

**2011**

**S & G Response Ford XR Challenge**

**Race report for: Round 1**

Oulton Park – 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2011

Championship Co-ordinator

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## Introduction

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Multiple XR Champion Mark Robinson has decided to join us again and he brought along his trusty immaculate XR2 having rebuilt various items on it over the winter months in between renovating his newly acquired home. Simon Sheridan and Steve Poole also brought along their immaculate XR2s, Simon having done the Friday test day found a problem with the cylinder head, and was kindly loaned a replacement by Steve Rowles. Steve Poole spent many long nights over the winter period rebuilding his XR2; Steve had also converted his van with

“state of the art” living accommodation for his family and himself. Peter Lancaster senior and junior were with us again with their ex Jason Hennefer XR2. XR3 Champion John Ifan-Jones and Fellow racer Terry Kellaher arrived with their XR3s, Terry having finished the season last year on a high was hoping for even better things this year, and John could not resist the temptation to race again with us this year. Mike “Flymo” Heath was hoping to find some fresh grass to cut this year in his XR2, Mike has convinced his cousin Ralph Fernihough to have a go this year, so Ralph was a very welcome newcomer to the championship with his XR2. Lee Shropshire who having sold his XR3 decided to see what it’s like to race in the XR2 class so he promptly purchased a car from Jason “Half Stig” Hennefer, unfortunately he had driveshaft problems prior to the qualifying session, but thankfully managed to sort them before the session. Greg Speight brought along his XR2, Greg now hoping to do all the rounds this year and improve on his results from last year. Another driver to swap class’s was Jason Hennefer who had purchased an unfinished XR3 race car project from the Lomas family,

Jason spending many hours finishing off the car to a high standard. Having done a couple of races last year Lee Bowron was back to have more fun in his XR3, Lee being another driver to have spent many hours burning the midnight oil getting his car ready for the first race. Another welcome newcomer Tony Rudd brought along his ex-Valley Motorsport XR2, this meeting was to be Tony’s first race meeting. Last but not least was Danny Leigh who had built a completely new XR3 over the winter period, Danny finishing the car late on the Friday night.



## Qualifying

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With uncertain weather conditions everyone decided that the rain would hold off, so 14 cars took to the track.

At the end of the session Mark Robinson managed to slot in a brilliant lap in at the end of the session to claim pole position from Simon Sheridan, Steve Poole and Peter Lancaster, John Ifan-Jones claimed pole position in the XR3 class from Terry Kellaher.

Danny Leigh had problems with a leaking oil cooler, and Lee Bowron lost most his water when the alternator pulley rubbed through a water hose.

Jason Hennefer had a couple of very hairy moments when this throttle jammed wide open which attracted 100% of Jason's attention to regain some sort of control, a very familiar smell was later found to be emitting from Jason's XR3!

## Race 1

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Prior to the race Lee Bowron discovered that the head gasket had blown so the and his helpers set about replacing the gasket only to discover that when the head had been removed it had been damaged beyond repair, so Simon Sheridan thankfully came to the rescue with a replacement. Again 14 cars lined up on the grid and from the lights it was Simon Sheridan who made it into Old Hall 1<sup>st</sup> with Mark Robinson, Steve Poole and Peter Lancaster in very close attendance with the rest of the field following through safely.

As the crossed the line for the first time Sheridan had slender lead over Poole and Robinson, Mark having lost another place to Steve at Lodge corner who now had his sights set on Simon, 4<sup>th</sup> was

Peter Lancaster from John Ifan-Jones, Terry Kellaheer, Mike Heath and Ralph Fernihough who was going very well in his first XR race, Danny Leigh retired after lap 1 with mechanical problems. Lap 3, and Sheridan still held the lead but Robinson was now back into 2<sup>nd</sup> spot and trying as hard as



possible to get past Sheridan into the lead but Simon was not having any of that, all other positions down the field remained the same. Lap 4 and the top 3 had now opened a gap to Peter Lancaster who had Ifan-Jones looking for a way past, Terry Kellaheer was 6<sup>th</sup> with Greg Speight not far behind, Mike Heath had a moment and dropped several places, and both Jason Hennefer and Lee Bowron retired with problems.

