

WRCC du 12 Heures Wycombe Radio Car Club – 29th April 2012



The 29th of April 2012 saw the first running of the WRCC du 12 Heures at Wycombe Radio Car Club. This was the first chance for teams of drivers to race in a 12 Hour Endurance race meeting on Wycombe's permanent circuit.

Teams were made up of up to 4 drivers and were attracted from all sorts of radio controlled car disciplines. Drivers from 1/12th Banger Racing, 1/12th Hot Rod and Saloon Stox, 1/10th Off-Road and 1/10th Touring Cars all joined the fun. The meeting was held for charity this time being the British Heart Foundation and the drivers did a great job raising well over £500 for the cause.

So to the racing! This meeting was held using the Mardave v12 car and was provided by Chris Wilkinson at Mardave. Chris very kindly sponsored the meeting and not only provided a cut price Mardave Racer kit but upgraded numerous items to make the car very competitive out of the box and enjoyable to drive. Without Mardave's help the event would have been much more expensive for the drivers. 12 teams were booked in, showing how popular the race meeting format was with the drivers.

The cars were running the Mardave G2 brushed motor with the economical Mtroninks Viper Eco speed controller. Cars could be powered by 4-cell Nimh or 1S Lipo.

Concours was won by the nicely prepared Tigra from the Wolverton Warriors. There were lots of other very nice looking cars with local Banger drivers The Chaos Warriors also deserving a special mention with their airbrushed Calibra. Number decals were also provided for the cars, these were sponsored by Nick at www.thesticketanddecalman.co.uk. Nick provides custom race numbers and other decals for lots of racers, especially popular with the 1/12th Oval drivers.



So to the first task! For this meeting the cars were not prepared in advance. The only things that could be pre-prepared were body shells and tyres. The teams were handed out their kits at 9am and asked to stand at the far side of the circuit. Then the 12 hour race was started and the drivers performed a faultless (if a little slow for some) Le Mans style start.



All was quiet in the pits with the teams frantically building their cars. Who would be first out on the track and how quickly? Would the cars handle straight away from the box? The answer was very quickly, some teams preparing the items such as the track rods and servo saver before the meeting. Others had already drilled holes in the shell to save a few more minutes.

First out onto the track was the smart Fiesta of the Dukes of Essex. Team leader Simon Tuson had organised the team well and they stole a very early lead, managing to build their car in an unbelievable 29 minutes. Not too far behind them were The Chaos Warriors led by Mike Richardson but they were already 25 laps down on the Dukes.

Other cars were soon to follow with most on the track before hour 1 was completed. A couple of teams with less experienced drivers in this type of racing struggled a little and had some early teething problems but they too were soon lapping well.

The Dukes of Essex held their early lead but were soon passed by The Chaos Warriors. Another quick car at this stage was Team Ansmann, led by Nicholas Child. Nicholas races 1/10th Off-road cars normally but in recent weeks he has been seen getting familiar with Mardave cars. Team Ansmann and The Chaos Warriors were trading fast lap times now in the top two places. The Chaos of Warriors with a decent lead thanks to their fast kit build.



Strategy was to play an important role in the race today. No-one had raced an event of this sort before and there were plenty of unknown factors. For example, how many hours would the G2 motors last? Would it be better to run 1S Lipo with more capacity and be easier on the motors? Would 4-cell Nimh cells be the ones to have with their better punch? What would be the best strategy regarding driver changes?

Most teams seemed to be running 15-20 minutes before changing drivers. The cars still quick at the end of the runs. Many teams were worried about motor heat with heat sinks not being allowed to enable a level playing field. This however never seemed to be a big problem despite some very hot cars!



4 hours in and disaster struck! The weather over the weekend had been severe with very heavy rain and winds. This caused a power cut in Wycombe and knocked out the electricity at the club and half of Wycombe! Luckily the Wycombe race computer has battery backup and we could save the results up to that point...

Leading at this stage were Team Ansmann followed by The Chaos Warriors, Dukes of Essex and The Tuesday Night Racers.

The power was off for around 2 hours and racers during this time tried to keep entertained with some practice around the circuit in the dark! Many teams used this time to their advantage and their cars were performing much better in the second half of the race. To compensate for the time out the race was reduced from the 12 hours down to 9 hours. We also saw some rapid touring cars venturing out onto the circuit. Although tight, the track can handle the 1/10th Touring cars without too many problems.

In the second half of the race Team Ansmann had some problems as did the Tuesday Night Racers which dropped them down the order. Going best at this stage were the Dukes of Essex and they were setting about reducing the lead of the Chaos Warriors. Other very fast cars at this point were the Wolverton Warriors who now had their car working very well indeed and were closing in on the leaders.

Into the closing stages and it looked like it was going to be very close between the Dukes of Essex and The Chaos Warriors, but then disaster struck. The Dukes of Essex lost their transponder for a number of laps gifting the lead to the Chaos Warriors which they held onto the end of the race.

Well done to the Chaos Warriors – Matt Richardson, Dan Martin, Tom Thatcher and Michael Richardson.

All in all Wycombe Radio Car Club would like to thank all the sponsors and racers for an enjoyable event. It was really great fun! We are already planning the 2013 event so visit www.wycomberacing.co.uk to get the latest news.

The final results:

Results:

- 1: The Chaos Warriors: 2206 laps
- 2: The Dukes of Essex: 2170 laps
- 3: Team Ansmann: 2145 laps
- 4: Wolverton Warriors: 1906 laps
- 5: Escargots: 1788 laps
- 6: Real Deal: 1732 laps
- 7: Strawberry Crushers: 1714 laps
- 8: Tuesday Night Racers: 1706 laps
- 9: Team Monkey: 1669 laps
- 10: Basingstoke Bangers: 1632 laps
- 11: Crash Test Dummies: 640 laps



4th place – The Wolverton Warriors



3rd place – Team Ansmann



2nd place – The Dukes of Essex



1st place – The Chaos Warriors