



## Castle Combe FF1600 Championship

Rounds 4 & 5, Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> & Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> June.



Reigning champion Ben Norton and rival Felix Fisher shared the Castle Combe FF1600 double-header at the June Summer Racing Carnival last weekend. (Image: Oliver Read.)

Norton set the pace in qualifying, but Fisher was able to out-fumble the Wiltshire College Spectrum driver in race one before Norton bounced back to win a truncated second encounter.

### Race One - Round Four



Norton edged ahead of fellow front-row starter Fisher on the run to Camp Corner of the first event, but the Van Diemen driver was soon attacking hard. Fisher dived up the inside as the field headed into the Esses to snatch the lead.

(Ben Norton's short lived lead into Quarry. Image: Oliver Read.)

While championship leader Marcus Allen had to fight off the attentions of Robert Hall's Swift SC10, the leading pair began to edge away. Norton kept the pressure on Fisher, drawing alongside on the run up Avon Rise on at least one occasion, but the black Van Diemen always seemed to have enough to hold on.

Once Allen had dealt with Hall, who would later retire with a puncture after hitting a marker post that had been dragged onto the track, he started closing on the leading duo. A series of fastest laps

brought the Kevin Mills Racing-run Swift onto the back of Norton and on lap six Allen jumped Norton for second.

The top three were still absolutely together when Steve Chapman and Iain Houston clashed at Camp on lap nine, spitting Chapman hard into the barriers. The red flags flew, with the result being taken back a lap, leaving the order as Fisher-Allen-Norton.



(The top three continue to battle until the race is halted by the red flag.)

Steve Jensen's Spectrum took fourth after a fine dice with the fast-starting Andrew Jones. The Ray had just found a way back by Jensen when the reds came out, and he fell to fifth on countback.

Oliver White wasn't far behind and made it three Australian-built Spectrums in the top six, while Kyle Tilley kept up his run of Class C successes for pre-1990 machines in his Souley Motorsport Van Diemen RF87.

Pos.	Cl.	Cl. Pos.	Driver	Car	Time	Qual.
1	A	1	Felix Fisher	Van Diemen RF00	9:43.580	2
2	B	1	Marcus Allen	Swift SC92F	+0.253	3
3	A	2	Ben Norton	Spectrum 011B	+0.495	1
4	A	3	Steven Jensen	Spectrum 011C	+4.253	6
5	A	4	Andrew Jones	Ray GRS07	+4.378	9
6	A	5	Oliver White	Spectrum 011B	+5.154	5
7	B	2	Nathan Ward	Swift SC95	+12.296	10
8	B	3	David Vivian	Swift SC92	+12.386	11
9	B	4	Luke Cooper	Swift SC92	+18.468	14
10	A	6	Ashley Clifford	Mygale SJ01/03	+18.598	12
11	C	1	Kyle Tilley	Van Diemen RF87	+19.192	13
12	B	5	Lloyd Hopes	Swift SC92	+23.065	16
13	C	2	Iain Houston	Van Diemen RF89	+32.637	19
14	A	7	Stephen Gibbins	Van Diemen RF01	+34.940	15
15	B	6	Shaun Macklin	Swift SC92	+39.069	18
16	C	3	John Hallam	Van Diemen RF89	+42.370	21
17	B	6	Kelvin Foy	Swift SC93F	+51.828	23
18	B	7	Mike Madge	Vector	+54.267	24
19	C	4	Darren Houldcroft	Van Diemen RF88	+1:11.905	25
20	C	5	Pete Diccox	Van Diemen RF89	+1:12.138	N/A
21	A	8	Claudio Viveiros	Van Diemen RF99	+1 lap	26
DNF	A	N/A	Robert Hall	Swift SC10	+2 laps	4
DNF	B	N/A	Adam Higgins	Van Diemen RF90	+3 laps	7
DNF	B	N/A	Paul James	Swift SC92	+7 laps	22
DNF	A	N/A	Roger Orgee	Van Diemen RF00	+8 laps	8
DNF	A	N/A	Geoff Janes	Van Diemen RF01	+8 laps	20
NC	A	N/A	Steve Chapman	Van Diemen RF02	+33.033	17

## Race Two – Round Five

Allen grabbed the lead from Fisher at the start of race two, but the event lasted just two laps before the action was stopped once again. An incident at Quarry involving Nathan Ward, who had finished seventh in race one, White and Ashley Clifford caused sufficient carnage for the officials to call a halt and the race was restarted over eight laps.

