



# COBRA

Cardiff On-road + Buggy Racing Association



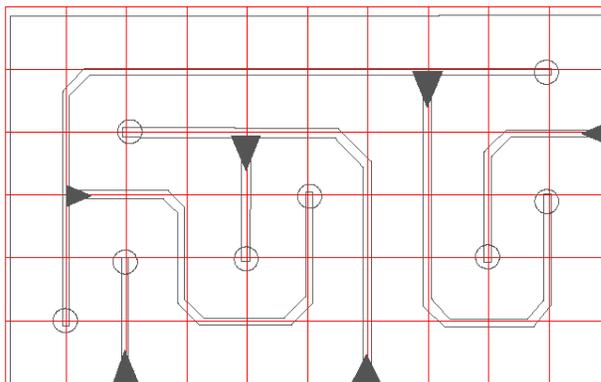
## "L8" COBRA Challenge Trophy Meeting 2008

This, the inaugural meeting of the L8 COBRA Challenge Trophy Meeting is an event to celebrate one of our members who sadly passed away in 2007. Leighton brought so much to members, friends and people who he came into contact with that this event should be a happy event for all.

The morning greeted early arrivals with the track already laid out and with the heater already pushing out many thousand BTU's, as you would guess the temperature affected most people through early practice, however it was immediately apparent that the runners using foam had the upper hand. With the rule for no tyre warmers being enforced before the first round of heats many drivers were looking around for those "rich" people with spare foams.



L8 COBRA Challenge Trophy Meeting



Rostrum

The next surprise for the entry was the reverse of normal running with an anti clockwise direction being confirmed at drivers briefing.

The track design encouraged a fast flowing driving style giving all motor classes and equal chance and those with the better car control were going to top the lists.

The entry was boosted by visitors from Carmarthen to Melksham, the Club welcomed Jamie, Nic, Dale and Dan and thanked them for swelling the entry list to 32.

All proceeds from the meeting were being donated to Kidney Research which included the entry fee along with the proceeds from the raffle. The raffle was well supported with donations coming from some well respected members of the racing fraternity, including, CML Distribution, Much More Racing UK, Microtech Racing, J&L Mini Centre & Audio Excellence in Swansea, TEKIN Electronics and Nick Adams at Demon Products. The Club thank you all for your contributions.

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Today we were all competing for the open trophies along with the “L8 Trophy” which as a special award on a championship handicap to a Cobra member. The Trophy was kindly donated by Mrs Elaine Mash, Leighton’s godmother. The Trophy will be competed for annually at this event.

Let’s go racing!

With an entry of 32 including 8 Micro’s, the heats were sorted into 6 car heats for the saloons and one heat of Micro’s.

First round of qualifying got underway with the minimum of fuss and it was soon apparent that our visitors came with the intention of winning. Chris Leighton and Steve Curtis Rich; our normal front runners were being pushed to their very best performance by Dale Hulburt and Nic Forbes, these runners being closely followed by Roy Davies and Ray Reeve. The second round saw Dave Zerk (Jnr) pop into position 5 and Lindsey Wiles into 7. By the last round the order had settled with a mix of home and away drivers. What was common through the top runners was that they had all chosen to run foam tyres. Was this going to be the chose for the finals with the temperature steadily rising?

Class:(Touring Car)				
Position	Name	Laps	Time	Best Round
1	Steve Curtis Rich	18	5m15.230	4
2	Chris Leighton	17	5m04.108	1
3	Dale Hulburt	17	5m10.543	2
4	Nic Forbes	17	5m17.435	3
5	Roy Davies	16	5m06.366	4
6	Dan Fergusson	15	5m07.316	3
7	Dave Zerk Jnr	15	5m10.308	2
8	Ray Reeve	15	5m13.104	4
9	Lindsey Wiles	15	5m19.693	2
10	John Hollyman	14	5m03.534	3

Micro runners were to benefit from several small kicker jumps which were added for their heat each round and whilst the features were not of the usual high standard all runners appreciated the chance to support the cause. There was a mix of foam and mini spikes chosen but they did not seem to be affected by the temperature and initial form was followed through the day. Dave Middleton was never to be headed and whilst the majority of runners improved through the day the order was not changed. This left Dave the top qualifier followed by Jamie, Brian and Mark.

