

2011

S & G Response Ford XR Challenge

Race report for: Rounds 7 & 8

Rockingham – 17th July 2011

Championship Co-ordinator

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Introduction



For the first time in its long and illustrious history the S&G Response Ford XR Challenge ventured south to Rockingham Motor Speedway near Corby, Northants. Every driver with the exception of Jason “Half Stig” Hennefer had not raced at Rockingham before, so Mark Robinson, Mike Heath and Peter Lancaster thought it would be a good idea to do the Friday test session to find which way the track went.

Other than the drivers who tested on the Friday, the rest of the competitors arrived late Friday or Saturday so they could spend a nice day relaxing or watching some racing, and also to get settled in to the Rockingham Garages on Saturday evening, and it must be said that when all the XRs had had lined themselves up inside it looked a brilliant sight to see all the gleaming cars under the lights, this

closeness of cars also brought with it a great atmosphere between the Drivers, Families and Guests. Just to round the evening off, one of our famous track walks was organised, this is an ideal opportunity for drivers who have not tested to see the track, talk to other drivers about the best lines and ideal overtaking places etc, but more importantly to see who by kicking the communal football hard enough could knock Steve Pooles head clean off his shoulders!!, thankfully nobody managed it.



Qualifying

Ralph Fernihough was back out with us, having now repaired his XR after the damage he received at Anglesey, John Ward liked the idea of doing Rockingham so he was out for the second time this year, Terry Kelleher's had his newly rebuilt "only to be used as a road car"!! XR3 after he wrote off his previous version at Anglesey, and for the first time this year Mark Edwards was with us in his MPH clothing sponsored XR2.



Sunday morning brought along windy and overcast weather for 17 S&G Ford XRs to get out onto Rockingham's "International Super Sportscar Circuit" for the start of their 20 minute session. Only 1 lap into the session and Pete Lancaster's rear offside stub axle broke thankfully without any more serious damage, both John-Ifan Jones and Terry Kelleher had fuel starvation problems. Also with problems was Ralph Fernihough who's engine was in the process of trying to eat every bearing that came into contact with the crankshaft, unfortunately the problem was terminal which ended Ralph's racing weekend. First visitor into the pits was John-Ifan Jones, John jumping out and checking underneath his car in an attempt to try and cure his fuel problem.

Greg Speight decided to see what would happen if he selected 2nd gear at 90mph!, anyway after he had scraped himself off the windscreen he realised it was not a good idea, this left him with a misfire and a great deal of work for his father to do in replacing numerous bent valves.

At the end of the session Mark Robinson claimed pole position by 1.789 seconds from Steve Poole, Simon Sheridan, Mike Heath, Jason Hennefer

who was the top XR3 and Tony Rudd who rounded off the top 6.



One for the caption competition ? nuff said







S & G Response Ford XR Challenge QUALIFYING - RACE 10 - CLASSIFICATION

POS	NO	CL	NAME	ENTRY	TIME	ON	LAPS	GAP	DIFF	MPH
1	69	A	Mark ROBINSON	Ford Fiesta XR2	1:40.344	8	10			69.59
2	66	A	Steve POOLE	Ford Fiesta XR2	1:42.133	8	10	1.789	1.789	68.38
3	79	A	Simon SHERIDAN	Ford Fiesta XR2	1:42.393	7	8	2.049	0.260	68.20
4	18	A	Michael HEATH	Ford Fiesta XR2	1:42.867	9	10	2.523	0.474	67.89
5	21	B	Jason HENNEFER	Ford Escort XR3i	1:43.272	7	10	2.928	0.405	67.62
6	14	A	Tony RUDD	Ford Fiesta XR2	1:44.286	10	10	3.942	1.014	66.96
7	8	A	Ralph FERNIHOUGH	Ford Fiesta XR2	1:44.773	3	5	4.429	0.487	66.65
8	23	A	Greg SPEIGHT	Ford Fiesta XR2	1:44.833	6	8	4.489	0.060	66.61
9	63	B	Terry KELLAHER	Ford Escort XR3i	1:44.886	7	7	4.542	0.053	66.58
10	22	B	Danny LEIGH	Ford Escort XR3i	1:44.987	10	10	4.643	0.101	66.52
11	77	B	Chris FLYNN	Ford Escort XR3i	1:45.071	10	10	4.727	0.084	66.46
12	13	B	Christopher NYLAN	Ford Escort XR3i	1:45.472	10	10	5.128	0.401	66.21
13	33	A	Lee SHROPSHIRE	Ford Fiesta XR2	1:46.369	4	8	6.025	0.897	65.65
14	1	B	John-Ifan JONES	Ford Escort XR3i	1:47.918	1	3	7.574	1.549	64.71
15	52	A	Mark EDWARDS	Ford Fiesta XR2	1:50.899	10	10	10.555	2.981	62.97
16	11	A	Jonathan WARD	Ford Fiesta XR2	1:55.124	9	9	14.780	4.225	60.66

