

Vic State RACER

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VICTORIAN STATE CIRCUIT RACING
CHAMPIONSHIP

Round 1, 2021 February 20-21 SANDOWN

Sensational Sandown

THREE-WHEELER WINS VEE CLASH!



McCarthy on the limit for Formula Vee points

Super Sedans



Excel Mayhem



Close Porsches





McCARTHY FLIES HIGH ...

It was a standout weekend for Reef McCarthy in Round 1 of the Victorian Formula Vee Championship at Sandown Motor Raceway, a perfect weekend netting three wins from as many starts putting the young gun in good stead as he builds towards his debut in the Super3 category at the Repco Mount Panorama 500.

Defending Victorian champion Jake Rowe took the first accolade of the weekend, securing pole position with a time of 1m 27.15s on his seventh lap of the session, putting him just 0.101s clear of McCarthy. Ashley Clifford enjoyed an outstanding session to line up P3, alongside Heath Collinson making it an all JRD Row 2.

Despite getting the initial jump over McCarthy off the line, Rowe came under fire heading into Turn 1, surrendering P1 to McCarthy who had tucked into the draft and immediately put it to good use. A rare Safety Car made an appearance, however, after the #23 Akurra Motorsport Jacer of Lucas Khawam speared into the wall on approach to Turn 9.

The field had just three flying laps remaining when the Safety Car pulled into the pits, McCarthy smartly holding the

field once Green flag conditions resumed.

Collinson was within reach initially, however he couldn't match the leading duo, Sandown not Collinson's favorite track in the State Series. Despite a wild ride over the Turn 6 kerb, Rowe couldn't overhaul McCarthy, eventually settling for P2 behind his younger rival. Collinson meanwhile was the winner of a JRD battle with teammate Clifford for P3 and P4 respectively.

Sunday morning's Race 2 had Rowe making a swift getaway to lead into Turn 1, with Clifford also making a stellar start to be P2 into Turn 2. Collinson took advantage of a slow McCarthy to sneak onto the podium in the opening lap, however McCarthy was mega along the back straight, passing both JRD cars for P2 in one calculated move.

Despite a hefty margin to Rowe at the head of the field, aided by some setup guidance from JRD McCarthy was able to reduce the margin, and gave the defending champion a challenging task holding onto P1.

Brett Burden meanwhile was lucky to get away with a wild trip over the kerb and grass at Turn 9, running wide onto the recently established run off area.

McCarthy made his way back passed Rowe on Lap 2, but as they showed in the opening race of the weekend, they easily had Collinson covered for outright pace to make it a two-way battle for the win. Rowe had the lead at the start of the final lap, but it was all part of McCarthy's plan. The #61 Beacham prepared car made its move on the back straight securing the lead and taking the chequered, leaving Rowe in his shadow.

Nick Kerr and Clifford meanwhile enjoyed a solid battle for P4, Clifford eventually edging ahead of his rival.

The 10-lap finale was a showdown between McCarthy and Rowe, with little splitting the two for pace and ambition as they battled for the race and round win. However, McCarthy was once again too strong for Rowe, successfully and strategically defeating Rowe to make it three race wins, and with it, the Round 1 victory.

Rowe capped his weekend off in P2, while Collinson featured in the lead battle early in the race, until his pace saw him fall within reach of Burden who enjoyed a strong race ahead of Kerr. Clifford came home P6, just ahead of Shane Purvis.



LEFT: Pushing hard (see front cover!), Reef McCarthy drove his Sabre 2 (61) to a maximum.

ABOVE: Turn 2 action as Rowe (1) shows the way

BELOW: Strong grid of Vees, headed by Rowe (1) and McCarthy (61).

MIDDLE TOP: Buttigieg (85) and Khawam (23) battle it out.

MIDDLE CENTRE: Power (44), Bonney (86), Cassimaty (9) and Egan (42) in close company.

BOTTOM: Oooops ... Ashley Clifford's (17) 'moment' started at Turn 1 and ended up at Turn 2 - Nick Kerr (96) watches on with interest ...



RESULTS Formula Vee

Pos	No.	Driver	Entrant/Sponsor	Car	R1	R2	R3	TOT
1	61	Reef McCarthy	Beacham Racing	Sabre 02	30	30	40	100
2	1	Jake Rowe	GR Motorsport Electrics	Sabre 02	28	28	36	92
3	31	Heath Collinson	Junior Racing Development	Sabre 02	26	26	32	84
4	96	Nicholas Kerr	www.theartshop.com.au	Jacer 98	22	24	26	72
5	11	Brett Burden	Business Xcellence	Sabre 02	20	22	29	71
6	17	Ashley Clifford	www.StarRez.com	Sabre 02	24	20	23	67
7	6	Shane Purvis	Joust Racewear	Borland Sabre 02	18	18	20	56
8	69	Mick Fisher	Builders Crane Hire	Jacer F2K9	14	16	12	42
9	7	Rob Vile	Vile Motorsport	Jacer F2K4 - Heidi	16	7	14	37
10	33	Nicholas Grigg		Sabre 02	12	12	10	34
11	85	Brian Buttigieg	Bricourt Racing	Jacer F2K6	9	0	18	27
12	8	Russell Saunders	Timber Flooring Centre	Jacer F2K4	10	10	5	25
13	9	John Cassimaty	GMC Products	Jacer F2	0	14	8	22
14	25	Claudia Lennox	Ken Filbey Financial Services	Sabre 2	8	6	6	20
15	77	David Stuart		LSV Stinger N/A	4	8	7	19
16	44	Darren Power		Sabre 01	6	9	3	18
17	23	Lucas Khawam	AKURRA Motorsport	Jacer F2K8	0	0	16	16
18	86	Maxwell Bonney		Elfin NG	5	5	4	14
19	42	Kellie Egan	AKURRA Motorsport	Elfin NG	3	4	2	9
20	73	Philip Gardner	Vee-Tech Signs	Bee-Cee	7	0	1	8
21	64	Conner Mcleod	Devinci Kustoms	Elliot M	0	0	0	0