Class:(1/18th Brushed)				
Position	Name	Laps	Time	Best Round
1	Dave Middleton	14	5m11.003	2
2	Jamie Thomas	11	4m03.366	2
3	Brian Payne	11	5m09.191	4
4	Mark King	11	5m21.220	3
5	Steve Piper	10	5m06.824	4
6	Lee Tavner	9	5m16.855	3
7	Daren Hamling	8	5m01.378	4

With qualifying over, attention was turned to some social activity with the presentation of the COBRA Indoor Championships Awards and the drivers free Raffle, some small prizes which the club had contributed. The Awards ceremony was supported by all the attendees, drivers and spectators alike, a fact which was appreciated by all award winners, particularly the junior section.

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With the Presentations over and Raffle prizes packed away it was now down to race control to sort the finals, but most had already decided who they were to do battle with from the FTD print. The print showed that most had enjoyed the track with only three laps covering positions 6 through 18 of the field. It was nice to see the juniors showing well on the leader board.

## Race Results for D Final: Touring Car

Finals sorted, it was the D Final Saloon to the track first and following an incident packed first lap, Joshua Curtis Rich came across the line in first place closely followed by Dave Dawson. Joshua held this lead for the first three laps until a small error allowed Dave to pull in front. Dave then proceeded to consolidate this lead through to the finish, followed home by Joshua who just held on to second position as Bethan had slowly been closing the gap to just 2 seconds at the finish.

Position	Car #	Name	Laps	Time	Fastest Lap	Average Lap
1	1	Dave Dawson	11	5m11.179	24.963	28.289
2	2	Joshua Curtis Rich	10	5m03.266	27.577	30.327
3	3	Bethan Curtis Rich	10	5m05.771	26.420	30.577
4	4	Dave Zerk Snr	10	5m19.421	28.276	31.942
5	5	Andrew Curtis Rich	8	5m05.627	10.171	38.203
6	6	Robert Harry	0	NO TIME	0.000	

## Race Results for C Final: Touring Car

Position	Car #	Name	Laps	Time	Fastest Lap	Average Lap
1	3	Spencer Farley	15	5m07.415	18.418	20.494
2	5	Richard Williams	14	5m13.394	20.330	22.385
3	6	James Davies	12	5m10.355	21.212	25.863
4	2	Chris Dawson	11	5m00.192	20.861	27.290
5	4	Alex Price	6	2m36.771	20.695	26.128
6	1	Jamie Thomas	5	2m04.101	21.192	24.820

Next up was the C Final which contained one or two surprise drivers. Spencer in 3<sup>rd</sup>, after what can only be described as not his best day at the club, just behind Chris Dawson and Jamie Thomas in pole position. We welcomed back Richard Williams after a few years away from the sport. Following an incident free first lap, Jamie held the lead from the hard

charging Spencer and Richard. Jamie then had a problem dropping from the timing on lap 5 allowing Spencer to take the lead which he was never to lose. Spencer then proceeded to show his true form putting in consistent 18 sec laps to the finish. Richard came home second, showing that once a good driver always a good driver. James came home third by quietly putting in consistent laps from his stock motor if not quite as quick as the 19 turn runners.

## Race Results for B Final: Touring Car

Following the mandatory 3 minute break between the finals the B final runners were all on the grid waiting to go. Qualifying indicated this was going to be the closest final of them all and we were not going to be disappointed. Unfortunately Lindsey smoked his new brushless before the final so only 5 cars were at the start. First man across the Racing regularly at:-

Position	Car #	Name	Laps	Time	Fastest Lap	Average Lap
1	1	Dave Zerk Jnr	14	5m01.029	18.022	21.502
2	2	Ray Reeve	14	5m05.557	19.326	21.826
3	4	John Hollyman	14	5m06.241	18.753	21.874
4	5	Richard Witcombe	14	5m09.873	20.225	22.134
5	6	Brian Ali	13	5m12.219	21.014	24.017
6	3	Lindsey Wiles	0	NO TIME	0.000	

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line on lap one was Brian from 6<sup>th</sup> on the grid followed by Dave and Richard. As the race developed the grid got closer and closer with cars circulating within inches of each other. This was to be the form right to the finish with places being swapped on a regular basis. The final buzzer sounded and even then we weren't sure who was going to cross the line in first. Finally Dave, Ray & John were rewarded with only 8 sec separating the top 4. What a race!

