



Rod Birley's car  
DAVE SMITH

# Birley celebrates with another win

IT WAS a good start to the motor racing season by West Kingsdown driver Rod Birley.

Birley was competing at Snetterton in Norfolk on Saturday, in the first two rounds of the CSCC special saloon car championship.

Driving a BMW E36, which his team only finished preparing at 10pm the night before, he qualified third during the morning practice session.

The first race had to be stopped almost immediately, as another competitor had a startline crash hitting the pit wall.

The second attempt saw Birley consolidate his third position, until the second place competitor spun and dropped back.

The leader then had mechanical problems with just two laps to go. This meant that Birley now had the

lead and rather appropriately won the race on his 50th anniversary since his very first race.

This was at Silverstone back in 1973 and since then he has had 712 wins. The tally then increased to 713 as he took a class win (second place overall) later in the day.

During those 50 years Birley has raced in all sorts of saloon car championships, both in this country and abroad.

His cars have ranged from a Hillman Imp to his highly successful Ford Escort WRC.

Scalextric are even making a model of this car, which will be available later this year.

In the meantime Birley will be competing at Castle Combe on Easter Monday, then at his home circuit Brands Hatch a couple of weeks later.



## Family affair for U13s

SEVENOAKS Town's Under-13s won the Kent's Merit U16 Boys Youth Cup beating Long Lane 2-0 on Sunday.

Emran Boudarga-Wischhoff scored the first with an early penalty, before setting up skipper Harrison Dixon for a spectacular

day, both teams playing their part in an entertaining contest despite the wet miserable conditions.

Boudarga-Wischhoff rifled home an excellent penalty to give Oaks the lead, and the provided the perfect cross for Dixon to volley home from the edge of the box.