

Classic and Clubman's Round 3
Crystal Palace 37-38, Cataluña, 5min per lane.

The ERA team transporter slowly disgorged its multi coloured contents like some penny sweet machine, The Light Blue R5B for team lead driver Allan Inwood, The all Black R4B for John Rees, The light Green R3A for Dave Sykes and a further black car the Delage Chassid ERA.

Giovani Teteleone with the little Alfetta ran a soft rag over its gleaming red paintwork next to an equally red MG Magnet belonging to Mr R Monkman.

Beyond that a couple of mechanics fussed over a new silver machine. Although thoughts naturally run to a Mercedes with the marque dominant in GP racing, but no it is Eric Igo's plucky little Alta.

From the flag Allan took a strong lead with second being fought tooth and nail by Eric and Geovani over second place. This fight took its toll and by lap six as the pace waned allowing the MG of Russ past into second with Giovanni third and Eric fourth. Further back the R3A was suffering to find its old form following a change of front axle and mechanic Lawrence Astminit forgetting to pack the ballast before loading the car on the Transporter. It was only eight laps in that it got on terms with the R4B.

Heat two and Allan built on his previous gains with Russ giving chase, but unable to close. At first Sykes using the black Delage had third and was looking forward to recovering ground lost, but this quickly fell away as he dropped over the banking and down the field to last place. Swapping back to the R3A and hustling the Mechanics Ernie and Len Hour to put in fresh ballast as fast as possible, but could not get back out on the circuit. A short battle of Alfetta versus Alta ensued, but Eric got ahead and just kept his snub nose in front for the rest of the heat, and the R4B of Rees following them home.

Heat three and a determined Russ takes the lead after a five-lap fight with Allan, who finds himself under pressure from Eric and the Alta chasing it hard for seven laps before retaking second place. The R3A was much improved, but could not get a grip on Giovanni and the Alfa and was harassed by John with the R4B.

Heat four. Russ and Allan re-joined in battle swapping the lead until a mistake for Russ dropped him behind Eric who had bettered Sykes. A resurgent MG pipped the Alta to retake second, but could not regain ground on the Blue ERA. Both Johns fought with the Alfa having a ailing engine and R4B pushing managed to hold off John T for a good seven laps until experience eventually told.

Heat Five. Allan and the R5B chased the red MG lap after lap , further back the R3A got ahead of the Alta and Alfa, but quickly fell back with a poor run on Green lane. John T in the ailing Alfa could only follow the Alta looking for a mistake, but Eric was not making them even on White Lane.

Heat six. Russ found himself chasing Alan closely for ten laps then made a move stick for the lead, but could not shake the ERA which got back after a further seven laps. The R3A held a solid third from the Alta and looked back to form until a not unexpected Axel failure allowed the Alta to pass in the dying seconds of the race. R4B had the legs on John T for much of the race till a mistake allowed the Alfa to pinch fifth

Position	Driver	Laps
1	Allan Inwood	164.161
2	Russ Monkman	161.588
3	Eric Igo	140.226
4	John Tetley	123.041
5	Dave Sykes	99.315
6	John Rees	86.298

Position	Driver						
1	Allan Inwood	26.391	28.638	25.89	28.244	28.354	26.644
2	Russ Monkman	26.018	27.398	28.684	27.127	28.566	23.795
3	Eric Igo	21.892	23.919	24.966	24.92	23.816	20.713
4	John Tetley	24.495	22.455	22.371	19.007	22.69	12.023
5	Dave Sykes	14.727	7.259	19.346	20.812	19.942	17.23
6	John Rees	12.419	14.016	18.604	16.571	12.885	11.802

Crystal Palace.	Race 1	Race 2	racev3	Total
Allan Inwood	7	10	10	27
John Tetley	6	8	6	20
Dave Sykes	5	7	5	17
John Rees	4	6	4	14
Craig Whittle	10	0	0	10
Russ Monkman	8	0	8	16
Eric Igo			7	7