

DEL MONTE TROPHY RACE GROUP

Celebrating the Pebble Beach Road Races



RACE REPORT

Laguna Seca - August 18 , 2023

Marcus Bicknell reporting

Rolex Monterey Motorsports Reunion, Group 12 (1947-1960 front engine sports racing and GT, including the Del Monte Trophy race group from the Pebble Beach Road Races)

The Reunion now running from Wednesday thru Saturday, our first race was in the afternoon of Friday August 18. The Del Monte Trophy cars are those that raced at Pebble Beach Road Races 1950-1956 and cars of a type that raced there. If you are keen to look up the drivers, cars and results then do have a look at <https://www.racingsportscars.com/track/archive/Pebble%20Beach.html>. For today's race we are in the same race group as a bevy of Lotus 11 sports racers, a Ferrari 250 GT Short-Wheel-Base and a Jaguar Lister Knobbly which were introduced 1959 after the end of Pebble Beach. It makes for great racing and a variety of grids from year to year.

As a fabulous grid of 30 period race cars came out of turn 11 onto the home straightaway, pole sitter #84 Greg Meyer in his blue/white 1959 Sadler Mk4 of 5555cc leads the pack with #6 Al Arciero in his silver 1958 Lister Knobbly of 5466cc alongside. #42 Brian MacEachern (1956 Lotus XI) and #25C Blake Tatum (1953 Tatum GMC Special) are ready to slip through when the opportunity presents. Mark Sange's #164 1956 Le Mans Lotus is being held in the pit lane to join the race after the start and two green flag laps turn into three as tow trucks pull it out of the way. A welcome late entrant is #10 Piers Gormley in his green 1958 Buyers/Volvo Special. Our friend and running mate Jim Alder's Jaguar stayed in the paddock with mechanical gremlins so we are pleased and honoured to be hearing him in the commentator's booth providing insight into the live stream which you can watch anytime at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OTpjAct51ms> starting at 7'16. Keep on watching for the interviews with Rob Manson about the Pebble Beach Road Race cars still making history on the race track today. Your best source of complete results with lap times is in my opinion at <https://www.race-monitor.com/Results/Race/136012>.

At the green flag Greg Meyer jumps into a clear lead in the Sadler with many millions of dollars, and reams of history, dicing warily for second place. Nonetheless they close up on Meyer and finish the first lap in a close pack all the way to 10th position.

84	Greg Meyer	1959	Sadler MK4	blue/white	5555
6	Al Arciero	1958	Lister Knobbly	Silver	5466
42	Brian MacEachern	1956	Lotus XI	Silver	1460
25C	Blake Tatum	1953	Tatum GMC Special	White/Blue	5000
18	Nicholas Colonna	1958	Devin SS	Red	5360
3	John Buddenbaum	1949	Jaguar Parkinson	White	3800
9C	Rob Manson	1953	Kurtis 500S Dodge	Red/Black	4523
10	Piers Gormley	1958	Buyers/Volvo Special	Green	
38	Bruce Miller	1958	Lotus 11 British Racing	Green/yellow	1460
272	Nick Grewal	1959	Lotus 17	Green	1488

Greg Meyer is a picture of delight as his ultra-quick Sadler rises over the Corkscrew... I'm sure his wheels are off the ground. Behind him, Brian MacEachern is getting feisty and climbing over the back

Rob Manson, PO Box 1003, 338 West Carmel Valley Road, Carmel Valley, CA 93924 , USA
Home: +1 831 659 4672 Cell +1 (831) 601-0645 r3teknon@sbcglobal.net

www.dmtrg.com and see us on Facebook www.facebook.com/MontereySportsCarRoadRacers

UK office: Marcus Bicknell, Homefarm Orchard, Kirby Close, Threehouseholds, Chalfont St Giles, Bucks HP8 4FF, UK
Office phone: +44 1494 872751 Mobile: +44 7748 111444 marcus@bicknell.com

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of Al Arciero less nimble Knobbly for 2nd on the run to the end of lap 2 but the Lotus does not have the grunt to stay with him past the pits. These guys live for this racing. As Jim Alder says from the commentary box “there is nowhere in the world they would like to other than on track right here right now.”

