

**Classic and Clubman, Pre-War Le Mans.
8th August 2022. Catalunya - 10-mins, 4 heats.**

Johnathon eased himself back and into the dusty grey garage wall, let his head rest against it and his tired neck relax without the weight. He closed his red rimmed eyes and tried to rest his mind that still flashed brake lights and headlights as his brain ran through the many hours of laps just completed. His forearms and fingers ached as he let go of the spoon into the bowl of porridge the mechanics handed him after swapping from the car. He had no appetite, the tiredness of his limbs and rapid movement of his brain replaying that corner. At this stage of the race it was all about fractions of a lap, a bit tighter into the corner, a bit faster out. Little increments to improve the lap. Johnathon knew this was now not his problem, but that of his teammate driver now in the seat however knowing never quiets the mind. A slow breath out and a taste of the porridge. The honey was sweet a taste of summers past. He reset his right leg to ease his calf, sat more upright and then wolfed down the food.

The big blower Bentleys stood in line, number 7 and 3 for both Sykes and John Rees. John was presenting his newly acquired machine the paint still sticky. It still needed some running in to match the older number 7.

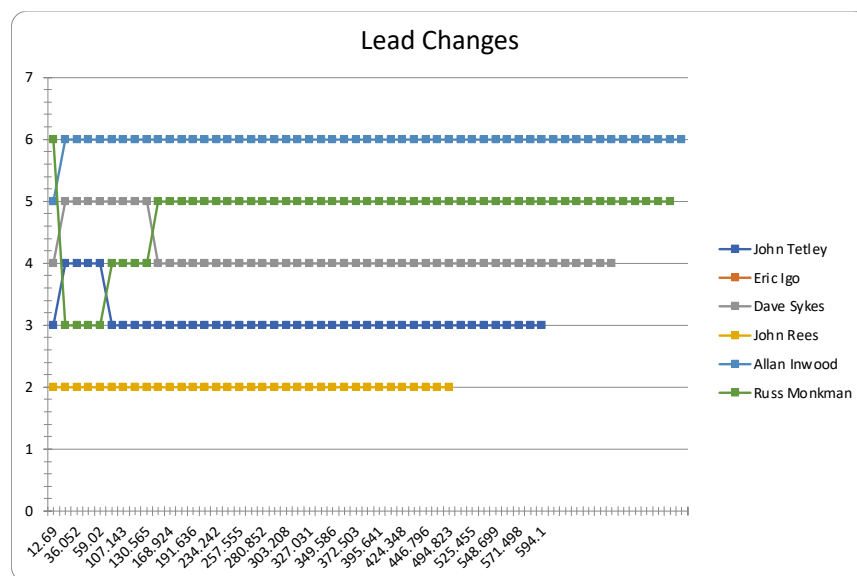
Giovani Tetley had his red Alfa, but was not supported by Henri's darker red machine. He had spent days with his mechanics on the chassis trying to dial out issues from previous heats.

Mercedes were fine tuning the white SSK of Inwood trying to find tenths with each test. Equally the diminutive MG K3 Magnette of Monkman was being prepared for its face off against the Supercharged Merc.

Heat 1

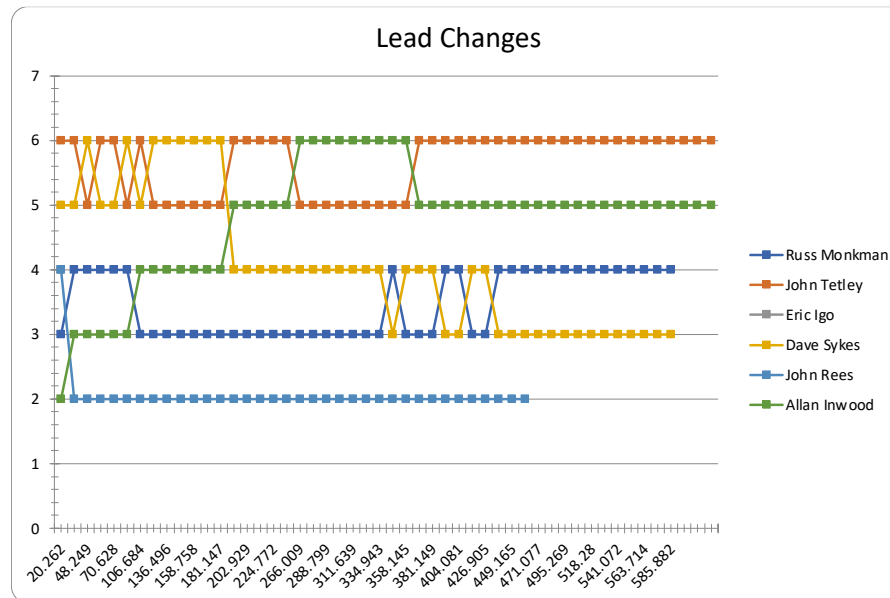
A good start by the MG, but a slip up just after one lap and he was down to fourth with it all to do. Alan took up the lead and pressed his advantage to the line.

