

GLORIOUS weather heralded the first national meeting organized by the Scottish MRC at the short Ingliston circuit last Sunday. The sunshine brought forth a large colourfully dressed crowd to witness the main trophies being lifted by visitors from England and Ireland, Peter Gethin gaining the SMT Trophy with the Ron Harris Formula 2 Lotus, while Freddie Heaney trounced the local hot rods in his Downton 1400 cc Mini-Cooper S which he drives to and from the circuits.

Excitement ran high from event one, for special GT cars up to 1200 cc, when John Corfield made a picture start with his Diva GT, shooting ahead of Andy Barton (Mini-Marcos), with local driver John Milne (MG Midget) in hot pursuit and being shadowed by Geoff Crossley (Lotus 11 GT). With the demise of Barton on lap 8 the Milne/Crossley duel hotted up but the Glasgow restaurateur held on to cross the line fractionally ahead, but well behind the flying Corfield.

Excitement continued at fever pitch with the first 25-lap heat for the SMT Trophy, especially when E. A. Powrie led off with his Brabham with the fancied men John Cardwell and Peter Gethin bounding him in the F2 Ron Harris Lotuses. Willie Forbes had a poor start in his Lotus-BMW 35 and had to work his way through the field from ninth place. In attempting to take Powrie, Cardwell shot off on the inside at Shepherd's whereupon Jock Russell piled on the pressure to snatch first place at Gardiners after which Powrie disappeared. Willie Forbes next took up the cudgels and set about Jock Russell but he was not to be hustled and held his line on the corner so that Forbes shot off at Shepherds. Cardwell and Gethin now were circulating together while Forbes rejoined after a pit stop, but no one could deprive the happy Jock from his triumph as Gethin and Cardwell filled second and third places.

The fire rather went out of the second heat when Jock Russell lost his clutch on the grid, and Gethin rushed off into the lead but Willie Forbes was not having this on his home circuit, and hustled through on the inside at Shepherds. The two Ron Harris cars kept station with Gethin towing Cardwell until the former spun on lap 15 when mixed up with back markers,

The first Ingliston National

By BILL HENDERSON

but restarted in third place. Forbes was never headed and ran out a comfortable winner, but Gethin's third place gained him the SMT Trophy.

Despite a mass of non-starters, the over-1200 cc saloon class 12-lapper left the crowd gasping, as F. Heaney, making fastest practice time with his Mini-Cooper S, pushed Graham Birrell around in the Peralda Anglia, but the Glasgow man just would not give. Davy Muter was a lonely third in his 1293 Mini-Cooper S but fourth position was forever in dispute, Sandy McCracken in his Elan-engined Anglia holding the biggest stake but having Duncan Fisher's rather tatty Cortina apparently hooked to his rear bumper while Tom Christie ran an unhappy race after a practice prang.

The event for Special GT cars over 1200 cc was a disappointment after practice excitement, since Chris Meek dropped out with the Ginetta G12 after one lap, leaving Bill Dryden in the Elan leading a procession of 12 laps. Only excitement was on lap 10 when Ernest Blackadder (Elan) lost a wheel at Merchant's in a duel with John Barton's Ginetta G12 for third place.

The King Hussein Trophy must have been as big a disappointment for His Majesty and entourage as to the spectators, due to the large number of non-starters—but Peter Gethin in the Sports Motors Brabham F3 made a race of it after spinning early on to let John Calvert's similar car lead till half-distance. Thereafter the pair did a high-speed tour with John Millar

some distance in arrears making it a Brabham benefit.

The small saloons next provided some uplift with Gerry Birrell storming his Peralda Chamois off as is his wont, but Bill Borrowman bombed his 999 Mini-Cooper S through on lap 6, while the duel for third could be covered with the proverbial handkerchief in the order Alistair Robertson (Imp), Ron McCutcheon (999 S) and Jimmy Fewell (999 S).

The Hartley Whyte Championship race for the 12 fastest saloons completed the programme as the lack of entries for the Formula 4 event did not justify a race. In this 15-lapper Graham Birrell renewed his duel with the Eire driver Freddie Heaney but the latter had his eye in and slammed through to the front while Gerry Birrell (Peralda Chamois) held off Davy Muter (1293 S) till the end but only just.

RESULTS

Special GT cars up to 1200 cc (12 laps): 1, J. Corfield (Diva GT), 8 m 48.4 s, 62.13 mph; 2, J. E. Milne (MG Midget); 3, G. Crossley (Lotus 11 GT). **Fastest lap:** Corfield, 63.61 mph. **SMT Trophy race, heat 1 (25 laps):** 1, J. Russell (Russell-Ford), 17 m 7.6 s; 2, P. Gethin (Lotus F2); 3, J. Cardwell (Lotus F2). **Fastest lap:** W. Forbes (Lotus-BMW 35), 39.16 s, 69.97 mph. **Heat 2 (25 laps):** 1, W. Forbes (Lotus-BMW 35), 16 m 54 s, 67.45 mph; 2, J. Cardwell (Lotus F2); 3, P. Gethin (Lotus F2). **Fastest lap:** Forbes 39.6 s, 69.09 mph. **Overall 50 laps:** 1, P. Gethin (Lotus F2), 34 m 37.8 s; 2, J. Cardwell (Lotus F2); 3, W. Forbes (Lotus-BMW 35); 4, A. Good-fellow (Cooper-Ford). **Saloons over 1200 cc (12 laps):** 1, Graham Birrell (Peralda Anglia), 8 m 45.6 s, 62.46 mph; 2, W. J. P. Heaney (1400 Mini-Cooper); 3, D. J. Muter (Mini-Cooper S 1293). **Fastest lap:** Birrell and Heaney, 63.63 mph. **Special GT over 1200 cc (12 laps):** 1, W. N. A. Dryden (Lotus Elan), 8 m 23.8 s, 65.16 mph; 2, J. H. Blades (Ginetta G4); 3, J. Barton (Ginetta G12). **Fastest lap:** Dryden, 66.73 mph. **Racing cars up to 1000 cc (25 laps):** 1, P. Gethin (Brabham F3), 7 m 5.6 s; 2, J. S. Calvert (Brabham F3); 3, J. McIar (Brabham F3). **Fastest lap:** Gethin, 69.09 mph (new record). **Saloons up to 1200 cc (12 laps):** 1, W. Borrowman (Mini-Cooper 999), 8 m 58 s, 61.02 mph; 2, Gerry Birrell (Singer Chamois); 3, A. Robertson (Hillman Imp). **Fastest lap:** Borrowman and Birrell, 62.32 mph. **Hartley Whyte Championship (15 laps):** 1, W. J. P. Heaney (1400 Mini-Cooper S), 11 m 5.4 s, 61.62 mph; 2, Graham Birrell (Ford Anglia); 3, Gerry Birrell (Singer Chamois). **Fastest lap:** Heaney, 43.3 s, 63.19 mph.