Lap 5, Sheridan and Robinson were nose to tail with Robinson still trying his very best to find a way past the well driven XR2 of

Sheridan, Steve Poole was now in a lonely 3<sup>rd</sup> spot having dropped away from the leading duo, Peter Lancaster was 4<sup>th</sup> but now with John Ifan-Jones trying to climb into the car with him, and further down the field Mike Heath and Greg Speight were having a brilliant battle for 7<sup>th</sup> place.

Lap 7 and Simon had managed to get a small gap between himself and Mark, Lee Shropshire's exhaust system was trying its very best to remove itself from Lee's XR2, eventually Lee had to retire from the race. As the flag dropped after 10 laps Simon Sheridan took a very well deserved and well



driven 1<sup>st</sup> XR victory from Mark Robinson who also drove a good race but couldn't find a way past the 'on form' Sheridan, Steve Poole was a lonely 3<sup>rd</sup> from Pete Lancaster who managed to keep John Ifan-Jones behind him, John taking an easy XR3 victory, The battle between Greg Speight and Mike Heath ended with Greg taking 6<sup>th</sup> place from Mike by a very small margin, their battle was one of the many highlights in the race. Terry Kellaheer claimed 8<sup>th</sup> from our two newcomers Ralph Fernihough and Tony Rudd.

**S&G Response Ford XR Challenge  
QUALIFYING - CLASSIFICATION**

POS	NO	CL	NAME	ENTRY	TIME	ON	LAPS	GAP	DIFF	MPH
1	69	A	Mark ROBINSON	Ford Escort XR3i	2:05.994	8	8			76.91
2	79	A	Simon SHERIDAN	Ford Fiesta XR2	2:07.257	6	6	1.263	1.263	76.15
3	66	A	Steve POOLE	Ford Fiesta XR2	2:07.622	5	8	1.628	0.365	75.93
4	3	A	Peter LANCASTER	Ford Fiesta XR2	2:08.729	7	8	2.735	1.107	75.28
5	1	B	John-Ifan JONES	Ford Escort XR3i	2:08.744	7	7	2.750	0.015	75.27
6	63	B	Terry KELLAHER	Ford Escort XR3i	2:09.251	8	8	3.257	0.507	74.98
7	18	A	Michael HEATH	Ford Fiesta XR2	2:09.689	5	8	3.695	0.438	74.72
8	33	B	Lee SHROPSHIRE	FORD XR	2:10.571	8	8	4.577	0.882	74.22
9	23	A	Greg SPEIGHT	FORD XR	2:12.284	6	8	6.290	1.713	73.26
10	8	A	Ralph FERNIHOUGH	Ford Fiesta XR2	2:12.652	6	6	6.658	0.368	73.05
11	21	B	Jason HENNEFER	Ford Escort XR3i	2:13.278	5	6	7.284	0.626	72.71
12	62	B	Lee BOWRON	Ford Escort XR3i	2:16.211	1	2	10.217	2.933	71.14
13	14	A	Tony RUDD	Ford Fiesta XR2	2:16.657	7	8	10.663	0.446	70.91
14	22	B	Danny LEIGH	Ford Escort XR3i	2:28.501	2	3	22.507	11.844	65.26

Oulton Park International Circuit Length = 2.6920 miles. Start: 11:24 End: 11:45 Weather / Track : Bright / Dry