Russ made his way back past both Alfa and Bentley to hold second. The Bentley was behaving well to hold third from the Alfa on black and the second Bentley on red.



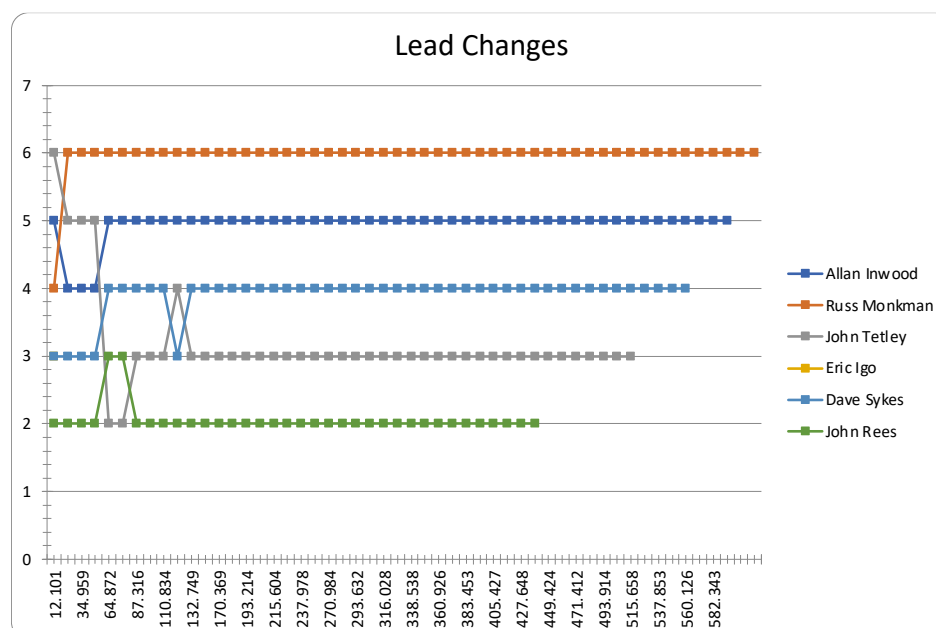
Heat 2

Sip up by The Count caught out Russ on the first lap leaving both Giovanni and Dave with a hot potato of the lead. The race plan was steady, but that went out the window and the Alfa and Bentley pushed each other for position. The inevitable happened and a slip up by Dave released the Alfa. Giovanni was soon joined by The Count de Inwood who held 1st for 9 laps before the Alfa pushed back and a chase ensued to a close finish. The Alfa just holding on to early gains. The Count had pushed through from the back, but the MG on black could not make much progress. He caught the Bentley and after a tussle secured third.