## Race Results for A Final: Round:5 Touring Car

Position	Car #	Name	Laps	Time	Fastest Lap	Average Lap
1	2	Chris Leighton	18	5m06.151	15.925	17.008
2	1	Steve Curtis Rich	17	5m10.250	16.492	18.250
3	3	Dale Hulburt	17	5m16.471	16.625	18.616
4	4	Nic Forbes	16	5m06.486	17.723	19.155
5	5	Roy Davies	16	5m18.050	17.972	19.878
6	6	Dan Fergusson	14	5m16.505	18.961	22.607

The A Final qualifiers were an equal mix of regular club members and visitors with Steve and Chris just out qualifying the top visitor Dale Hulburt. The runners had all chosen foams as the tyres to be on with Gecko Foams in evidence on most of the cars. As soon as the buzzer sounded, it was obvious that there was going to be two races, the

quick and the very quick. Steve proceeded to put in a six quick laps which should have generated a comfortable gap but Chris was equal to this pace and was right on his heels. Not to be outdone Dale had maintain contact, if a few seconds back. Steve then decided to see how close he could take the sweeper only to find his original lines were better, by the time he rejoined the track Chris was past and Dale was right on his tail. Chris then showed his true pace with consistent 16 sec laps which no one else could match. Whilst this was going on up front Nic, Roy and Dan were having their own little battle whilst trying not to spoil the battle up front. Credit must be given to these drivers, maintaining their pace, having a private battle as well as giving space to the fast approaching front runners. With the end of race sounding Chris approached the line in 1<sup>st</sup> Place and deserved winner, Steve coming home 2nd with Dale, 6 seconds behind in 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Last Final of the day was the Micro's, a new addition to the club in recent months and well supported today for the L8 Trophy Meeting. Drivers were competing for COBRA Certificates and the bragging rights for the day.

## Race Results for A Final: 1/18th Scale Micro

Qualifying had shown that Dave was the cream of the entry but he could not afford to treat the other drivers with anything but respect as they all wanted to "put one over" on him. However, Dave showed his class from the buzzer almost catching the pack on his second circulation of the track. From here he could simply control the pace of the whole race. Whilst other had their own battles Dave comfortably ran to the finish followed home by Jamie and Steve.

Position	Car #	Name	Laps	Time	Fastest Lap	Average Lap
1	1	Dave Middleton	14	5m10.285	20.936	22.163
2	2	Jamie Thomas	12	5m09.725	23.849	25.810
3	5	Steve Piper	10	5m16.408	25.883	31.641
4	6	Lee Tavner	8	4m53.941	31.794	36.743
5	4	Mark King	4	2m04.325	27.111	31.081
6	7	Daren Hamling	1	4m09.032	0.000	249.032
7	3	Brian Payne	0	NO TIME	0.000	

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Racing over, everyone started the breakdown of the track in readiness for the presentations and Raffle. The “L8 Trophy” calculation was completed and result sealed. The presentation consisted of COBRA Certificate for all with Trophies for the top three. Along with this was the Special award of the L8 Trophy. We were pleased to welcome Roz, Leighton’s mother to the Club, to present the Awards for the “Open Meeting” the “L8 Trophy” and the Raffle Prizes.



Open Winner  
Chris Leighton



Open Runner Up  
Steve Curtis Rich



Open Third Place  
Dale Hulburt



L8 Trophy Winner  
Roy Davies



Flowers for Roz from  
COBRA (John take note)



Well deserved presentation  
for Vanessa (the lady in the  
Café and raffle organiser)

The Club were to donate all the proceeds from the meeting and to everyone’s applause it was announced that we had raised £500 for the Charity “Kidney Research”.

The Club would like to thank again all drivers and contributors who made this event possible.

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