banging, Gardner took the lead and finished just under a second in front, having taken a remarkable 0.6s off Bruce Lyle's three-week-old class record. Lyle himself was a little off his usual pace in third but well ahead of Alan Keith's Escort.

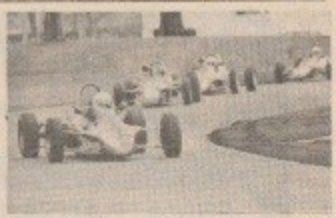
A slow start by Cameron Binnie in the FF1600 final gave Roy Low the chance to lead for a lap in his Lola, but Binnie had his new Van Diemen back in front early on lap two. Harvey Gillanders kept in touch throughout with his Van Diemen, pulling away from Andy Sim who had passed Brian Gowans for fourth at the hairpin on lap six.

Stuart Gray scored his second road sports car win in as many races this year with his immaculate Caterham 7. Allan McGregor, also 7-mounted, was just half a second down on Gray when he spun wildly at Clock on lap two and restarted 12th. Graham McCallum took over second place in the Strata Bit Porsche and eased away from Keith Scott's Dutton.

Only Reynard drivers Tom Brown and Stewart Roden looked entirely happy throughout the wet-and-dry FF2000 race, though it was third-placed Campbell Chisolm who set the fastest lap in his Van Diemen. The two leaders were rarely more than a couple of lengths apart, but Brown held on to the finish in a car he had not had time to test, since engine and chassis had met only a couple of days previously.

The over 1600 cc road saloons race lost a lot of its appeal in practice, when Ian Bruce's Sunbeam Lotus blew up, leaving Hugh Chalmers with an apparently clear run in the Ecurie Ecosse Chevette. In fact, the car was not in the best of health, with the propshaft "beginning to resonate" more than usual right from the start, but Chalmers managed to take a 10th off his own record before easing off slightly towards the finish. The long-running Ray MacDowall / Tom Bell confrontation continued from race one, and this time it was MacDowall's turn to cross the line first after passing Bell at the hairpin on lap nine.

D.F.



ANDY SIM scored another FF1600 win in his Reynard.

Modified Saloon / Sports Cars — 12 laps: 1, T. Bell (2.3 Vauxhall Chevette), 11m 32.3s (64.27 mph); 2, R. MacDowall (2.2 Sunbeam Lotus); 3, A. McGregor (1.6 Caterham 7); 4, B. Lyle (1.6 Ford Fiesta). Saloons over 1600 cc: 1, Bell; 2, MacDowall; 3, R. Sarafilovic (2.2 Sunbeam Lotus). Fastest lap: Bell and MacDowall, 56.7s (65.40 mph) (equals record). Saloons up to 1600 cc: 1, Lyle, 12m 03.2s (60.19 mph); 2, O. Ross (1.6 Ford Fiesta); 3, I. Gardner (1.6 Peugeot 205). Fastest lap: Lyle, 58.9s (62.95 mph) (record). Sports cars: 1, McGregor, 12m 02.0s (61.63 mph). Fastest lap: McGregor, 58.7s (63.17 mph) (record).

FF1600 Heat — 12 laps: 1, A. Sim (Reynard), 10m 48.5s (68.61 mph); 2, G. Taylor (Royale RP33); 3, B. Gowans (PRS RI80); 4, D. Butcher (Reynard 85FF); 5, A. McPherson (Crossle 55F); 6, F. Greenwood (Van Diemen RF82). Fastest lap: Sim, 52.5s (70.63 mph).

GT Cars — 12 laps: 1, B. Paul (2.0 AC3000ME), 10m 26.2s (71.62 mph); 2, I. Forrest (1.0 Drambuie Imp); 3, E. Munnoch (1.0 Davrian Mk8); 4, R. Gauld (1.0 Davrian Mk8). Over 1000 cc: 1, Paul. Fastest lap: Paul, 50.7s (73.14 mph). Up to 1000 cc: 1, Forrest, 10m 28.2s (70.83 mph); 2, Munnoch; 3, Gauld. Fastest lap: Forrest, 51.3s (72.28 mph).