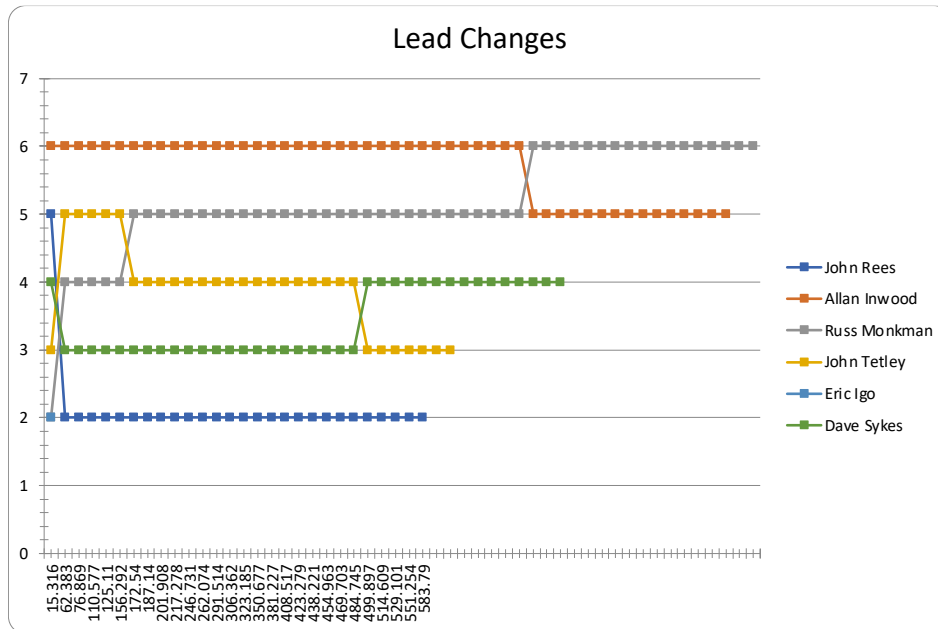
Heat 3

A good start from Giovanni and the Alfa leads after one lap from Allan and Russ. A slip up for the leaders lets Russ through to the lead where he pushes on for a win. The Alfa is chased by The Count on black and a loss of control by Giovanni sees him up against the barriers in front of the Mercedes. The impact pushes the Alfa off the circuit and untold damage. Both continue, the Alfa struggles past first one Bentley then the next, but the battle scars are telling and it cannot keep the Bentley back.



Heat 4

Allan gets away in front with a fast starting John Rees for company, The Alfa makes a move past both Bentleys as they lose ground. He is followed by the MG of Russ. Giovanni can barely keep the car together as parts break free around the plucky driver. The MG gets past him and later Sykes Bentley chasses him down, Dave has had a torrid heat on white struggling for a rhythm. The MG pushes on to catch the tail of Inwood's Merc. Allan cannot keep the little car back and Russ takes the heat.



Results

Position	Driver	Laps	Fastest Lap	Avg. Lap	Median Lap
1	Russ Monkman	207.633	10.107	11.491	11.004
2	Allan Inwood	207.438	10.422	11.512	10.997
3	Dave Sykes	182.366	10.822	13.102	11.609
4	John Tetley	167.878	10.596	14.169	11.377
5	John Rees	136.951	12.336	17.39	13.824
Position	Driver	Laps	Fastest Lap	Avg. Lap	Median Lap
1	Russ Monkman	54.567	47.837	52.823	52.406
2	Allan Inwood	55.545	50.655	50.24	50.999
3	Dave Sykes	49.209	47.617	47.236	38.303
4	John Tetley	43.2	50.781	43.249	30.649
5	John Rees	35.257	36.645	36.207	28.842

Current Total Laps

Any improved laps have been added to the table below. It's getting harder to improve and any distraction quickly throws off the race. Eric and Craig still need to run half the race, with luck there are still two more chances to improve. Eric seems set for a 286 total and Craig for 246 if they manage to run.

update								
Allan Inwood		51.808	53.808	52.818	52.433	55.545	50.655	317.067
Russ Monkman		49.287	53.99	52.406	51.981	55.187	54.567	317.418
John Tetley		48.397	50.781	43.249	47.672	53.562	50.609	294.27
Dave Sykes		46.996	48.215	49.209	48.702	48.019	47.841	288.982
Craig Whittle		0	44.902	40.743	38.073	0	0	123.718
John Rees		33.331	37.232	35.428	35.257	36.645	36.207	214.1
Eric Igo		48.124				47.705	47.491	143.32

Looks like 54,55 laps per Lane is possible for Russ and Allan's MG and Mercedes. Johns Alfa could make 53 so he is not far away if he can string them together with a rebuilt chassis. Dave should be able to get 49s across the board and 50 felt possible on green as that run had two offs. John Rees with a little tuning should be able to reach past 40 laps per lane.