Up the hill in turn 6 Blake Tatum adjusts with small left to right steering wheel movements as Rob Manson’s white and blue Tatum GMC Special twitches under full throttle, the car which his own father Chuck Tatum built back in 1952 from a 1932 Ford front suspension and a 1941 Ford live axle in the rear. He’s just ahead of #19 (listed variously as 18 or 19) red 195 Devin SS of Nicholas Colonna, looking for all the world like a Le Mans Maserati. Keeping in touch are #3 John Buddenbaum in the white 1949 Jaguar Parkinson with #9C Rob Manson in his red 1953 Kurtis 500S Dodge. At the end of lap 3 Bruce Miller in the #38 1958 Lotus 11 in British Racing Green factory colors with the yellow stripe has overtaken #10 Piers Gormley in his green 1958 Buyers/Volvo Special who continues to fade as the race proceeds (19th at the end). Bruce entertains the crowd and the commentators at the Corkscrew on lap 3 when the left hand door of his Lotus pops open. No harm done.

#272 Nick Grewal in his 1959 Lotus 17 is 10th, chased closely by #11 Jeff Abramson, red 1950 MG TD John Von Neuman Special. #183 Lars Mapstead, black 1952 Jaguar XK120 is 12th, yes that’s Lars Mapstead the internet entrepreneur who is standing for the Presidency of the USA with the Libertarian Party. At the end of lap 3 the #10 Volvo Special stutters at the start of the pit straight - all is not well – and #11 Jeff Abramson in his red 1950 MG TD John Von Neuman Special pops into the top ten. Collona has passed Tatum and Manson has passed Buddenbaum who Jaguar Parkinson is suffering from transmission or clutch issues.

End of lap 3

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3	John Buddenbaum	1949	Jaguar Parkinson	White	3800
38	Bruce Miller	1958	Lotus 11 British Racing	Green/yellow	1460
272	Nick Grewal	1959	Lotus 17	Green	1488
11	Jeff Abramson	1950	MG TD John Von Neuman Special,	Red	1488

As the race progresses, #6 Al Arciero challenges for the lead but #84 Greg Meyer appears to have some speed in hand and controls from the front to take the chequered flag at the end of 10 laps.

The race results, for the top ten, were...

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5	Mike Follmer	1958	Lotus 11	Blue	1600

followed by

183	Lars Mapstead	1952	Jaguar XK120	black	3400
17	Steven Lawrence	1959	Lotus 17	Green	1500
155	Kaiden Marouf	1951	MG TD	Green	1275
X15	John Sr. Mote	1955	Sorrell Kurtis Special		
814	Kevin Adair	1955	Elva Mk I Sport Racer	BRG	1092
4	Nick Price	1958	Sadler Meyer Special	Blue	5555
85	Stewart Smith	1957	Lotus Eleven Green		1200
3	John Buddenbaum	1949	Jaguar Parkinson	White	3800
10	Piers Gormley	1958	Buyers/Volvo Special	Green	
74	Ned Spieker	1961	Ferrari 250GT SWB Red		
54(15)	William Rooklidge	1955	Jaguar D-Type	Yellow	3442
164	Mark Sange	1956	Le Mans Lotus XI		
1	Bernard Dervieux	1950	Allard J2	Silver	331
55	Wesley Abendroth	1955	Chevrolet Mistral	Red	4785
61	Edward Nigro	1959	Lola Mk1	red	1460
65	Michael Silverman	1959	Echidna Sports Racer	Blue	5500
74	Ned Spieker ¹	1957	Maserati 200 Si	Red	
102	Steve Sanett	1957	Lotus XI	white	1460
111	Timothy Scopes	1959	Lotus XI Series 2 Le Mans, White/Blue Stripe		1490

Today we had the Barlow Simca and the von Neumann MGTD Specials together in our paddock so there should be some specific coverage generated. Cars were all OK for yesterday's race but the Parkinson Jaguar's clutch or transmission seems to have packed it in at the last lap. John B will substitute in the Streets Manning Special (sometimes driven by your esteemed but humble reporter Marcus Bicknell) ride for Saturday's race 2. Colin Warnes has posted photos on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/MontereySportsCarRoadRacers> .

¹ Ned Spieker is listed in the results as driving both the 1961 Ferrari 250GT SWB and the 1957 Maserati 200 Si. If he or anyone else can tell us the drivers' names and any other details we would be grateful

Rob Manson, PO Box 1003, 338 West Carmel Valley Road, Carmel Valley, CA 93924 , USA

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UK office: Marcus Bicknell, Homefarm Orchard, Kirby Close, Threehouseholds, Chalfont St Giles, Bucks HP8 4FF, UK

Office phone: +44 1494 872751 Mobile: +44 7748 111444 marcus@bicknell.com