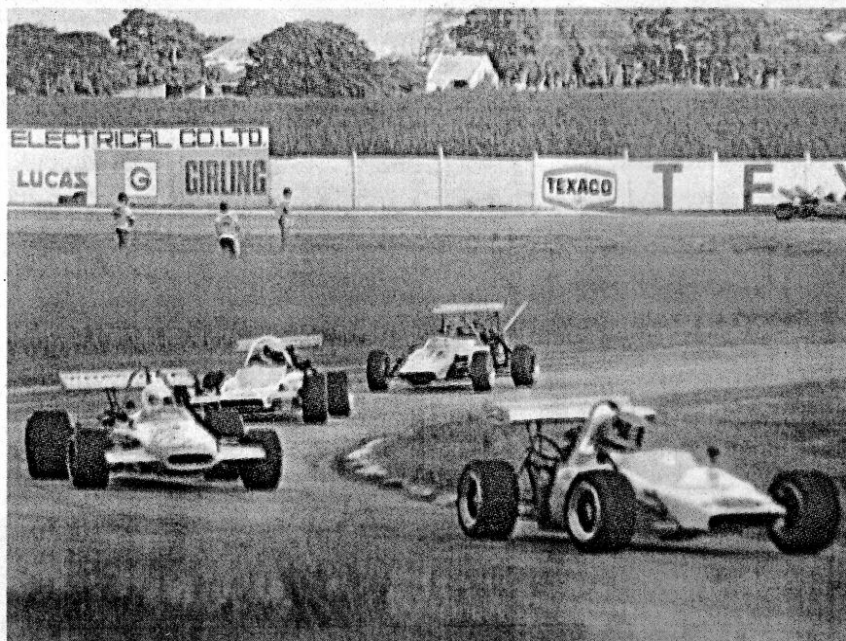
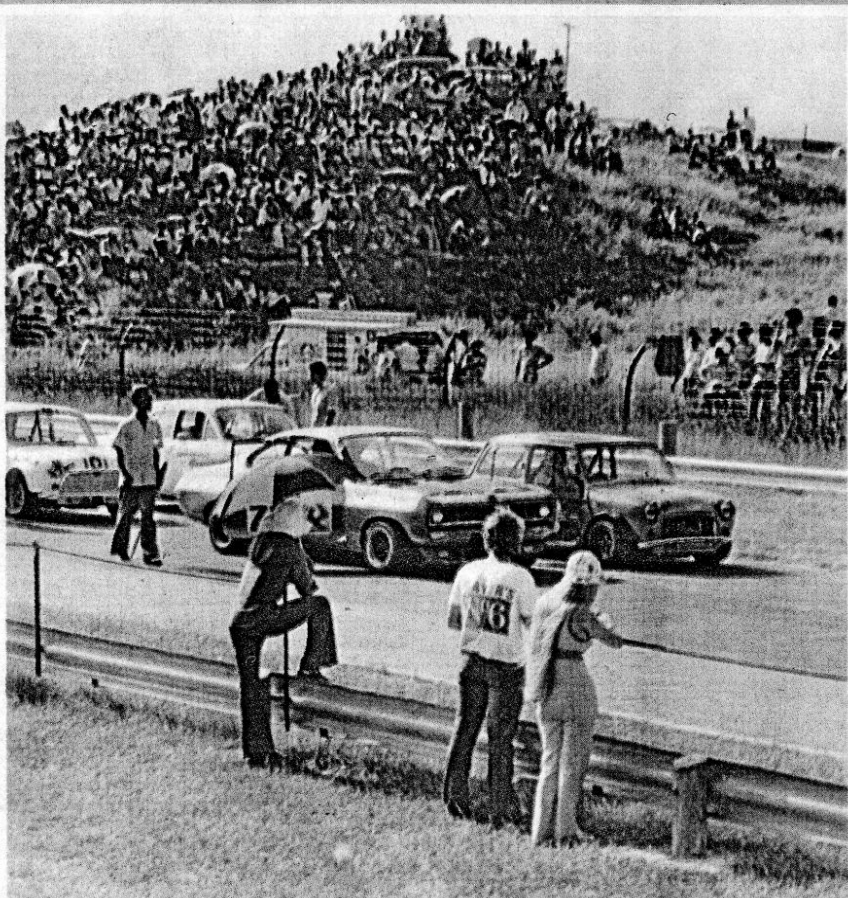


Natty headgear essential for Mad Dog of Englishman in the noon-day sun. Actually it's Terrapin owner/driver John Crowson



Formula Caribbean: Barbados racing champion Mike Atwell (Terrapin) leads Bob Howlings (Brabham). The Terrapins of Bizzy Williams and Eric Vieira give chase. Howlings equalled the outright lap record



Brian Ibrahim's Vauxhall lines up alongside the Mini of Richard Longman for Bajan Group Three. White Mini behind is Gordon Spice and the Escort the Rover V8 powered car of Ralph Johnson

IT'S hard to imagine mid November with a race crowd of nearly 20,000 sitting under umbrellas to keep the sun off, bare chested mechanics push starting a car on the grid and the public address system asking if the Coca Cola van driver will please go back to his vehicle because they're running out in the pits. It's even more hard to put the whole thing into perspective if you consider the fact that it all started with a telephone call from Leeds.

Leeds? Yes, you may well be asking if Davies has at last completely flipped his tiny mind or if he's been knocking the bottle too hard during office hours. But, it's all honest gospel. Consider also the fact that the rather weird sounding title for this story is really an in-joke that only half a dozen people will appreciate to the full but an equally good — and far more explicit — sub title could have been 'Where do racing drivers go in the close season?'

Not that there's much of a close season in racing nowadays but round about the middle of September things do start to get a little more quiet in Britain and the club driver looks forward to rain and wind over our desolate British circuits with misgivings. The answer, like the advice to all budding film actors, is Go Western Young Man. Go in fact to the West Indies where motor sport thrives, albeit on a lesser scale to this country, and where (whisper it) the whole thing is still FUN.

Fun. A few British drivers switched onto the fact that not only was there a good time and good racing to be had in the islands between North and South America, but it could also be profitable. And when the temperature was dipping down to 40 degrees in our glorious isle it was rising beyond the 80 mark in the Caribbean. Which nearly explains why a phone call from Leeds got your Editor on the island of Barbados for a race meeting.

Now races are not completely my line. A ▶