

The Essex Endurance Championship

Round 1 Report

It's 3:34pm and finally Team Bowen arrive, late, driving into the carpark like Miss Daisy!

This was clearly a sign of things to come from the *Bowen Boys!*

The grid was full with 15 teams lining up for round 1 of the Essex Endurance Championship which meant we could start focusing on different off track items; as a result we are treated with having Brentwood Boy and professional racing driver Ben Green's BMW M6 GT3 in the viewing area. Ben races in the British GT Championship, however today was going to be his most important race to date as he partnered with Rotax race ace Lewis Deacon and Mr InstakartPhotography himself, The Cornish, Canadian, Semi Professional racing driver Jody Emmerson (Jody likes a good introduction!!)



Anyway, with the briefing done and drivers ready, we now had the task of hearing all the names each team had decided upon! You would have thought that after weeks of waiting for round 1 there would be some exciting, hilarious team names, but you would have been wrong!

I believe the best name was the returning Cilit Bangers whereas team SK Racing and SJ Racing used all the imagination of a dead rat with SK being drivers Stef and Kye and SJ being drivers Sam and Jagjeet!!??

10 minutes of qualifying started before the 2 hour race and it didn't take long for team CLA Media to smash in the pole position time of 35.463 whereas Dan Lee's Donkeys stayed firmly at the back of the grid with a lap time of 40.727. They may be donkeys but that time is a little off the pace, 5 seconds away from pole position. CLA Media's time at the top was short lived as SJ Racing pulled up their socks and pipped them to pole position by 0.05 of a second!



Qualifying Results:

SJ Racing: 35.411
CLA Media: 35.463
Electric Boys: 35.533
SK Racing: 35.640
Essex Elite: 35.864
Rich Energy Racing: 36.015
We LOVE Dan: 36.149
Cilit Bangers: 36.231
MAST: 36.455
Senna's Disciples: 36.494
Hulkenbergs Heros: 36.541
Team Maldon: 37.163
Bowen Boys: 37.227
BW Racing Team: 37.332
Dan Lee's Donkeys: 40.727

As Dan Lee's Donkey's driver Ben Green Racing lined himself up on the final grid position, we were ready to get things underway!

Green Lights! GO

The Electric Boy, Charlie Bailey hit 2000 volts immediately as they passed both SJ Racing and CLA Media and filled 1st place before the end of lap 1!

Charlie's clearly had his breakfast.

Another driver on the move was 15th placed Dan Lee's Donkey's driver, Ben Green: A kart change after qualifying proved his original kart had all the power of an asthmatic snail!

After lap 1 Ben had jumped 9 places and was in a solid 6th position banging on the Cilit Bangers bumper bolts!



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Minutes into the race and we already have our first pitstop!

All teams must pit twice and with most teams having 2 drivers this means a "Kart run-around" is needed. Team Maldon (have a guess where they live?) driver and Le Mans 24 Hour race winner, Rob Smith, pitted, performed his run-around before returning to the circuit in clear air. 35.171 is an impressive lap time for a "gentleman" driver.

The Electric Boy's had some unwelcome company; CLA Media started breathing down their neck like the fat kid in the Izumi queue!

The gap back to 3rd placed started to grow and grow as the top two pulled clear!

The Bowen Boys soon found themselves in a battle with MAST for the unwanted position of “Not Last”.

The Bowen Boys had the upper hand at the start until our only lady driver, Abbey Foss buckled in for the ride!

Comfortable lap times in the 35 seconds secured The Bowen Boys fate; they didn't help themselves much by returning to the pit lane to see no driver ready for a driver change.

The Bowen Boy's weren't alone in the unnecessary journey to the pit lane as Hulkenberg fan Jonathan Seeking's appeared to enjoy the trips through the pit lane to see pit marshal Kevo on more than one occasion.

BW Racing team were my “**Team Of The Day**”. Both drivers, Joshua Williams and Luke Templeton are Brentwood Rookies, but were currently holding 7th place and setting consistent lap times in the 35.1's creating a severe headache for Brentwood 'Hotshots' Harry East and Ryan Mills, the Rich Energy Boys.

Team, **We LOVE Dan**, of course, didn't choose that team name, (but I prefer it so it's here to stay) found a permanent shadow, Senna's Disciples!

Senna's Disciples should be the happiest team on the track as they were racing as a heavyweight team and being the only heavyweight team they had already won their class!

Drivers James Alford and Matt (don't know his surname) despite already taking Heavyweight glory began setting lap times fast enough to rival the most anorexic of drivers throwing in lap times in the mid 35 seconds!



SJ Racing's pole position may not have lasted long and with the front 2 beginning to enter a league of their own soon they had SK Racing, The Cilit Bangers and The Essex Elite as their rivals for the final podium position.

Essex Elite's drivers, Popeye himself and the always so bloody fast Jack Goldsmith were always going to be a team worth keeping a close eye on and they remained top three contenders throughout the race. Popeye's lap time of a 35.2 was matched by teammate Jack resulting in them always being a thorn in the side of SJ Racing. Stef took the reins after a solid performance from Kye and slowly but surely began to pull ever so slowly clear of Popeye, who despite tins and tins of spinach had no reply (FYI: Popeye is also known as Matt Hill)

Next up for team MAST was driver Simon Myall, who, after watching the competition got cold feet! For the hastily found replacement, Thomas Foss, now 10 laps down it was damage limitation & a job to keep clear of The Bowen Boys.

Rob Smith had a tea in one hand and used the other to flap wildly at son Sid Smith who was now behind the wheel of Team Maldon with The Rich Energy Boy in his sights and a top ten finish.

Back at the front CLA Media were in a position where the race was theirs to lose, 15 seconds clear of 2nd place Electric Boys and cutting through traffic, Harry Nottage started looking comfortable! But, it was time for the Big Man! Aaron Clark stepped up for the final stint for the Electric Boys!



Team, We REALLY REALLY LOVE Dan & lifelong fans of mine, had now broken free from another of my fan club, Dan Lee's Donkeys to be the Number 1 fans of Dan! Calm down chaps, calm down..

Anyway in Tyrese Fenton and Ethan Wood's attempt to be the apple of MY eye they had unfortunately fallen behind the pit lane cruisers, Hulkenberg's Hero's which was now piloted by Joe Crane.

Cilit Bangers began to look like the Cilit "Slowly Fizzing Awayers" as soon Popeye ripped off another tin top and set off in pursuit, the gap started shrinking and soon a 3 second advantage was two karts nose to tail! Popeye rolled up his sleeves and stole Cilit's 5th place!

Adam wasn't happy with his kart, pointing at the wheels flapping his arms and yelling like a seagull that's been struck by a car, but to be fair to him he had picked up some wear & tear in the race.



Chequered flag held aloft!

CLA Media's Harry Nottage punches the air as he crosses the line to collect maximum points and the fastest lap.

After over 200 laps the gap to second was very close!

Aaron Clark finished a great 2nd position, he did manage to reduce Harry's lead during his stint, but it wasn't enough to collect top spot.

Stef completed the podium for SK Racing.

- 4th: SJ Racing
- 5th: Essex Elite
- 6th: Cilit Bnagers
- 7th: BW Racing Team
- 8th: Rich Energy Racing
- 9: Team Maldon
- 10th: Hulkenberg's Heros
- 11th: We LOVE Dan
- 12th: Dan Lee's Donkeys
- 13: Senna's Disciples
- 14th: MAST
- 15: Bowen Boys



TO JOIN US AT THE NEXT ROUND BE SURE

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