

Classic and Clubman, Race three Pre-War Le Mans, 10mins Catalunya.

The sides of the heavy blue canvas tent swelled then collapsed in the late evening breeze, the tricolour pennant fluttered briefly then fell limp on the round wooden pole. Charles sat in front of his abode pumped vigorously on the handle of his hissing Tilly stove to increase the intensity of the flame under his enamel green coffee pot.

A rumble of an engine at speed, squeal of brakes and a flash of green as it rounded the Mulsanne kink, damned trucks. By his side his vacuum flask lay open ready for its charge for this evenings exertions. A flash of red and a gasp of the crowd as the car got sideways, show off Italians. Charles broke off a piece of Baguette showing the crisp crust and quickly pushed it into his mouth before washing it down with a little of the bottle of wine.

The baguette was then returned to his canvas knapsack, along with his slab of cheese and ham hock, before he rose and brushed down his blazer and the lapel button that would give him access to the paddock. A steady wining rose in intensity before clouds of fumes and the flash of white, blasted Germans. He was determined not to wake in the morning having missed it all like last year now where were the beau bue cars.

Five cars and drivers turned out for tonight's challenge. Two were new to this competition and this would be the first times posted for Henri Igo as he took the wheel of the Alfa Romeo 8C to support Giovanni Tetley in the sister car. Johnny Rees took the wheel of Bentley number 8 to support Bertie Sykes in the number 7 car. Finally, The Count de Inwood dominated the Mercedes SSK.

Heat one,

The Mercedes got away well in heat one, Giovanni was looking good, but after three laps a collision with the barrier saw him drop behind. Henri in the Alfa and Bertie in the Bentley were having a close battle, but Henri took up the chase of the white car. It was some eleven laps before Giovanni could close down the number 8 Bentley, but the Italian could not make further progress. On lap 27 Bertie got past Henri who was suffering avoiding spinning cars.

Heat two,

This was a station holding phase of the race with the Count, then Bertie, then Henri and Johnny chasing each other. Giovanni ran for a short while, but pitted and the Alfa mechanics threw themselves at his machine. Giovanni hoped that work now would help him improve the last heat.

Heat three,

A contrasting heat with two grand battles ensuing following the tea break. The count was struggling whether from too much tea or the intensity of ten-minute heats, he dropped back behind Henri and Bertie. These two swapped the lead lap after lap till a backmarker hold up slowed Henri and allowed the count past him. The count closed on Bertie, but even as the count past Bertie Henri used the moment to jump both to hold the lead for 14 laps before the supercharged Mercedes pushed through these three continued these intense battles that saw a number of un-characteristic offs from the Count and Henri just pipping the other two to the flag. A similar ding-dong carried on between Giovanni and Mr Rees, but the Alfa had the legs by half race distance.

So overall a dominant performance for The Count De Inwood with plenty of blue skies for Bertie and Henri. Johnny Rees laid down his benchmark for the next run. Poor Giovanni had a nightmare of a run and many nights of fettling oil required.

Position	Driver	Laps	Fastest Lap	Avg. Lap	Median Lap
1	Allan Inwood	150.835	10.559	11.877	10.994
2	Dave Sykes	144.696	11.002	12.376	12.11
3	Eric Igo	143.321	11.17	12.493	12.277
4	John Rees	105.992	13.047	16.922	14.598
5	John Tetley	89.767	10.816	14.85	11.502

Position	Driver			
1	Allan Inwood	52.433	51.215	47.187
2	Dave Sykes	47.975	48.702	48.019
3	Eric Igo	47.705	47.491	48.124
4	John Rees	33.331	37.232	35.428
5	John Tetley	40.849	5.733	43.185

Current lap count.

Allan Inwood		51.808	53.808	52.818	52.433	51.215	47.187	309.269
Russ Monkman		49.287	53.99	51.288	51.981	55.187	53.276	315.009
John Tetley		48.397	45.443	41.34	47.672	53.562	50.609	287.023
Dave Sykes		46.996	48.215	47.975	48.702	48.019	47.841	287.748
Craig Whittle		0	44.902	40.743	38.073	0	0	123.718
John Rees		33.331	37.232	35.428				105.991
Eric Igo		48.124				47.705	47.491	143.32