



# McCARTHY'S MASTER CLASS

**T**eenager Reef McCarthy began his 2020 Formula Vee campaign with a hat-trick of wins at Sandown Motor Raceway, leaving behind him some fantastic combat between half a dozen drivers for the minor placings.

A later than usual timeslot on the schedule turned out to be favourable as McCarthy and 2019 State Champion Jake Rowe made the most of the damp but mostly dry track - the only drivers to qualify with a sub-90 second lap. McCarthy's lap was just over a tenth faster than Rowe, with a further 0.9s to third placed Heath Collinson.

However it was Rowe and Collinson that would share the front row for the Race 1 start as McCarthy was pushed back to 13th following the stewards review of qualifying. The entire field got away cleanly with an early breakaway group of Rowe, Collinson, Adam Slattery Jr and Winston Smith leading the charge ahead of Ash Clifford in fifth.

It only took three laps for McCarthy to join the leading group as Smith exited the race with a cracked rear gearbox casing and frame on his Jacer. Reef's time in the lead group was short lived as he along with Lucas Khawam both made errors at Turn 9. While McCarthy resumed unscathed, Khawam's #23 was beached in the gravel and a 2-lap Safety car period required to allow recovery.

Slattery headed a tightly bunched field at the restart on lap 7 with Jake Rowe using the draft to great effect to take over in the first few corners as the first five cars fought it out for the win. McCarthy would eventually find his way to the front of the group from fifth in the queue with a scintillating last lap to head

home Rowe and Collinson by just over one second.

Rowe got the better start at the beginning of Race 2, but McCarthy wrestled away the ascendancy within the first few corners. After a healthy scrap for the opening two laps, McCarthy slowly motored away from the group behind to win the 10-lapper comfortably from Jake Rowe with Davin Field third - positions two through to five having changed hands multiple times and were covered by just under four tenths at the line.

David Hutchison joined Mick Fisher as the only retirees of Race 2 after a wild moment on the final lap seeing him have all four wheels off the ground as he rode over the exit curb at Turn 9.

Rowe would once again make the better get away from the front row to start Race 3, but McCarthy repeat his opening lap pass to take back the lead in the first few corners and pull away to a clean sweep of race victories for the weekend. Having started 6th after a solid drive from the rear in Race 2, Smith slowly began to make his move from the tail of the chasing pack of five cars on the fifth lap and briefly found himself in second place on the final tour.

Collinson would show his racing prowess in the category, surging around the outside at Turn 6 to claim second spot and hold it on the run to the line with Smith an impressive third on debut. Slattery and Field would make it four cars covered by just over a second to end the race. Jake Rowe was in the hunt right up until the last few corners, suffering an off into the wall before pit entry within sight of the finish line.

- Steven Devries

*ABOVE: Despite a glitch after qualifying, McCarthy was dominant. ABOVE RIGHT: With McCarthy demoted to the seventh row, Slattery (99), Rowe (66) and Collinson (31) head the field in Race 1.*

*RIGHT: Collinson (31) heads Slattery (99) and Field (27) in the Sunday sunshine.*

*BELOW: Filbey (25), Hutchinson (55) and Puris (6) head the mid-field battle. BOTTOM: So near ... it all went sour for Jake Rowe (66), literally at the last corner, in Sunday's feature.*



## RESULTS Formula Vee

Pos	No.	Driver	Entrant/Sponsor	Car	R1	R2	R3	TOT
1	61	Reef McCarthy	Beacham Racing	Sabre 2	30	30	40	100
2	31	Heath Collinson	Collinsons Black Angus	Sabre 2	26	22	36	84
3	99	Adam Slattery		Sabre 2	24	24	29	77
4	27	Davin Field		Spectre	22	26	26	74
5	96	Nicholas Kerr	www.theartshop.com.au	Jacer 98	20	18	20	58
6	17	Ashley Clifford	www.StarRez.com	Sabre 2	18	16	23	57
7	66	Jake Rowe	GR Motorsport Electrics	Sabre 2	28	28	0	56
8	22	Winston Smith	Holland Glen	Jacer F2K4	0	20	32	52
9	25	Kenneth Filbey	Ken Filbey Financial Services	Sabre 2	14	12	12	38
10	6	Shane Purvis	Joust Racewear	Sabre 02	12	9	16	37
11	11	Brett Burden	Business Xcellence	Sabre 2	0	14	18	32
12	64	Gavin Hendrick		Elliot MKII	8	10	14	32
13	55	David Hutchinson	Swamp Racing	Jacer F2K09	16	0	10	26
14	33	Nicholas Grigg		Sabre	10	7	6	23
15	16	Claudia Lennox	ISpeed Motorsports	Sabre 1	9	5	5	19
16	23	Lucas Khawam	ISpeed Motorsports	Jacer F2K8	0	8	8	16
17	9	Luke Grech-Cumbo			7	4	4	15
18	7	Rob Vile	VILE Motorsport	Jacer F2K4	0	6	7	13
19	69	Mick Fisher	Builders Crane Hire	Jacer F2K9	0	0	0	0