



## Castle Combe FF1600 Championship Round 6, Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> July.



(Image: Oliver Read.)

Marcus Allen gave his Castle Combe FF1600 title hopes a boost after taking victory last Saturday, when rivals Ben Norton and Felix Fisher were both eliminated after clashing while disputing the lead.

With only 0.8 seconds covering the top six after qualifying, a close race was virtually guaranteed. Norton's Spectrum O11B had pole from Fisher's Van Diemen RF00, with Allen's Swift SC92F sharing row two with Andrew Jones' Ray GRS07.

As the lights went out Norton held the inside line and the lead through Folly, as Fisher and Allen fought over second into Quarry. But Jones had also been quick off the line and took them both as they battled between themselves.

Once things had started to settle down Fisher was first to retaliate, taking second through Hammerdown on lap two, while Allen followed into Bobbies. "I knew Felix was quicker than me, but lost out after being hung out to dry at Tower. I wish the race had been only one lap, that would have been okay," said Jones.

Fisher was straight onto Norton's gearbox as they headed through Camp as they both started to pull clear of Allen. Jones still had fourth, but with Adam Higgins, Robert Hall, Steven Jensen, Thomas Barrow and Nathan Ward all line astern, he was far from safe.

Jensen was the first to progress, taking Hall on lap five, but the battle behind gradually allowed Jones to consolidate fourth, as Higgins tried in vain to break his rivals' tow, which was to continue for the entire race.

Norton's defence continued to hold firm under immense pressure from Fisher, but into Tower for the eighth time it all boiled over. "I tried to poke my nose down a small gap, he braked and I touched his back wheel," Fisher explained, as both cars ended their races in the barriers, but both drivers emerged unscathed.



The contact just as Norton and Fisher started braking for Tower caused heavy damage to both cars which ended up in the barriers. (Images: Oliver Read.)

Allen was left with a fairly clear run over the remaining four laps, securing victory by 4.8s. "I am happy with the win, but didn't enjoy seeing the other two cars off, even though they are my main contenders," he said.

Jones was even more secure in second, thanks to the ongoing fight behind, over eight seconds clear of his challengers. Higgins managed to keep his Van Diemen RF90 in third somehow, but had Jensen's Spectrum and the Swifts of Vivian, Ward and Hall in a continuous and frustrated train behind him to the flag. Hall had been the loser in the group, after first Ward and later Vivian came through to head him. "That was excellent, I was so off the pace but fine. They were nearly pushing me down the straights and I think I probably looked in my mirrors a bit too much," said Higgins.

Barrow tailed off in eighth towards the end and Kyle Tilley's Van Diemen RF87 was a comfortable class C winner in ninth place. Luke Cooper's Swift completed the top ten.

Pos.	Cl.	Cl. Pos.	Driver	Car	Time	Qual.
1	B	1	Marcus Allen	Swift SC92F	14:36.533	3
2	A	1	Andrew Jones	Ray GRS07	+4.812	4
3	B	2	Adam Higgins	Van Diemen RF90	+12.386	6
4	A	2	Steven Jensen	Spectrum 011C	+12.569	7
5	B	3	David Vivian	Swift SC92	+12.642	9
6	B	4	Nathan Ward	Swift SC95	+12.808	10
7	A	3	Robert Hall	Swift SC10	+13.247	5
8	A	4	Thomas Barrow	Mygale SJ00	+16.010	8
9	C	1	Kyle Tilley	Van Diemen RF87	+23.826	12
10	B	5	Luke Cooper	Swift SC92	+30.843	13
11	B	6	Lloyd Hopes	Swift SC92	+42.257	22
12	B	7	Shaun Macklin	Swift SC92	+45.144	16
13	C	2	Iain Houston	Van Diemen RF89	+47.977	15
14	C	3	Martin Pickles	Van Diemen RF87	+1:06.775	19
15	C	4	James Harvey	Van Diemen RF89	+1:07.662	21
16	B	8	Mike Madge	Vector	+1 lap	25
17	C	5	Pete Diccox	Van Diemen RF89	+1 lap	26
18	C	6	Michael Phillips	Swift SB87	+1 lap	24
19	C	7	Stephen Bracegirdle	Van Diemen RF88	+1 lap	27
20	A	5	Geoff Janes	Van Diemen RF01	+1 lap	14
21	B	9	Kelvin Foy	Swift SC93F	+1 lap	23
22	A	6	Claudio Viveiros	Van Diemen RF99	+1 lap	28
DNF	C	N/A	John Hallam	Van Diemen RF89	+2 laps	20
DNF	A	N/A	Ben Norton	Spectrum 011B	+5 laps	1
DNF	A	N/A	Felix Fisher	Van Diemen RF00	+5 laps	2
DNF	A	N/A	Steve Chapman	Van Diemen RF02	+6 laps	18
DNF	B	N/A	Glen Finn	Swift SC92	+12 laps	17

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