These results are provisional until the conclusion of any judicial and technical matters.

Rockingham Int. Sportscar Circuit Length = 1.9400 miles. Start: 10:00 End: 10:21. Weather / Track : Bright / Dry

Race 1



Ralph Fernihough tried his best to repair the engine damage on his XR2, but after close inspection the damage was too great to be repaired in time, Derek Speight was busy repairing the engine damage to Greg's engine, and Peter Lancaster senior was busy replacing the broken axle on Peters XR2.

So with Ralph Fernihough and Greg Speight not lining up on the grid we only had 15 cars for race one, As the red lights came on both Mark Robinson and Steve Poole were determined to be the first into the Deene hairpin first, As the lights went out it was Robinson and Poole side by side all the way round turn 1, both Chris Flynn and Chris Nylan were both caught napping, both making bad starts.

Lap 1 and "Robbo" led the field from Sheridan who had out braked Poole into the hairpin, 4th was Mike Heath from Jason Hennefer (Leading XR3) and Tony Rudd was 6th, Pete Lancaster had a brilliant first lap and was now up to 7th place from the back of the grid, Chris Flynn, Danny Leigh and John Ifan-Jones were battling for 8th place.

Lap 4 Robinson now had a good 3 second lead from Sheridan who was now under pressure from Poole, 4th place was now in the hands of Lancaster who was on a mission, Mike heath was a lonely 5th with Tony Rudd next who was locked in battle with an on form Jason Hennefer, John Ifan-Jones was now suffering from his qualifying session fuel starvation problems and was crawling round the circuit.



Lap 6 and Robinson still held a very healthy lead from a superb 3 car battle of Sheridan, Poole and Lancaster who was now looking for a way past both of them, Chris Flynn, Danny Leigh and Terry Kellahers also had a good battle going on further down the field.

Lap 8 Mark Robinson still led but was now looking in his mirrors at the new 2nd place man Pete Lancaster who had now disposed of Steve Poole and Simon Sheridan and now had his sights set on catching Robinson, Mike Heath was still a lonely 5th from XR3 class leader Jason Hennefer who had now managed to outfox Tony Rudd who was now 7th.

At the end of lap 12 Mark Robinson held off any attempts from Peter Lancaster to close the gap and took a well driven victory from a very impressive 2nd place man Peter Lancaster, Simon Sheridan caught Steve Poole unawares and made 3rd place his on the last lap, Mike “Flymo” Heath was 5th from class winner Jason Hennefer and a delighted Tony Rudd in 7th, Danny Leigh 8th, Chris Flynn 9th and Lee Shropshire rounding of the top 10.

