

Safety cars stall duo after a 36-hour trip

MOTORSPORT

SHENSTONE'S Adam Christodoulou endured a frustrating time at Virginia International Raceway in the latest round of the Grand AM Series.

Travel issues meant it took Christodoulou 36 hours to reach Virginia via Lichfield, London, Brussels, Amsterdam, Minneapolis and Raleigh.

After all the successes Christodoulou and co-driver John Edwards have had in the Mazda RX8 this year, they were given a 70lb weight ballast.

Christodoulou qualified sixth and, though he moved up to fifth for a while, he dropped to seventh after a pit stop, before the arrival of a safety car caused more problems.

He passed over to Edwards, made a tyre change and refuelled, but the pit stop wasn't the quickest and the pair lost more places, dropping to 10th.

During the last hour, there were another three safety cars, and this didn't help the duo as it was using up their time to take positions back.

Then, on the last corner of the last lap, Edwards became snared up behind a slightly slower car, allowing the 11th-placed car to power past just before the finish line.

Christodoulou said: "Had the safety car been deployed five minutes after our pit stop it would have played beautifully in our favour, but that just wasn't how this race was destined to play out. It was just a case of unfortunate timing."

He is now off to Lime Rock for testing in preparation for the next race on May 31.

INDETAIL

RESULTS

DARTS

FOUR OAKS AND DISTRICT LEAGUE
Derek Masters Trophy Final: T Colley, Red Lion Flights 1 L Harris (3x100) Sutton Sports 3
Brian Goodman Cup Final: Sutton Sports 7 (L Harris 100f R Hawker 100, J Kavanagh 100, M Wild 160b C Perry 100, 100b) Pint Pot Flights 2 (W Mynard 140, nine-dart game, P Smith 120b M Watts 140, M Archer 2x137, 100, A Richardson 100).
Ken Rust Cup Final: The Fox 7 (M Harris 116b, 100, T Frost 125, 100, eight-dart game, J Frost 140, 120b, eight-dart game, D Perry 125, 100, J Harris 100, N Harris 135) Boldmere Flights 2 (S Bow 102b, K O'Grady 120b, 122). DARTS

DARTS FOUR OAKS AND DISTRICT DARTS LEAGUE

| Division One | | | | |
|--------------------|----|----|----|-----|
| | P | W | L | Pts |
| Sutton Sports | 15 | 13 | 2 | 26 |
| Sportsman's Rest | 15 | 12 | 3 | 24 |
| Boldmere Sports | 15 | 10 | 5 | 21 |
| Old Oscott Arrows | 15 | 9 | 6 | 18 |
| Cross Keys PPA | 15 | 6 | 9 | 12 |
| Red Lion Flights | 15 | 4 | 11 | 8 |
| Anvil Nomads | 15 | 4 | 11 | 8 |
| White Lion | 15 | 3 | 12 | 6 |
| Division Two | | | | |
| | P | W | L | Pts |
| The Fox | 16 | 16 | 0 | 106 |
| Fox and Dogs | 16 | 12 | 4 | 24 |
| Deers' Leap | 16 | 10 | 6 | 20 |
| Oscott Social | 16 | 10 | 6 | 20 |
| Old Oscott WMC | 16 | 8 | 8 | 16 |
| Pint Pot Flights | 16 | 6 | 10 | 12 |
| Aston Social | 16 | 4 | 12 | 8 |
| Deer's Leap Stags | 16 | 4 | 12 | 8 |
| Pint Pot | 16 | 2 | 14 | 4 |
| Division Three | | | | |
| | P | W | L | Pts |
| Drakes Drum | 16 | 16 | 0 | 32 |
| Royal Oak | 16 | 12 | 4 | 24 |
| Safe Harbour | 16 | 10 | 6 | 20 |
| White Lion Barrels | 16 | 9 | 7 | 18 |
| Brookvale | 16 | 9 | 7 | 18 |
| Boldmere Flights | 16 | 5 | 11 | 10 |
| Reddicap Tavern | 16 | 4 | 12 | 8 |
| Bromford Social | 16 | 4 | 12 | 8 |
| Sutton Town FC | 16 | 3 | 13 | 6 |

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MARTIAL ARTS: Two members of 2A's Judokwai Club were among the medallists at the British Judo Council National Championships in Hereford. Samuel Morris took gold in the

boys primary 28-31kg category, while Samuel Perry claimed bronze in the primary boys 31-39kg section despite being one of the lightest in the group. Friends from Erdington Judo

Club, also won medals. Raees Khan Khalik took bronze in the primary boys under-25kg category, Harry Tredaway won gold in the junior boys under-31kg section and Daniel

Hemming won silver in the junior boys under-36kg event. Pictured from left, are Harry Tredaway, Raees Khan Khalik, Samuel Morris and Samuel Perry.

