



Andrew Shanley and Simon Tilling try to work out who actually won (Image: Steve Jones)

Tilling turns the tables as Shanley penalised

For the second event in a row, Andrew Shanley crossed the line first in a Castle Combe Special GT Championship in association with savesometax.co.uk race. But this time the winner's laurels when to Simon Tilling, whose close second place became a victory when Shanley was penalised for jumping the start.

Qualifying

Tilling and Shanley picked up where they left off at Easter, and again it was Tilling's Radical SR3 that sat on pole position after a close battle with Shanley's Prosport variety. This time just 0.232 seconds separated them.

Completing the Radical sweep at the front of the grid, third went to Darcy Smith's Thatchway Motorsport Radical SR4.

With Guy Woodward still awaiting the latest Jade and Ed Moore opting not to

contest this round – although he has pledged to have another run in the Mallock P21 as soon as possible – the field was a little light on sports prototypes this time.

That gave Mark Funnell a chance to get his Lotus Exige even closer to the front of the grid, and he lined up fourth overall and on pole for class C, followed by Martin Baker and Altay John Ali's Radicals, and Nick Williamson's Ford Escort Cosworth.

The Caterhams continued to fly in the Production Sports and Saloons class, as Ketih Dunn beat Stuart Dixon to pole by just 0.2s and both got in the overall top ten, sandwiching Scott Hughes' Radical. Sadly though Dunn had problems after setting his class pole time and would miss the race, leaving the way clear for Dixon.

Race

As the field formed up ready for the start, Shanley's Radical began creeping forward with the lights still on red.

Wisely, rather than braking, getting a poor start and incurring a penalty anyway, he decided to cut his losses and make a break for it in the hope that he could build up a sufficient lead to negate the 10s penalty he was certain to receive.

It looked promising for Shanley when he completed lap one 4.4s ahead of Tilling.

But rather than stretching his lead, Shanley found himself being reeled in as the race progressed, and by lap eight the top two were absolutely nose to tail.

It appeared that Tilling was making a bid to win the race both on the road and on the timing screens – and when he then eased off and dropped 3s behind Shanley in traffic it seemed he had settled for picking up the win post-race.



An amazing day for Funnell started with a GT class win (Image: Steve Jones)

However Tilling had in fact been totally unaware that Shanley was set to incur a penalty, so was as surprised as he was delighted when he was hailed as the winner in the presentation afterwards.

"No, I didn't realise," Tilling confirmed. "I thought it was just a case of 'keep trying to catch him'. I got close and then there were some backmarkers so I backed off again."

Shanley still took second in the results as the lead duo had pulled a long way clear of the rest of the field.

Smith fell behind Funnell at the start and could not find a way back past the Lotus until half-distance, when he slipped ahead at Tower. That left Funnell to take a serene fourth and class C victory – his first trophy of an epic day that would also see him dominate the Euro Saloons race and come from the back of the grid to win the Open Sports and Saloons event as well.

Although Funnell couldn't quite keep his prototype combatant at bay, class C runner-up Williamson did a masterful job in his Owen Developments Escort as he fended off Ali and Baker's Radicals all the way to the flag, where just 0.4s covered the trio in fifth to seventh places overall.



The Radicals snap at Williamson's heels (Image: Steve Jones)

Radical Clubsport driver Scott Hughes lost ground on the first lap but recovered to beat class D winner Dixon to eighth, while in another sports prototype versus road going sports car battle further back, David Smith's Mallock only narrowly beat Keith Sprules' Ferrari 360 to 10th.

It was a case of what might have been for class A Radical Prosport man Jim Mort, who was lucky not to get collected when he stalled in his 11th spot on the grid. Having eventually joined the race two laps down, he set the third fastest lap on the way to 17th.

All images courtesy of Steve Jones. For more details call 01905 424944 or email stephen.jones28@virgin.net.