S & G Response Ford XR Challenge

POS	NO	CL	NAME	ENTRY	LAPS	TIME	GAP	DIFF	MPH	BEST	ON
1	69	A	Mark ROBINSON	Ford Fiesta XR2	12	20:26.631			68.32	1:40.779	9
2	3	A	Peter LANCASTER	Ford Fiesta XR2	12	20:28.893	2.262	2.262	68.19	1:40.121	3
3	79	A	Simon SHERIDAN	Ford Fiesta XR2	12	20:37.583	10.952	8.690	67.71	1:41.570	4
4	66	A	Steve POOLE	Ford Fiesta XR2	12	20:40.229	13.598	2.646	67.57	1:41.106	4
5	18	A	Michael HEATH	Ford Fiesta XR2	12	20:45.830	19.199	5.601	67.27	1:42.727	3
6	21	B	Jason HENNEFER	Ford Escort XR3i	12	20:47.331	20.700	1.501	67.18	1:42.094	4
7	14	A	Tony RUDD	Ford Fiesta XR2	12	20:56.338	29.707	9.007	66.70	1:43.315	3
8	22	B	Danny LEIGH	Ford Escort XR3i	12	21:16.608	49.977	20.270	65.64	1:44.520	6
9	77	B	Chris FLYNN	Ford Escort XR3i	12	21:19.055	52.424	2.447	65.52	1:44.953	3
10	33	A	Lee SHROPSHIRE	Ford Fiesta XR2	12	21:19.479	52.848	0.424	65.50	1:44.729	9
11	13	B	Christopher NYLAN	Ford Escort XR3i	12	21:22.352	55.721	2.873	65.35	1:44.857	10
12	63	B	Terry KELLAHER	Ford Escort XR3i	12	21:35.732	1:09.101	13.380	64.67	1:44.148	11
13	52	A	Mark EDWARDS	Ford Fiesta XR2	12	21:55.600	1:28.969	19.868	63.70	1:47.675	10
14	11	A	Jonathan WARD	Ford Fiesta XR2	11	21:22.469	1 lap	1 lap	59.90	1:53.712	2
15	1	B	John-Ifan JONES	Ford Escort XR3i	9	22:19.731	3 laps	2 laps	46.91	1:45.120	2
FASTEST LAP											
	3	A	Peter LANCASTER	Ford Fiesta XR2	3	1:40.121	69.75 mph	112.25 kph			
	21	B	Jason HENNEFER	Ford Escort XR3i	4	1:42.094	68.40 mph	110.09 kph			

These results are provisional until the conclusion of any judicial and technical matters.

Rockingham Int. Sportscar Circuit Length = 1.9400 miles. Start: 12:44 End: 13:07. **Weather / Track : Bright / Dry**

Race 2



Derek Speight had now managed to repair Greg's XR2 for race two, John Ifan-Jones had to remove his fuel tank and pump to clear out a blockage, Other than that most others had an easy time in readiness for race two. It was the usual reverse grid format, and as number 8 that was drawn out Danny Leigh inherited pole position alongside Tony Rudd these two leading the 16 car field around on the green flag lap to line up on the grid. First away was Danny Leigh with Steve Poole and Pete Lancaster both making good starts while Mark Robinson was looking at a way past them all on the outside. With one lap completed Mark Robinson had done a Senna type lap and led the field across the line from Sheridan, Lancaster, Poole and Mike Heath, the battle was on within the XR3s with Jason Hennefer, Danny Leigh, and Chris Flynn and Terry Kellaher nose to tail. Lap 2 and rain started to fall, the first 5 remained the same but Rain Master John Ifan-Jones now led the XR3 class! With the rest of the field trying to cope with the new conditions Lap 5 and Robbo still led from new second place man Pete Lancaster with Simon Sheridan next from Steve Poole and Mike Heath who had John Ifan-Jones closing the gap down on him, Jason Hennefer, Danny Leigh, Chris Flynn and Terry Kellaher were



still locked in battle for second spot in the XR3 class.

Lap 6 with the rain now easing off Mark Robinson suddenly started to slow which handed the race lead to Pete Lancaster, Mark heading for the pitlane to retire with rear wheel bearing failure, this also promoted Simon Sheridan into second spot but he now had his mirrors full of Steve Poole who was determined to get past, also XR3 class leader John Ifan-Jones also started to slow which handed the lead to Jason Hennefer.

After 12 laps Pete Lancaster took another well deserved win from Simon Sheridan and Steve Poole, these two having had a great scrap towards the end of the race, Mike Heath came in 4th after a very mature drive from him, Jason Hennefer rounded off a brilliant day for him with another class win in his XR3, 6th was John Ifan-Jones from Danny Leigh, Tony Rudd, Chris Flynn and Greg Speight. 11th was Lee Shropshire who led hone Chris Nylan, Terry Kellaheer Mark Edwards and John Ward.

