

2004

RIGHT Michael Schumacher dominated the 2004 Foster's British Grand Prix in his Ferrari F2004. (LAT)



■ James Rossiter won a wet British F3 Championship round on 18 April in his Fortec Motorsport Dallara-Opel F302, but because of the torrential rain the meeting was abandoned before the second race could be run.

■ Matt Neal, James Thompson and Tom Chilton were the three winners at the Green Flag MSA British Touring Car Championship rounds held on the International circuit on 9 May. Neal took his Honda Civic Type-R to victory in race one, while the Vauxhall Astra Coupé of Thompson won race two. In race three, Chilton, driving another Honda Civic Type-R, finished first having taken advantage of a clash between Neal and the MG ZS of Anthony Reid while the pair were disputing the lead.

■ Silverstone's new Historic Tribute meeting, co-promoted by the VSCC and the HSCC, took place on 5-6 June and attracted 550 entries. Frank Sytner was the most successful driver over the weekend, taking four victories.

BELOW Winner Matt Neal leads away in his Honda Civic Type-R at the start of race one at the Green Flag MSA British Touring Car Championship meeting on 9 May. (LAT)



■ Michael Schumacher, in his Ferrari F2004, was unstoppable at the Foster's British Grand Prix over the weekend of 9-11 July, despite having a 20sec lead wiped out by a safety car intervention with just 19 laps left to run. Jarno Trulli's Renault R24 had crashed heavily and rolled on the exit of Bridge Corner, though thankfully the Italian was unhurt. This allowed pole-sitter and early leader Kimi Räikkönen in his McLaren-Mercedes MP4-19B, whom Schumacher had leapfrogged at the first pit stops, to close up but the German was still able to ease away at the restart to take his 80th Grand Prix victory. Rubens Barrichello's Ferrari was third.

■ After the race, fans were treated to the Beach Boys headlining the Grand Prix Party on a massive stage on the infield at Becketts. At the end, Jenson Button, David Coulthard, Eddie Jordan, Jackie Stewart and Adrian Newey were dancing on stage with them.

■ Vitantonio Liuzzi won the supporting F3000 event on Saturday in his Arden International Lola-Zytek B2/50, but was pressured all the way by the BCN Competition entry of Enrico Toccacelo.

■ The BRSCC meeting on 8 August was marred by the death of Mini Cooper S racer Darren Needham, who crashed at Becketts during the John Cooper Challenge race.

■ Allan McNish and Pierre Kaffer took a dominant victory in the Silverstone 1000km Le Mans Endurance Series round on 14 August in their Veloqx Audi R8. Audis took the top three places, with the Team Goh entry of Rinaldo Capello and Seiji Ara in the runner-up spot and the other Veloqx entry of Johnny Herbert and Jamie Davies in third. The pole-sitting Zytek 04S of Robbie Kerr and Chris Dyson had built up a comfortable lead until it was delayed following a clash with a back-marker, eventually finishing fourth.

■ The first of two rounds of the British F3 Championship run on 15 August produced a win for Nelson Piquet Jr in his Piquet Sports Dallara-Mugen Honda F303. A gamble on slick tyres meant an unexpected victory in the second race for the other Fortec F302 of Marcus Marshall from 14th on the grid.

■ Driving a Reynard 89FF, Joey Foster again took victory in the Walter Hayes Trophy on 7 November.



ABOVE As his team celebrates, Allan McNish crosses the line to win the Silverstone 1000km Le Mans Endurance Series round on 14 August, co-driving with Pierre Kaffer in their Veloqx Audi R8. (LAT)



ABOVE Vitantonio Liuzzi leads the field away in his Lola-Zytek B2/50 at the start of the 2004 Foster's British Grand Prix F3000 supporting race. (LAT)