

Sport

IN BRIEF

Threesy does it for Birley

THREE salon car races were the highlight of the Motor Mania event at Lydden Hill on Saturday.

A grid size of 18 cars saw West Kingsdown's Rod Birley win all three encounters, facing strong opposition from David Cowan in his BMW and later Bill Richards in his Mini Clubman.

The results were made even sweeter for Birley, considering that exactly one year ago he suffered a horrific crash at Brands Hatch.

Not only was his Ford Escort WRC almost completely destroyed, Birley suffered three broken ribs and a bruised spleen after the incident.

Back out on the track at Lydden Hill, his first race saw Richards starting from the rear of grid, battling towards himself and Cowan to finish third.

Cowan put some good pressure on Birley in the second race, until Richards came through at the hairpin to make up the top three once again.

- The final race, which was over 15 laps, saw Richards fit new front tyres to his Mini and it paid dividends as he challenged for the lead for a long time.

Birley, however, was in the more powerful car and it soon told, as he eased to victory by two seconds.