Jordan savours points after treacherous race conditions

MOTORSPORT

By **MICHAEL BEARDMORE**
Sports editor

ANDREW Jordan enjoyed a satisfactory weekend at Brands Hatch with two points finishes in the latest round of the British Touring Car Championship.

The Pirtek Racing star, from Sutton, contended with persistent rain as well as an ongoing engine issue to take a 15th place finish in the first race, a superb sixth in the second and fifth in the final race of the day.

During qualifying, Jordan was doing well but he ran wide at the final corner of the circuit into the gravel and ended his session, leaving him in eighth place for the first race the following day.

Sunday's first race took place in extremely wet conditions and though there were no dramas, the Turbo-powered NGTC engine in Jordan's Vauxhall Vectra began a race long misfire.

After fighting hard to main-



Andrew Jordan holds off challengers at Brands Hatch.

tain his position in the treacherous conditions, the engine issue deteriorated and Jordan was forced to pit on the penultimate lap, rejoining be classified 15th at the flag.

Race two also took place in sodden conditions but from 16th Jordan made a good getaway and moved up to 10th by the end of the first lap.

Four safety car interventions interrupted the race and

Jordan once again struggled with an intermittent engine issue but continued to move through the field, passing several cars and ending the race as one of the quickest cars on track in sixth place.

Jordan started the final race from the second row of the grid in third place, but a drying track saw Pirtek opt for dry tyres on the front and wet tyres on the rear.

PICTURE BY KEITH HUBBLEDAY

With those around him going for full wet weather tyres, Jordan lost places on the first lap of the race as he struggled with a lack of heat and grip and by lap eight he was running down in ninth place.

But as the track began to dry, Jordan passed two cars in succession before following Matt Neal past Tom Boardman.

On lap 14 Jordan made a bold overtake on the Chevrolet of James Nash and was up to fifth place, although his challenge to Rob Collard for fourth place proved fruitless.

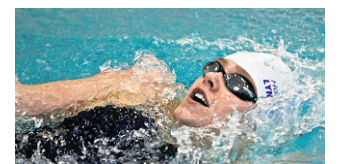
Jordan said: "Aside from the first race we have come away with two solid results and once again showed ourselves as one of the front runners when the car is running well. Aside from the engine issues in the races, the car felt really good.

"I really enjoyed the battles in race three, I'd worn my rear tyres a bit more than Matt (Neal) so I couldn't quite keep the same pace as him, but I think with a few in more laps in the race we could have made the podium too."

Jordan is 11th with 30 points in the Drivers Championship table. The next round of the BTCC will take place at Oulton Park in Cheshire on June 5-6.



MOTORSPORT: Sutton youngster Jack Brookes got the chance to meet Australian Formula One driver Mark Webber at a recent racing event. The young karter, a pupil at Town Junior School, has enjoyed a host of successes recently, with four wins and a second place. He is now racing with SAS Motorsport and, at an event at Wilton Mill, Brookes got to meet Red Bull racing driver Webber, who wished him well for the future.



Holly Lynch claimed three gold medals at the championships.

Lynch clinches gold in three backstroke championship races

SWIMMING

By **STEVE HARLOW**
Swimming correspondent

FIVE swimmers from Boldmere Swimming Club all achieved qualifying times to represent the club at the Midland ASA Youth Championships last weekend.

Joey Stanger, Kelly Dawson, Adam Kelly, Emily Gordon and Chris Littler flew the flag for the Orcas in Coventry and each had reason to be proud of their accomplishments.

Reaching three finals in the 15-16 years age group, Stanger won a silver medal in the 100m freestyle, claimed fourth place in the 50m in a new personal best and club record in the heats and also made the final of the 200m.

Kelly Dawson (14-15years) managed a fourth in the 100m backstroke as well as making the 50m butterfly final while Adam Kelly set a new personal best in the heats of the over-17s to reach the 50m fly final.

There was further Boldmere presence and success at the Championships with five club members representing the colours of City of Birmingham swim squad.

Dominating her event, Holly Lynch destroyed the competition by winning all three backstroke gold medals to take the over-16s Midland titles in the 50m, 100m and 200m events.

Also on the podium was Phil Hewitt, who claimed a bronze in the 15-16 years 100m fly, slicing half a second off his personal best to set a new club record of 1.01.03mins while also making the shorter 50m fly final.

Reaching four over 16s finals in the 100m fly, 200m individual medley, 200m fly and 400m individual medley, Jenny Fowler finished fourth in both the latter.

Meanwhile Alix Swinhoe, competing in the 14-15 years age group, reached all three finals of the breaststroke, securing fourth in the 50m in a new club record, fifth in the 100m and seventh in the 200m, setting a new personal best and club record in her heat.

Kristie Hackett also qualified for two finals in the longer 400m events of the freestyle and individual medley taking fifth spot in the latter and setting a club record in her heat.



Joey Stanger in action at the Midlands ASA Youth Championships in Coventry.

Pictures by Steve Harlow