MG Metros — 12 laps: 1, D. Carvell, 11m 46.2s (63.01 mph); 2, C. Lewis; 3, V. Covey; 4, D. Loudon; 5, P. Baldwin; 6, P. Manser. Fastest lap: Carvell, 57.3s (64.71 mph).

Sports and Clubmans Cars — shortened to 8 laps: 1, K. Allen (1.7 Vision V84), 6m 24.7s (77.11 mph); 2, J. Fyda (1.7 Vision V85); 3, E. Paterson (1.7 Vision V85); 4, L. Duncan (1.7 Vision). Clubmans A: 1, 6Allen; 2, Fyda; 3, Paterson. Fastest lap: Allen, 47.0s (78.89 mph). Clubmans B: 1, F. Lethbridge (1.6 Mallock Mk25B). Fastest lap: Lethbridge, 54.1s (68.54 mph). Sports Cars: 1, L. Jacobsen (2.0 Chevron B16); 2, A. Graham (1.7 Mallock Mk20); 3, K. Bowmaker (2.0 Lola 492). Fastest lap: Jacobsen, 49.4s (75.06 mph) and Scottish Fire Brigade (Green Goddess).

Road Saloons up to 1600 cc — 12 laps: 1, I. Gardner (1.6 Peugeot 205), 12m 06.1s (61.28 mph); 2, O. Ross (1.6 Ford Fiesta); 3, B. Lyle (1.6 Ford Fiesta); 4, A. Keith (1.6 Ford Escort); 5, J. Irvine (1.6 VW Golf GTi); 6, J. Fleming (1.6 Toyota Celica). Fastest lap: Gardner, 58.8s (63.06 mph) (record).

FF1600 Final — 12 Laps: 1, C. Binnie (Van Diemen), 10m 34.3s (70.16 mph); 2, R. Low (Lola 644E); 3, H. Gillanders (Van Diemen RF85); 4, A. Sim (Reynard); 5, G. Wilson (PRS); 6, C. Birkbeck (Van Diemen). Fastest lap: Binnie, 52.0s (71.31 mph).

Road Sports Cars — 12 Laps: 1, S. Gray (1.6 Caterham 7), 12m 09.3s (61.01 mph); 2, G. McCallum (2.7 Porsche 911); 3, K. Scott (1.6 Dutton Phaeton S2); 4, T. McCallum (3.5 Triumph TR7 V8). Over 1600cc: 1, G. McCallum, 12m 12.7s (60.73 mph); 2, Scott; 3, T. McCallum. Fastest lap: Scott, 59.4s (62.42 mph). Up to 1600cc: 1, Gray; 2, E. Chester (1.6 Dutton Phaeton); 3, S. Frost (1.6 Lotus Elan). Fastest lap: Gray, 58.4s (63.49 mph).

FF2000 — 12 Laps: 1, T. Brown (Reynard 86SF), 11m 17.1s (65.72 mph); 2, S. Roden (Reynard); 3, C. Chisolm (Van Diemen RF82); 4, S. McEwen (Royale 86); 5, N. Cochrane (Reynard SF86); 6, K. McCormick (Van Diemen RF83). Fastest lap: Chisolm, 51.4s (72.14 mph).

Road Saloons Over 1600cc — 12 Laps: 1, H. Chalmers (2.3 Vauxhall Chevette), 11m 54.1s (62.31 mph); 2, R. MacDowall (2.2 Sunbeam Lotus); 3, T. Bell (2.3 Vauxhall Chevette); 4, H. Fowler (3.0 Ford Capri); 5, A. Jeffrey (1.4 Renault 5GT Turbo); 6, R. Stahl (2.0 Ford Escort). Fastest lap: Chalmers, 57.8s (64.15 mph) (record).