INGLISTON

Brave new world

Under its 'new' manager, former racer turned promoter Tom Brown, the 'new-look' Ingliston had a new covered spectator enclosure to replace the long since demolished grandstand. It also had a kart track, a rally car simulator, helicopter rides and 'bungy' jump from a crane jib, 150 feet about the circuit. Oh, and it also had some motor racing.

Unfortunately, a date clash with Doune hillclimb had reduced the entry to just 60 cars and the six race programme lacked the necessary sparkle and spectator appeal. However, the successful running of this first race meeting of the season did serve to confound Brown's critics who expressed pre-season fears about the future of Ingliston as a motor racing circuit.

The **Formula Ford Junior series** was combined with the **Senior** category to produce a full 18 car grid for the first race. Although only third quickest in practice, following an overnight engine swap after blowing up his race unit on Saturday, Louis Di Resta made an excellent start from the second row. His Van Diemen was tacked on to poleman Jim Forsyth's gearbox going into the Esses. For the next 10 laps Di Resta was rarely more than inches from Forsyth's Van Diemen but going into the right handed Caravan, Forsyth missed a gear and Di Resta shot past under braking. Di Resta was followed through by Colin Low, Stuart Thorburn and David Taylor before Forsyth recovered to salvage an embarrassed 5th place.

Top Junior was peter Mabon in sixth place having a great tussle with Bryan Gowans before Gowans spun out of contention on lap six and was replaced by Geordie Taylor. Mabon held him off till the flag with Scott Ramsay, second placed Junior ahead of Gowans.

A mixed bag of nine **Saloons** appeared for the second race but Richard Dobson's Galloway Motors Citroen AX never looked like being beaten, never mind caught. James Ritchie's Prossers Vauxhall Nova gave vain chase followed in turn by Warren Dunbar's Escort and the only threat of an overtaking manoeuvre here happened at the mid way point when Ritchie's Nova half spun at the hairpin cocking a front leg on the inside banking. Dunbar's Escort almost caught him, but the rear wheel drive Escort was no match for the front wheel drive machines on the wet, greasy surface.

Only seven cars turned out for the **Kit Cars and Road Sports** race where once again the race winner had an easy time, Neil Gammie's Westfield easily maintaining a safe gap from the enthusiastically driven Porsche 911 of Ken Thomson, not an easy feat on the wet track.

Olly Ross had an equally convincing win in the **1600cc Road Saloon** race, the Racetrax/Bruno's Vauxhall Nova demonstrating a fair degree of superiority in wet conditions. Robert Mitchell's Ford Fiesta was second over the opening laps but Ian Hay was quickly past in his similar car and established a safe second position behind the fast disappearing Ross.

As far as winning margins go, few can touch Ron Cumming. The black Custom Office Furniture Lancia Stratos is in a class of its own around Ingliston regardless of track conditions. At the chequered flag he was almost 40 seconds clear of Alaster Cunningham's Opel Manta, that equates to two thirds of a mile in 12 laps. As for the rest of the **GT Cars, Mod-Saloons and Clubmans** assortment, Mike Upton was third in his Mallock 20B ahead of Bill Carr's until Neil Fisher's Imp demoted the Mallock 16 to 5th.

Only eight **Citroen 2CVs** made it to the start line for their own one make final race, but it was fun while it lasted. The evenly matched 602cc machines looked almost like a real race run in slow motion with all the passing manoeuvres conducted at a leisurely pace and yet the competition was quite fierce. From the start, Graham Harper split the front row as they headed three abreast into the Esses before sorting themselves out. Harper then led all the way but was harried mercilessly by Nicholas Runcie who was never more than a lick of paint from Harper's bumper.

Behind them, the action was equally fierce with the underpowered machines often running two abreast through the corners, passing in places that defied their higher powered brethren. Cameron Ritchie finished third but only after Andrew Timpson had removed himself from the fray by spinning and allowing Norman Taylor to grab fourth.

J.F.

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Formula Ford 1600 Race - 12 laps: 1, L.di Resta (Van Diemen RF92) 12m 11.71s (60.81mph); 2, C.Low (Swift); 3, S.Thorburn (Reynard 89FF); 4, D.Taylor (Van Diemen RF91); 5, J.Forsyth (Van Diemen); 6, P.Mabon (Van Diemen RF87). Fastest lap: Low 59.96s (61.84mph).

Road Saloons Race - 12 laps: 1, R.Dobson (Citroën AX Sport) 12m 59.92s (57.05mph); 2, J.Ritchie (Vauxhall Nova); 3, W.Dunbar (Ford Escort); 4, A.McKinna (Vauxhall Nova); 5, G.White (Vauxhall Nova); 6, J.Patrick (Colvend Mini). Class winners: Dobson, Dunbar, C.Campbell (Vauxhall Astra) and D.Hastings (Hillman Imp). Fastest laps: Ritchie 1m 03.79s (58.13mph); Dunbar 1m 04.77s (57.25mph); Campbell 1m 09.72s (53.18mph); Hastings 1m 06.35s (55.89mph).

Kit Cars and Road Sports Cars - 12 laps: 1, N.Gammie (Westfield SEi) 13m 09.91s (56.33mph); 2, K.Thomson (Porsche 911); 3, J.Grant (Lotus Elan); 4, D.Muse (Sylva Striker); 5, A.Simmers (Westfield); no other finishers. Class winners: Gammie, Thomson and Grant. Fastest laps: Gammie 1m 04.77s (57.25mph); Thomson 1m 04.61s (57.39mph); Grant 1m 05.43s (56.67mph).

Road Saloons up to 1600cc - 12 laps: 1, O.Ross (Vauxhall Nova) 13m 17.19s (55.82mph); 2, I.Hay (Ford Fiesta XR2); 3, R.Mitchell (Ford Fiesta XR2); 4, R.Sarafilovic (Ford Fiesta XR2); 5, B.Ewing (Ford Fiesta); 6, M.Spiers (Hillman Avenger). Class winners: Ross and Spiers. Fastest laps: Mitchell 1m 02.94s (58.91mph); Spiers 1m 06.61s (55.67mph).

GT Cars, Modified Saloons, Sports Racing and Clubmans Cars - 12 laps: 1, R.Cumming (Lancia Stratos) 11m 31.06s (64.39mph); 2, A.Cunningham (Opel Manta); 3, M.Upton (Mallock Mk.20B); 4, N.Fisher (Hillman Imp); 5, W.Carr (Mallock Mk.16); 6, E.Beerman (Skoda Coupe). Class winners: Cumming, Cunningham, Upton, Fisher and Carr. Fastest laps: Cumming 55.72s (66.55mph); Cunningham 59.34s (62.49mph); Upton 1m 03.62s (58.28mph); Fisher 1m 02.30s (59.52mph); Carr 1m 04.94s (57.10mph).

Citroën 2CV Race - 10 laps: 1, G.Harper 13m 04.70s (47.25mph); 2, N.Runcie; 3, C.Ritchie; 4, N.Taylor; 5, A.Timpson; 6, A.McGregor. Fastest lap: Runcie 1m 17.06s (48.12mph).