S & G Response Ford XR Challenge

POS	NO	CL	NAME	ENTRY	LAPS	TIME	GAP	DIFF	MPH	BEST	ON
1	3	A	Peter LANCASTER	Ford Fiesta XR2	12	20:27.124			68.29	1:40.781	6
2	79	A	Simon SHERIDAN	Ford Fiesta XR2	12	20:41.662	14.538	14.538	67.49	1:40.864	6
3	66	A	Steve POOLE	Ford Fiesta XR2	12	20:42.804	15.680	1.142	67.43	1:41.084	8
4	18	A	Michael HEATH	Ford Fiesta XR2	12	20:59.228	32.104	16.424	66.55	1:43.196	5
5	21	B	Jason HENNEFER	Ford Escort XR3i	12	21:00.611	33.487	1.383	66.48	1:42.757	7
6	1	B	John-Ifan JONES	Ford Escort XR3i	12	21:09.700	42.576	9.089	66.00	1:42.895	10
7	22	B	Danny LEIGH	Ford Escort XR3i	12	21:10.054	42.930	0.354	65.98	1:43.944	8
8	14	A	Tony RUDD	Ford Fiesta XR2	12	21:10.595	43.471	0.541	65.95	1:43.616	6
9	77	B	Chris FLYNN	Ford Escort XR3i	12	21:15.011	47.887	4.416	65.73	1:44.105	9
10	23	A	Greg SPEIGHT	Ford Fiesta XR2	12	21:18.804	51.680	3.793	65.53	1:44.757	4
11	33	A	Lee SHROPSHIRE	Ford Fiesta XR2	12	21:27.775	1:00.651	8.971	65.07	1:44.584	9
12	13	B	Christopher NYLAN	Ford Escort XR3i	12	21:30.040	1:02.916	2.265	64.96	1:45.158	11
13	63	B	Terry KELLAHER	Ford Escort XR3i	12	21:31.259	1:04.135	1.219	64.90	1:45.317	7
14	52	A	Mark EDWARDS	Ford Fiesta XR2	12	21:31.800	1:04.676	0.541	64.87	1:45.418	7
15	11	A	Jonathan WARD	Ford Fiesta XR2	11	21:36.429	1 lap	1 lap	59.25	1:55.953	9

NOT CLASSIFIED

DNF 69 A **Mark ROBINSON** Ford Fiesta XR2 9 16:47.259 3 laps 2 laps 62.40 1:40.601 5

FASTEST LAP

69 A **Mark ROBINSON** Ford Fiesta XR2 5 1:40.601 69.42 mph 111.72 kph

21 B **Jason HENNEFER** Ford Escort XR3i 7 1:42.757 67.96 mph 109.37 kph

These results are provisional until the conclusion of any judicial and technical matters.

Rockingham Int. Sportscar Circuit Length = 1.9400 miles. Start: 16:38 End: 16:59. Weather / Track : Cloudy / Dry

TROPHY AWARDS

		<u>RACE ONE</u>	
		XR2	XR3
1st		Mark Robinson	Jason Hennefer
2nd		Peter Lancaster	Danny Leigh
3rd		Simon Sheridan	Chris Flynn
		XR2 DRIVER OF THE DAY Peter Lancaster	XR3 DRIVER OF THE DAY Jason Hennefer
MPH CLOTHING PERFORMANCE AWARD Peter Lancaster (14 Places)			
		<u>RACE TWO</u>	
1st		Peter Lancaster	Jason Hennefer
2nd		Simon Sheridan	John Ifan-Jones
3rd		Steve Poole	Danny Leigh
		XR2 DRIVER OF THE DAY Tony Rudd	XR3 DRIVER OF THE DAY Jason Hennefer
CROWN WINDOWS ACHIEVMENT AWARD Derek Speight, for all the hard work on his son's car, replacing many bent valves.			
Special Trophy Award: The Morrison's Trailer Pulling Award Terry Kellaher: For managing to pull the front off a Morrison's delivery van with his trailer on the way to the circuit			
And many thanks to Bradley Heath for his help with the trophy presentation			