This time it was Jones who shot off the line to lead from Allen and Fisher. Norton didn't get away badly but was forced out on the run to Avon Rise and fell to fourth.

On lap two, with Allen using all the track and some of the grass to get by, it all got too close for comfort. Allen and Fisher were delayed and Norton jumped past both, and then Jones, to snatch the advantage.

The Spectrum had drawn out a small lead when Allen dived past Jones at Quarry to take up the chase. But the Class B pacesetter didn't need to catch Norton as Lloyd Hopes crashed at Tower and brought out the safety car.



(Allen closes on Norton having fought his way past Jones before the emergence of the Safety Car. Images: Oliver Read.)

Once the mess was cleared up there were just two laps left to run. Norton made a good restart and the rest of the pack proved very well behaved over the final miles. The order stayed the same, Norton taking his second win of the season from Allen and Jones. "I think races should only be one lap long, then I might win some," joked the third-placed finisher.

Jensen took another fourth, despite the close attentions of the recovering Fisher, while a star drive netted Adam Higgins sixth. A moment at Tower and a snapped top rose joint had forced Higgins's RF90 out of the top 10 battle in race one. That meant he had to start near the back for the later contest and he stormed through.

Up to 14<sup>th</sup> at the time of the reds, Higgins made even more rapid progress to jump to seventh at the restart. He then overcame David Vivan's Swift SC92, but did not quite have enough to climb any further.

After his race one problems, Hall made similar progress to come home eighth, just ahead of Class C pacesetter Tilley.

Allen may not have added to his win in May, but his consistent podiums and Class B domination mean he still leads the way in the title chase. "You don't win championships by winning races," was his view after the race, but it seems unlikely his battle for overall honours with Norton and Fisher is going to let up any time soon.

<b>Pos.</b>	<b>Cl.</b>	<b>Cl. Pos.</b>	<b>Driver</b>	<b>Car</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Qual.</b>
1	A	1	Ben Norton	Spectrum 011B	11:49.621	3
2	B	1	Marcus Allen	Swift SC92F	+0.641	2
3	A	2	Andrew Jones	Ray GRS07	+1.645	5
4	A	3	Steven Jensen	Spectrum 011C	+2.420	4
5	A	4	Felix Fisher	Van Diemen RF00	+2.813	1
6	B	2	Adam Higgins	Van Diemen RF90	+3.020	24
7	B	3	David Vivian	Swift SC92	+3.219	8
8	A	5	Robert Hall	Swift SC10	+3.428	23
9	C	1	Kyle Tilley	Van Diemen RF87	+5.796	11
10	A	6	Roger Orgee	Van Diemen RF00	+7.313	26
11	A	7	Stephen Gibbins	Van Diemen RF01	+14.283	14
12	B	4	Shaun Macklin	Swift SC92	+16.395	15
13	B	5	Mike Madge	Vector	+17.164	18
14	B	6	Kelvin Foy	Swift SC93F	+17.451	17
15	C	2	Iain Houston	Van Diemen RF89	+18.474	13
16	A	8	Steve Chapman	Van Diemen RF02	+18.852	22
17	C	3	John Hallam	Van Diemen RF89	+20.236	16
18	C	4	Pete Diccox	Van Diemen RF89	+23.282	20
19	B	7	Paul James	Swift SC92	+23.986	25
20	A	9	Geoff Janes	Van Diemen RF01	+24.947	27
21	A	10	Claudio Viveiros	Van Diemen RF99	+39.512	21
DNF	C	N/A	Darren Houldcroft	Van Diemen RF88	+1 Lap	19
DNF	B	N/A	Luke Cooper	Swift SC92	+2 Laps	9
DNF	B	N/A	Lloyd Hopes	Swift SC92	+7 Laps	12

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