



NEWS RELEASE

Lola T400 and McLaren M10B Win First Round of 2008 USA Formula 5000 40th Anniversary Championship

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Rochester Hills, MI – (June 1, 2008) – The Formula 5000 Drivers Association is pleased to announce the results of Round One of its 40th Anniversary Historic Races held during the weekend of May 31 – June 1, 2008 at Infineon Raceway as part of the Wine Country Classics.

Overall winner of the event and placing in first place in Class B (post 1971 cars) was Hamish Somerville in a 1974 Lola T400. Winner of Class A (pre 1972 cars) and finishing 4th overall was Bruce Leeson driving a 1969 McLaren M10B.

Second place in Class A went to Steve Davis driving a 1969 Eagle MK5. Third place went to Tony Adamowicz driving the recently restored 1969 Eagle F5000 car with which he won the 1969 F5000 Championship Title.

In Class B, Second place went to Roger Williams driving a 1974 Lola T332. Roger is visiting with his car from Auckland, New Zealand and plans to participate in all future rounds of the 2008 USA F5000 Championship. Third place in Class A went to Paul Hoey driving a 1973 McRae GM1.

According to Seb Coppola, president of the Formula 5000 Drivers Association which is organizing the 40th Anniversary reunion races and celebration: "We had a great field of Formula 5000 race cars participating in our first round of the 2008 Anniversary races. It was wonderful to see and hear a full field of Formula 5000 race car racing on a major race circuit for the first time in more than three decades. The drivers, the race fans and everyone involved with the event enjoyed the scene and atmosphere immensely. The excitement will intensify as we move on to our next event at Road America."

Seb Coppola added: "We were also extremely pleased to have 16 former drivers, who drove in the original Formula A/5000 series, participate in the festivities. In addition to Tony Adamowicz, we were pleased to have Elliot Forbes-Robinson get reunited with and race his 1974 Eagle 74A during the weekend races. These pioneers shaped the heritage of Formula 5000 and we are very proud and appreciative of their contribution to Motorsports racing"

Other former F5000 drivers at the event included: Barry Blackmore, Michael Brayton, Jim Dittmore, Ron Dykes, Bruce Eglinton, Eric Haga, Arlen Koops, Davey Jordan, Jim Law, Randy Lewis, Scooter Patrick, Lou Pavesi, Rex Ramsey, and Dave Wolin.

Formula 5000 was introduced in 1968 in the SCCA Formula A races, a series where single seaters from different origins were allowed to compete, but which became dominated by the new F5000 cars when the large American V8s were allowed. F5000 enjoyed popularity in the early 70's in the U.S.A., Great Britain, Australia and New Zealand.

Round One Results – Wine Country Classic – May 31-June 1, 2008

The weekend races started with the Qualifying Race on Saturday. A field of 17 cars started the race with Tom Dyer leading the group in a Lola T332. The next four positions were occupied by Roger Williams, Paul Hoey, Hamish Somerville and Bruce Leeson.

The top 5 positions did not change during the race, but a few battles in the middle of the field had Hal Whipple move up to 6th place from starting 8th in his recently restored 1974 Talon. Nick Smith moved up from 11th place to 8th. Steve Davis started in 14th place and drove hard to finishing in 9th overall. Tony Adamowicz got gridded wrong and started 16th but finished in 10th place with a very spirited drive.

Sunday morning warm up brought some disappointing developments with cold tires and a cold track claiming two cars to accidents. Tom Dyer in his Lola T332 and Hal Whipple in his Talon went off and inflicted significant damage to the cars taking them out of the starting grid for the afternoon Feature Race

Roger Williams was now on pole with Paul Hoey and Hamish Somerville behind him. At Turn 2 Paul Hoey in his McRae went unexpectedly to the inside of Williams' Lola 332 and took the lead. With clearly a much faster car and good driving skills, Hoey increased the lead significantly finishing in first place before being penalized two spots for passing in a prohibited zone.

