

Victories, Podiums and Engine Failures in Assen

Assen, 22 July 2007 – As the GTC-TC 2007 season continues, the races are becoming more and more demanding for the historic cars. The fourth event held in Assen in the Netherlands showed a much smaller field of participants than in the first three events of the season. And after engine failures incurred during practice, the Triumphs entered by Johannes Mann and Adi Kocabas had to stay in the Bastuck team tent for the races. And yet there was a lot of success for the Saarland team: Bernd Schmitt won the second race and came second in the first race, and the other team members also scored a lot of points. Donate Bastuck showed another impeccable performance and was rewarded with two class victories.

2007 GTC-TC Championship – Fourth Event – Assen (NL) – 20-22 July 2007

Qualifying (21-07-2007):

Although the Dutch race weekend in Assen where only 13 historic cars participated, began with strong rainfall, both Qualifying Practice sessions were held in dry and sunny weather. Johannes Mann and his Triumph Spitfire MK 4 was once more part of Team Bastuck. "But during the first Qualifying session I had a driveshaft failure, and in the second session even an engine failure", he lamented. "Somehow everything seems to be going the wrong way. Nevertheless in twelve years of my historic car career this is only the second time that I cannot start the races in my Spitfire." Adi Kocabas also had to face problems with water exiting his Triumph's engine. "What a pity, now that after the big accident in Misano my TR4 had been so nicely restored." Bernd Schmitt in his Marcos 1800 GT had some stunning lap time duels with a Ford Escort RS equipped with an engine that has around 130 bhp more than the Marcos. Towards the end of Qualifying the Escort was faster and conquered Pole Position ahead of Schmitt. Again Peter Blasen and Lothar Schu shared Schu's MG B and managed sixth place on the starting grid. "That was so much fun", Schu was beaming. After having suffered a valve failure in Free Practice, Donate Bastuck fought back and qualified for the races. Her husband Rainer showed his usual solid performance with a fifth place on the grid - but right after that he quickly changed over to the ADAC Procar paddock where he was engaged in his other activities driving an Opel Astra GTC for Team Kissling Motorsport.

Race 1 (22-07-2007):

The first run in Assen was started when the rain began to fall. Bernd Schmitt showed a great start and moved in front, but very soon he had to let the much stronger Ford Escort go. However, he was able to follow him and finish the race in second place. "As the race proceeded I was more and more relaxed with every lap and drove a nice round racing line, but there was nothing I could do in my Marcos to beat the Escort", Schmitt explained. Lothar Schu drove the MG B in the first race. "When the Porsche dropped out, I slowed down a little", Schu said. "But that can be quite dangerous as you loose concentration." Nevertheless the MG came fourth in the race. Rainer Bastuck handed his TR4 to the unfortunate Adi Kocabas for the first run, as his own Triumph was sidelined after the engine failure. "This is the first time this season that I get to see the chequered flag", Adi showed his gratitude for Rainer's grand gesture, finishing fifth. Ten minutes into the race the rain started to fall, but Donate Bastuck drove a courageous race, scored a class victory and some further points for the overall classification where after Dijon she was already in 8th position with a field of 45 classified drivers.

Race 2 (22-07-2007):

The first driver to sit in his historic Triumph TR4, almost an hour before the start of the race, was Rainer Bastuck who had taken the wheel of his car previously driven by Adi Kocabas. A small engine problem had to be overcome quickly by Team Bastuck's mechanics - and they managed to give him the thumbs up in time for the race. The race was won by Bernd Schmitt who profited from the retirement of the Ford Escort to keep the rest of the field away driving some fast lap times. "Obviously I am delighted", the Karlsruhe driver said after his faultless drive. "To finish first you have to finish first", he added after his strongest rival dropped out. Donate Bastuck supported the famous quote with her own

performance, for once again she drove to a clear class victory, scoring more valuable Championship points for Team Bastuck.

The next event of the 2007 GTC-TC Championship will take place from 3rd to 5th August in Kopenhagen (DK).