

GT Cup Rounds 13-16 Report VALLUGA

Written by G.Gardner - Photos by Steve Gardner

SPEED SERVICES FOR DRIVERS



"A huge thanks to the very capable and always smiling guys and girls who make Valluga what it is" - Nick Phelps

The GT Cup Championship was back this time at Silverstone Circuit for rounds 13-16.

We had a slightly changed driver line up for the weekend with Ian Humphris taking to the wheel in a GT3 Cup Car in the same class as Nick Phelps and Benji Hetherington teaming up with Carl Cavers in the GT4 Clubsport.



Saturday's free practice was first up to kick the weekend off with Ian and Nick in the GTB class finishing 1st and 2nd and Carl in the GTH class giving Valluga a positive start to the weekend.

After the free practice session, it was time for qualifying which saw Ian and Nick hold their 1st and 2nd in class positions and Carl 7th in class setting the grid for race 1.



Race 1 was the 25-minute sprint race and did not disappoint with Ian setting fastest lap for the GTB class finishing the race 1st in class and Nick 3rd in class keeping it consistent with Carl finishing 12th in the GTH class.

Later on, that day it was time for the pit stop race lasting 50 minutes which unfortunately due to being caught up in a collision with multiple cars Carl was forced to retire from the race with a DNF.

Nick and Ian continued to race holding their positions until another safety car caused by another car crashing was deployed and when the GTB and GTH pitlane opened we had already passed the start finish line meaning we were on the backfoot when we eventually pitted.

When Ian and Nick finished their pitstops it was back out to fight to eventually finish the race 3rd in class for Nick and 4th for Ian.



It was time to do the same again Sunday with the same format as Saturday but with Nick and Carl only as they headed into practice.

Practice showed positive results with Nick 1st in class and Carl 7th after the team worked hard fixing any issues from the previous days DNF, he was ready to go out into qualifying.

Nick finished qualifying 1st in class again with Carl 10th setting the grid for the first race of the day the sprint race.

The sprint race gave more successful results for the team with Nick finishing 1st in class and Carl gaining 3 positions to finish 7th in class.

It was time for the second pit stop race of the weekend with Nick teaming up with driver coach Sean Doyle for this one and Carl still with pro driver Benji Hetherington.

With Nicks additional 10 second pit stop holding time it was all about putting in the work to get the car in the best position possible before the pit lane opening and handing over to Sean.

With both drivers handing over the car to their teammates Sean kept momentum going finishing the race 1st in class and Benji 7th in class.

After the race we caught up with Nick to get his thoughts on this weekend's results, *"Sunday, I worked closely with my coach Sean Doyle, who is always calm and complimentary helping me to find the time I needed and had been missing on Saturday which put the car 1st in class!"*

Now I say we as it was very much a team effort as a few subtle set up changes in the car, I don't doubt helped me to find the confidence to push on and find this time too.

A huge thanks to the very capable and always smiling guys and girls who make Valluga what it is, the best team in any paddock."