



Guy Hefford (50) controlled race one from the front

750MC BRANDS HATCH, APRIL 28-29

Wauer wows 'em with F4 debut win



Wauer was imperious in the wet in Formula 4

“DID NOBODY TELL him it was raining?” asked marshal/racer Chris Salt after 16-year-old American-Norwegian Falco Wauer trounced top Formula 4 opposition on his UK racing debut.

Comfortably inside Robbie Watts' lap record in Friday testing, Wauer also excelled in Saturday's monsoon, but getting the ex-Jonathan Weston-Taylor Mygale off pole proved tricky.

Twice he was swallowed by the pack in the restarted opening race – “I let the clutch out too fast and the motor stopped,” he shrugged – but the recoveries were sensational. Having deposed leader Watts, the youngster displayed phenomenal car control as he stormed to victory.

The action replay plan went wrong when Wauer ousted Watts under waved yellow flags and was excluded. “He's good, but that was naughty,” said Watts, who reckoned he'd not been as wet in 20 years of racing at Brands.

Tim Gray again blitzed RGB, but four Spires in the top six made it a red letter Saturday for marque founder Paul Nightingale, especially since novice Matt Higginson finished second in his ex-works GTR. John Cutmore led Gray briefly in Sunday's dry race, before Tim knuckled down and smashed another lap record. Paul Rogers (Contour) and Derek Jones (Sabre) were third and fourth, with Tony Gaunt's new Wolfe sixth.

Silverstone Stock Hatch double winner Joe Ferguson's weekend looked doomed when his Citroen Saxo was spat out of the pack on the descent from Druids on lap one of Saturday's race, smote the tyre wall, bucked into the air and ricocheted back into the pack. Incredibly, he fought back to third behind Jake Farndon and Patrick Fletcher as Saxmax alumni claimed the top four places.

After several exchanges with Fletcher in a frantic first half of lap six,

Ferguson – who had passed Andy Tibbs and Tom Bell before catching the defending champion –aced Sunday's race.

Farndon, his win ballast no handicap once he'd got going, clawed back up to second, ahead of Fletcher.

Fiesta XR2i drivers Lee Scott and Andrew Thorpe claimed Classic Hatch honours. Scott beat Vauxhall Nova man Damian Cottrell (who had grabbed the lead under yellow flags at Paddock)

in race one, while Thorpe headed home Derek Rozier's fast Peugeot 205GTi in the sequel.

The top-value BMW E36 Compact Cup has trebled in size over the winter. Beemer specialist Robin Welsh appeared late for the series opener, thus was obliged to start from the pitlane (“I was playing mind games with rivals but they bit me”), but he shot to third behind Stock Hatch convert Alex Dew and a surprised Colin

Bysouth in his first race!

Welsh arrived more snappily second time out and powered his 318i almost 25 seconds clear of David Power, Kevin Denwood and Stuart Voyce

In Saturday's bitterly cold weather Sam Oliveira's Sheane split its oil cooler and an hour was lost mopping up in pouring rain before a restart. Paul Smith continued his winning run, although second-placed Keith Farrance lapped quicker. Smith's AHS



BMW grid has trebled in size