

BRANDS HATCH
BRSCC APRIL 8-9

Williams denied hat-trick by race three clash

LUKE WILLIAMS WAS LEFT TO RUE a missed opportunity for a hat-trick of wins in the BRSCC Formula Ford 1600 Championship at Brands Hatch, having collided with rival Stephen Daly while battling for the lead in an action-packed third encounter.

There was drama from the moment the lights went green in the opening race, as a dramatic crash between Rory Smith and Archie Hine at Paddock Hill brought out a red flag.

At the restart, polesitter Williams led to the finish despite nursing a misfire in the closing stages. In the second race, he again took his Firman RF16 to victory, this time passing Neil MacLennan after falling behind the Cliff Dempsey Racing Ray driver off the line.

Williams lined up eighth for the reversed-grid finale, but after mistakes from others and some opportunistic passes in the hectic opening five laps, he found himself second behind Daly. Five laps later, Williams dummied on the outside of Daly's Ray GR10 into Paddock Hill before cutting back on the inside, but the Irishman fought back and found the inside line – as well as the grass – on the run up to Druids.

Neither driver backed off, making a collision inevitable. Williams spun into retirement, Daly headed to the pits with a puncture, and both drivers blamed each other for the incident.

This left Luke Cooper – who had suffered right-front suspension damage at the start – to inherit the lead, which he maintained to the flag to score his first win in more than four years.

Rob Boston was another driver unable to find his third win of the weekend, having taken two victories in the Mazda MX-5 SuperCup. A slow getaway once a



Code 60 had been withdrawn scuppered any chance for him to win the third race, with Jack Harding getting the jump and claiming victory after finishing runner-up in the previous two races.

Mazda MX-5 racing ace Will Blackwell-Chambers was delighted after taking a hat-trick of wins, having withstood immense pressure from Neil Fisk in the opening two races.

In the three combined Mazda MX-5 Championship and MX-5 SuperCup B races, Jeremy Crook, Ben Short and Colin Bysouth took wins respectively.

Danny Harrison won on his Fiesta Championship debut, after a first-lap crash eliminated frontrunners Ian Wilson and David Nye. An early Code 60 flag halted the action for several laps, but Harrison kept his cool to win by a comfortable four seconds.

Samuel Watkins scored his first ever senior podium after a late pass on Lewis Kent for second place. Kent then picked up his maiden senior win in race two after a brake issue forced earlier winner Harrison to retire. Watkins finished second again, with brother Joshua claiming his first podium in third.

Behind, Nye made superb progress to finish seventh from the back of the field.

Simon Horrobin won a closely fought third race from Samuel Watkins, who

Williams led Daly into Druids, but the pair would come to blows later in the third round

pipped Kent on the line to complete a trio of podiums. Race-one winner Harrison climbed from 30th to 10th before retiring with overheating issues.

In the Fiesta Junior series, James Hillery claimed his maiden win following a tense battle with Jack Davidson in race one, with James Waite following the pair home in third. In the second race, Davidson soaked up pressure throughout from Nicholas Reeve to take the flag, with Hillery adding to his earlier win with another podium finish in third.

Dan Clowes took victory in the first Formula Jedi race, after a long battle with defending champion Rob Sayell. Lee Morgan started from pole but was eliminated in a first lap clash with Paul Butcher. After a brief Code 60, Sayell caught Kris Prosser and Stuart Abbott napping at the restart and pounced to move up from fourth to second. Sayell closed in as the laps ticked down, but Clowes held firm to take a narrow win.

In race two, Prosser scored his first victory in the series, after Morgan retired from the lead with an engine failure two laps from the end. It was a bitter pill to swallow for Morgan, who had fought his way through the field to take the lead with a stunning move on Prosser at Paddock Hill. Bryony King took her first podium finish in the series in second, with Butcher completing the podium in third.

Thomas Grindall won the HRDC Academy race, after a close battle with Steve Jones. The pair were largely unchallenged at the front, finishing half a minute clear of third-placed James Wood.

Father and son Mike and Andrew Jordan lapped the entire field in their Austin A40 to claim a dominant victory in the Historic Touring Greats race.

Martin Walsh claimed back-to-back wins in the GTi Production series, ahead of James Howlison and Paul Blackburn.

STEFAN MACKLEY & ROB WATTS



Kent (left) and Harrison each took a victory

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