

# THE STARTING GRID

Round 2

Photos: Chris Carter

**2015 MG ROAD RACING CHAMPIONSHIP**



## ***Wet and Wild Island***

The second round of 2015 saw a visit to the picturesque Phillip Island Grand Prix Circuit, Just 13 entries took the field and immediately we lost Keith Ondarchie in his Triumph TR4 after a gearbox issue in Qualifying which caused a temporary red flag, at the same time Phil Chester pulled off with engine issues and we lost two cars straight away.. Glen Wood picked up from where he left off at Mallala and took pole with a 1:44.72 while reigning champion Andrew Howell (ZR Judd) lined up second with Chris Gidney (ZR) and Jason Holmes (zr) 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>, Vince Gucciardo (TF Cup), Paul Vernall (ZR 160), Jim Robertson (Midget Special), Geoff St John Cox (TR7), John Stevenson (B), Jim Dodd (ZR 160) and Ursula Weidenmuller (TR6) rounding out the field.

The opening race for the weekend and Glen Wood set off and the first couple of laps were at a relatively quick pace but then backed off, seeing the lead he had he hit cruise control for the remaining laps and cruised to a 24 second win from Andrew Howell who was just getting himself back into the groove. Richard Milligan didn't participate in qualifying and after starting at the back progressed up to third by the end of the 8 laps.

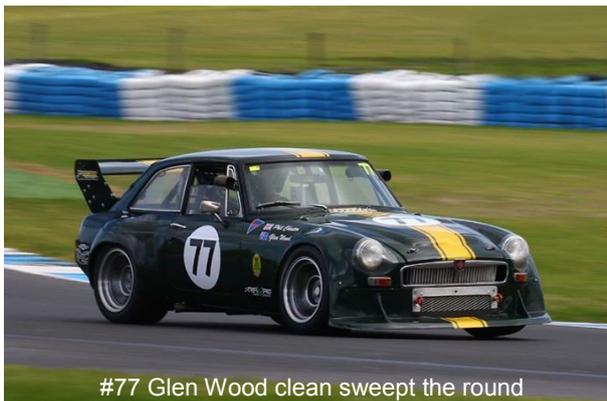
Chris Gidney and Jason Holmes ran strongly before Holmes dropped back a little and begun battling with Gucciardo and Vernall, with a couple of laps to go Gucciardo tagged Vernall at turn 1 ending Vernall's race, Gucciardo continued and finished 5<sup>th</sup> with Holmes 6<sup>th</sup>. St.John Cox and Robertson had a battle all race, Robertson battling gearbox issues and the paid crossed the line almost side by side for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> places with John Stevenson in 9<sup>th</sup> having a lonely run. Ursula Weidenmuller and Jim Dodd battled all race, the power of the Triumph getting a run down the front straight and Dodd's ZR fighting back at the corners.



#12 Vince Gucciardo (TF Cup) leads #19 Chris Gidney (ZR) and #3 Jason Holmes (ZR190)

Race 2 Sunday morning and wet conditions greeted the field, Glen Wood and Andrew Howell blitzed the field early while Milligan went backwards in the tricky conditions and Vernal coming from the rear of field. Holmes ran strongly and got into 3<sup>rd</sup> only to have a spin at turn 4 allowing Gidney, Gucciardo and Vernal past. Vernal getting past Gucciardo and then Gidney on lap 3 while Holmes recovered and got past Gucciardo before both Gidney and Holmes past Vernal down the front straight which is how they would stay with Gidney, Holmes, Vernal and Gucciardo finishing in the top 6. Richard Milligan would finish 7<sup>th</sup> with Robertson and St-John Cox renewing their battle to finish 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> with Robertson getting the upper hand this time.

John Stevenson got a fight this time with Ursule Weidenmuller battling away for the 6 laps, the cars



#77 Glen Wood clean sweep the round

#10 Richard Milligan in the V8 Roadster



surprisingly even in the conditions with John perhaps a bit more confident in certain areas and finishing ahead in 10<sup>th</sup> from Weidenmuller 11<sup>th</sup> and Jim Dodd a lonely 12<sup>th</sup>.

The final race of the weekend and a 10 lap feature race, Glen Wood drove off into the distance once again, 5 seconds a lap quicker than Milligan in the dry conditions he cruised to a win. Andrew Howell was suffering rising engine temperatures and was driving the car conservatively; he would come home a solid 3<sup>rd</sup> and pick up a solid points haul for the weekend. Gidney lead Gucciardo and Vernal in a fairly straight forward race for the three, St.John-Cox lead Robertson home with Stevenson the first car a lap down and Weidenmuller and Dodd rounding out the classified finishers. Jason Holmes unfortunately had a broken