**S&G Response Ford XR Challenge  
RACE 5 - CLASSIFICATION**

POS	NO	CL	NAME	ENTRY	LAPS	TIME	GAP	DIFF	MPH	BEST	ON
1	79	A	Simon SHERIDAN	Ford Fiesta XR2	10	21:15.086			76.00	2:06.087	6
2	69	A	Mark ROBINSON	Ford Fiesta XR2	10	21:15.773	0.687	0.687	75.96	2:06.415	3
3	66	A	Steve POOLE	Ford Fiesta XR2	10	21:26.207	11.121	10.434	75.34	2:06.310	3
4	3	B	Peter LANCASTER	Ford Fiesta XR2	10	21:46.096	31.010	19.889	74.20	2:08.481	2
5	1	A	John-Ifan JONES	Ford Escort XR3	10	21:49.974	34.888	3.878	73.98	2:08.350	5
6	23	A	Greg SPEIGHT	FORD XR	10	21:53.391	38.305	3.417	73.78	2:08.809	6
7	18	B	Michael HEATH	Ford Fiesta XR2	10	21:54.091	39.005	0.700	73.74	2:08.953	7
8	63	A	Terry KELLAHER	Ford Escort	10	21:58.309	43.223	4.218	73.51	2:09.518	9
9	8	A	Ralph FERNIHOUGH	Ford Fiesta XR2	10	22:28.506	1:13.420	30.197	71.86	2:10.862	5
10	14		Tony RUDD	Ford Fiesta XR2	10	23:12.102	1:57.016	43.596	69.61	2:16.366	10
DNF	33	B	Lee SHROPSHIRE	Ford Escort	8	18:48.693	2 laps	2 laps	68.69	2:09.953	5
DNF	62	B	Lee BOWRON	Ford Escort	2	4:55.137	8 laps	6 laps	65.67		
DNF	21	B	Jason HENNEFER	Ford Escort	2	4:59.647	8 laps	4.510	64.68		
DNF	22	B	Danny LEIGH	Ford Escort	0						
79	A		Simon SHERIDAN		6	2:06.087		76.86 mph		123.69 kph	
1	B		John-Ifan JONES		5	2:08.350		75.50 mph		121.51 kph	

# TROPHY AWARDS

## RACE ONE

### XR2

1<sup>st</sup> – Simon Sheridan

2<sup>nd</sup> – Mark Robinson

3<sup>rd</sup> – Steve Poole

### XR2 DRIVER OF THE DAY

Simon Sheridan

### XR3

John-Ifan Jones

**Terry Kellahe**

Terry Kellahe

### XR3 DRIVER OF THE DAY

**THE CROWN WINDOWS ACHIEVMENT AWARD**  
David Kyriacou for his hard work on Lee Bowron's XR3 on the day

**MPH CLOTHING PERFORMANCE AWARD**  
Greg Speight (3 places)

And many thanks to Chloe for her help with the trophy presentation.

## Ford XR Challenge - championship points table 2011

NAME/ROUNDS	ALL ROUNDS LESS TWO TO COUNT															
	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	R9	R10	R11	R12	R13	R14	R15	
	Oulton Park	Anglesey	Anglesey	Anglesey	Anglesey	Anglesey	Cadwell Park	Cadwell Park	Rockingham	Rockingham	Oulton Park	Anglesey	Anglesey	Anglesey	Oulton Park	
	02/04/2011	22/04/2011	23/04/2011	23/04/2011	23/05/2011	22/05/2011	04/06/2011	05/06/2011	06/07/2011	17/07/2011	01/08/2011	24/08/2011	25/09/2011	25/09/2011	01/10/2011	
Simon SHERIDAN	79	A	17	16												
Mark ROBINSON	69	A	15	14	1											
Steve POOLE	66	A	13	13												
Peter LANCASTER	3	A	12	12												
Greg SPEIGHT	23	A	11	11												
Michael HEATH	18	A	10	10												
Ralph FERMIHOUGH	8	A	9	9												
Tony RUDD	14	A	8	8												
Lee SHROPSHIRE	33	A	0	dnf												
	A	0														
	A	0														
John-Ifan JONES	1	B	18	16	1	1										
Terry KELLAHER	63	B	14	14												
Lee BOWRON	62	B	0	dnf												
Jason HENNEFER	21	B	0	dnf												
Danny LEIGH	22	B	0	dnf												
	B	0														
	B	0														
Qualified for racing			14													
Grid average to date			14													
Driver of Day	XR2															
Driver of Day	XR3															
MPH Clothing Award																
Free Draw - 22 to qual																

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