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**CASTLE COMBE SALOON CAR
CHAMPIONSHIP IN ASSOCIATION WITH
NATIONAL MOBILE WINDSCREENS**

Round 5, Sunday 18th July.



(Image: Oliver Read.)

Kevin Bird was in celebratory mood after the latest round of the Castle Combe Saloon Car Championship in association with National Mobile Windscreens - not only did he solve his SEAT Leon's engine reliability, he also took his first outright win in the car after four years of trying.

Poleman Will Di Claudio's Peugeot 106 made a good clean getaway, but had Jason Cooper's Ford Fiesta on his tail through Folly. Cooper pushed a little too hard as the duo arrived at the Esses and spun the leader off. "I had the line as we turned in, then he hit me and turned me half round," said Di Claudio who carried on with his tailgate up, before being black flagged.

Bird was left with a fairly clear lead and was joined by Tony Hutchings' Audi TT and Mark Wyatt's Vauxhall Astra in a three car break.

"I was very close to the other two when they went off, so could easily have got caught up with them. I went for a gap to the left and fortunately luck was with me and I got through," said Bird.

It was much closer for fourth, however with the recovering Cooper, Adam Prebble's Rover Tomcat, Nick Charles' Peugeot 106 and Tony Dolley's Peugeot 206 in line, with Di Claudio closing in.

Cooper was on a mission and used all the track and more as he dropped his rivals and started to reel in third placed Wyatt.

Over the next four laps the gaps opened, closed and opened again, but Bird sailed on regardless and by lap seven he had five seconds in hand. It had been close between Hutchings and Wyatt for second but in the closing laps Cooper split them. Charles was also on the move and picked off Prebble on lap nine for fifth.

Bird took the flag to win by over 11s from Hutchings, with Cooper having closed the gap to almost nothing in third at the flag. After losing out to Cooper with a lap to go Wyatt struggled to the flag with damaged front bodywork snagging on his tyres. Both Charles and Prebble demoted him before the flag.

Dolley, the MG ZRs of Nick Mizen and Adrian Slade and Paul Gardner's Citroen Saxo completed the top ten.

In the classes it was Will Burns' Ford Fiesta to the fore in class D, well clear of Russell Poynter-Brown and Russell Akers' Vauxhall Corsas. Cooper took the class C spoils from Charles and Mizen, and Hutchings followed Bird in Class B with Prebble third.

Pos.	Cl.	Cl. Pos.	Driver	Car	Time	Qual.
1	B	1	Kevin Bird	SEAT Leon	15:37.193	3
2	B	2	Tony Hutchings	Audi TT	+11.414	6
3	C	1	Jason Cooper	Ford Fiesta	+11.621	2
4	C	2	Nick Charles	Peugeot 106 GTi	+12.562	7
5	B	3	Adam Prebble	Rover	+21.659	8
6	B	4	Mark Wyatt	Vauxhall Astra	+22.652	4
7	B	5	Tony Dolley	Peugeot 206 GTi	+23.825	17
8	C	3	Nick Mizen	MG ZR	+41.830	10
9	C	4	Adrian Slade	MG ZR	+44.782	14
10	C	5	Paul Gardner	Citroen Saxo VTS	+1:05.426	12
11	C	6	Anne King	MG ZR 190	+1:08.528	9
12	D	1	Will Burns	Ford Fiesta	+1:20.688	16
13	C	7	Darren Hay	MG ZR	+1:24.820	18
14	B	6	David Knight	Renault Clio	+1 lap	13
15	C	8	Geoff Wade	Honda Integra Type R	+1 lap	19
16	D	2	Russell Poynter-Brown	Vauxhall Corsa	+1 lap	26
17	D	3	Russell Akers	Vauxhall Corsa	+1 lap	11
18	D	4	Geraldine Duff	Rover 25	+1 lap	27
19	D	5	C Hyde-Andrews-Bird	Ford Fiesta	+1 lap	24
20	C	9	James Keepin	MG ZR 160	+1 lap	23
21	B	7	Kelly Williams	Ford Fiesta ST	+1 lap	25
22	C	10	Matt Smith	Rover 200vi	+1 lap	22
23	D	6	Eddie Benton	Citroen Saxo	+2 laps	28
24	D	7	Peter Weston	MG ZR/DMG Autosport	+2 laps	30
25	D	8	David Rose	Volkswagen Lupo	+2 laps	29
DNF	C	N/A	Will DiClaudio	Peugeot 106 GTi	+4 laps	1
DNF	D	N/A	Steve Sutton	Peugeot 106	+4 laps	21
DNF	B	N/A	Rick Rowles	Honda Civic Type R	+4 laps	15
DNF	C	N/A	Martin Chivers	MG ZR	+5 laps	20
DNF	B	N/A	Daryl Radford	Volkswagen Bora	+10 laps	5

For more information regarding Oliver Read's images, please contact: oliverread@yahoo.com