

Classic FF1600 2018 Preview – Silverstone National – Rounds 1/2 Sunday 25th March 2018

The 2018 Classic FF1600 Season kicks off at Silverstone next Sunday with a Double Header on the National Circuit. I have to be honest and say the Number of entries is a little lower than would be ideal with a few regular Drivers delaying the start of their 2018 campaigns for one reason than another but there is nevertheless a lot to be positive about – so here goes !

First of all welcome to several new Drivers. Richard Yeomans spends his working life piloting Private Jets but this weekend makes his Classic FF1600 Debut in a Crossle 25F. Joshua Mason is a young Kart Graduate working towards British F3 no less you can read a little about him here: <http://www.britishf3.com/drivers/2018-drivers/joshua-mason/>. He is following the same path as Toby Sowery who started with us at Donington a couple of years ago (and Toby has of course done very well since then).

Welcome also to John Thompson (Royale RP26) and Martin Whitlock (PRS RH02). It is great to see new Drivers joining the Championship which is well known as being welcoming to newcomers.

Making a return after an absence of around 10 years is Alan Williamson who ran with us back then in the same Van Diemen RF81 that he is in this weekend. Alan has been racing in Europe extensively so he has kept his hand in !

Class B will be livened up by the return of HSCC FF1600 Front Runner Benn Tilley. Benn is another who made his race debut with us before becoming one of the leading Drivers in the Historic Championship. I really rate this Driver – I followed him around a wet Silverstone GP Circuit when he was doing his first laps and even managed to get ahead briefly only to be re-overtaken before finally going off trying to keep up with him on lap 2 ! A potential outright race winner.

It seems to be a rule in Classic and Historic FF1600 that Guys called Ben (or Benn) are quick and we also have Ben Tinckler in his smart red Van Diemen RF80. He has been quick on his few appearances so far with us and also starred at the front of the snappily named “Non Historic Formula Ford Consolation Race” at the Walter Hayes Trophy in November – starting on pole and finishing a close second in a slightly newer Reynard.

Fresh from racing in New Zealand Rick Morris returns in his Royale RP26. He is one of a tiny number of people to have beaten Ayrton Senna in a straight fight in FF1600 – is it possible more people have walked on the Moon ? Look out for Stuart Kestenbaum, a multiple Championship Winner and another tough Battler now in a Crossle 16F which means he faces Benn Tilley in Class B which should be interesting !

Steve Pearce has been racing for Decades in Classic FF1600 and is a very good Driver who produces great performances. He is also an invaluable source of advice to those of us helping to run the Classic FF1600 Club due to the sheer amount of experience he has. BOSS and F1 Preparation Expert Kevin Mansell was very fast last year also. Welcome back also to Tim Saunders who started racing just last year and has made rapid progress already, Tom Roark who is driving the family Van Diemen RF78 also used by David Roark, and Andrew Bartosiak in his Royale RP26.