Midway through the race, Hamish Somerville in his Lola T400 passed Williams for second place and ultimately the winning position. In other notables, Nick Smith also drove a good race and took fifth place overall in his March 73A passing Tom Malloy. Ken Petrie got his tires to finally warm up and moved up from 13th to finish 8th.

Driver	Car	Class	Finishing Position			
			Qualifying Race		Feature Race	
			Overall	Class	Overall	Class
Hamish Somerville	1974 Lola T400	B	4	4	1	1
Roger Williams	1974 Lola T332	B	2	2	2	2
Paul Hoey	* 1973 McRae GM1	B	3	3	3	3
Bruce Leeson	1969 McLaren M10B	A	5	1	4	1
Nick Smith	1973 March 73A	B	8	7	5	4
Tom Malloy	1974 Lola T332	B	7	6	6	5
Steve Davis	1969 Eagle Mk5	A	9	2	7	2
Ken Petrie	1972 McRae GM1	B	15	9	8	6
Tony Adamowicz	1969 Eagle FA	A	10	3	9	3
Tim Osborne	1968 Crossle 5F	A	12	5	10	4
Bruce Sevier	1968 Lola T140	A	11	4	11	5
Barry Blackmore	1975 Lola T332	B	13	8	12	7
Martin Fogel	1969 McLaren M10A	A	14	6	13	6
Dan Gallant	1970 Leda F5000	A	16	7	14	7
Elliot Forbes-Robinson	1974 Eagle 74A	B	17	10	15	8
Tom Dyer	1974 Lola T332	B	1	1	DNS	
Hal Whipple	1974 Talon F5000	B	6	5	DNS	
Dave Hankin	1969 McLaren M10B	A	DNS		DNS	
Seb Coppola	1970 Lola T192	B	DNS		DNS	
Jay Esterer	1972 McRae GM1	A	DNS		DNS	

* Penalized 2 spots for passing in prohibited area

2008 F5000 Championship Point Standings

In addition to individual race trophies, the Formula 5000 Drivers Association will also award a Championship Trophy based on points accumulated over the three main events at Infineon, Road America and Watkins Glen. Below are the point standings after the first round:

Driver	Car	Class	2008 Formula 5000 Championship Points Earned**		
			Qualifying	Feature	Total
			Race	Race	
Bruce Leeson	1969 McLaren M10B	A	20	40	60
Hamish Somerville	1974 Lola T400	B	14	40	54
Roger Williams	1974 Lola T332	B	18	36	54
Steve Davis	1969 Eagle Mk5	A	18	36	54
Paul Hoey	1973 McRae GM1	B	16	32	48
Tony Adamowicz	1969 Eagle FA	A	16	32	48
Tim Osborne	1968 Crossle 5F	A	12	28	40
Bruce Sevier	1968 Lola T140	A	14	24	38
Nick Smith	1973 March 73A	B	8	28	36
Tom Malloy	1974 Lola T332	B	10	24	34
Martin Fogel	1969 McLaren M10A	A	10	20	30
Ken Petrie	1972 McRae GM1	B	4	20	24
Dan Gallant	1970 Leda F5000	A	8	16	24
Barry Blackmore	1975 Lola T332	B	6	16	22
Tom Dyer	1974 Lola T332	B	20		20
Elliot Forbes-Robinson	1974 Eagle 74A	B	2	12	14
Hal Whipple	1974 Talon F5000	B	12		12
Dave Hankin	1969 McLaren M10B	A			0
Seb Coppola	1970 Lola T192	B			0
Jay Esterer	1972 McRae GM1	A			0

Round 2 Races: July 17-20, 2008 at Road America for the Kohler International Challenge

The next Round of the 2008 Formula 5000 Anniversary races will take the group to Road America to participate in the Kohler International Challenge with Brian Redman. The 4 mile circuit is an ideal venue for Formula 5000 cars with its three long straights, elevation changes and challenging turns.

Brian Redman's presence at the event will be even more delightful given his three Championship titles in Formula 5000 in 1974, 1975 and 1976.

The Formula 5000 Drivers Association is a membership car club established to promote the registration, restoration and use of historic Formula 5000 race cars. (www.F5000Registry.com).

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