

complispace



Sunday December 9, 2007

2007 Australian GT Championship (final round)

SIMONSEN WINS SANDOWN GT CLASSIC AND 2007 AUSTRALIAN GT CHAMPIONSHIP

Allan Simonsen together with co-driver Tim Leahey in the Sirena Racing Ferrari 430 took outright victory today in the Sandown GT Classic thus ensuring that Simonsen also took out the 2007 Australian GT Championship title.

Arch rival for the Championship title, South Australia's Bryce Washington who was paired with Michael Trimble for the Sandown enduro literally saw his aspirations go up in smoke when the NATRAD Lamborghini caught fire after only completing one full lap of the Melbourne circuit.

Taking a fine second place in today's race was the Palmer Steel Industries sponsored Lamborghini of Ian Palmer and Paul Stokell with the Industry Central, Stahlwille Ferrari 430 of John Teulan and V8 Supercar driver Steve Johnson in third.

Porsche GT3 Cup Cars filled positions four to six in the order of the Cooks Constructions car of Jon Trende/Sven Burchartz/Dean Fiore – the Oxford Tavern Woolongong car of Anthony Kossieris/ Matthew Hunt, - and the Taplin Real Estate ANZ Banking car of Andrew Taplin/Dean Evans.

Next home in seventh position was the Aston Martin DBRS9 of John Kaias/Will Davison that despite the new ECU flown in from the UK still was down on power with a mysterious electrical problem, and also lost further time when Kaias visited the sand trap at turn 11.

The Zagame Lotus Exige GT3 of Angelo Lazaris/Warren Luff came home in 8th position down on power as a result of a fuel pressure issue that occurred after an engine and radiator swap before the start of the race.

In 9th was Jaylec/Buzza Auto Electrics Porsche GT3 Cup Car of Peter Fountas/Matthew Coleman/Garth Rainsbury with the Quarter Back Ferrari 360 Challenge of Mark Eddy/Dean Grant in tenth spot.

Damien Flack/Ash Samardi/Marc Cini finished 11th in their Nexus Cleaning Rook Porsche GT3 Cup Car, followed by the Urban Arrangement Lotus Elise driven by Peter Lucas and Scott Bargwanna in 12th.

The much fancied father and son team of Des and David Wall in their World of Learning Porsche GT3 RSR finished in thirteenth position after breaking a rear control arm, but did have the satisfaction of setting the fastest lap of the race with a time of 1:13.3227 after rejoining the event.

In addition to the Washington Lamborghini Gallardo, other non finishers were Paul Tresidder/Max Twigg in their Porsche GT3 Cup Car and the Ted Huglin/Craig Baird/Andy Knight Ferrari 360GT that suffered an alternator issue.

The winning car of Simonsen/Leahey covered 158 laps.

For further information contact Terry Little m. 0416 940 272 Visit the Championship web site at www.gtchampionship.com.au