

TARPORLEY KARTING

TEAM

RACE REPORT - SATURDAY 15TH SEPTEMBER 2007
SO CLOSE TO A CLEAN SWEEP - MUST TRY HARDER NEXT TIME!

First of all - apologies! - for not writing a race report for the Nationals....I'm sure it was the same for everyone, but the weekend was a bit manic Chez Heath - if you take account of three karts, the dog, both of our kids in the ambulance and young Mr Sirett following them after a flip, and a trip to Northampton General Hospital, perhaps you will forgive me for not "doing the usual" and writing the race report on the way home! (It was quite amusing though when Harry was in the ambulance, it turned out to be the same paramedics who scooped him up before calling the Air Ambulance at GYG last year - first name terms resumed!)

Well, if, like me you have blinked and missed the summer break - welcome back to the fun side of school!

I hope you have all had a great holiday - and if you were really lucky, that you managed to leave the kart in the garage and just chill for a bit!!!

It's really great to be back racing with NatSKA - my only problem is trying to work out what numbers all the TKT drivers have now got - so more apologies if I have managed to miss you out!

After Grumpy's attempt at a race report for Rowrah, I have sacked him off and will just write this one myself!

Unfortunately, with no photographers (ace or otherwise) at GYG the report was looking a bit boring - so I have added in some old ones (so don't be emailing me to tell me that I've included a picture of the wrong driver!)

Just one word sums up the TKT drivers at GYG this weekend.....**BRILLIANT!**

When you look at the results across all classes, you will see that we ALMOST took the lot - so we can only say,

you guys in Class 11 and 8 PLEASE TRY HARDER - YOU ARE LETTING THE SIDE DOWN!!!

Novices

We had five novices out this weekend, including brand new kids on the block DAVID THORNE, KATHRYN MURIE and JACK OLIPHANT. Welcome to the team! - I hear that you all had an interesting day with mixed fortunes in the karts - lucky it was a sunny day, otherwise you might be forgiven for not coming again! (Sorry, but I haven't got a picture of any of you to add into the rogues gallery - must remember to take my camera next time!)

Drivers who are still collecting signatures for their licences are Shannon Howes (now complete?!), Becca McLoughlin and Lucy Roberts who are driving fantastically well and learning some neat driving skills as they go - Excellent stuff!

Shall we have the first of the TKT trophies then? About time too, I can hear you say! **Novice of the Day** was presented to **Kevin Tanswell** - who really was the class of the novice field - even when he started at the very back, he was at the front!



Class 7

In class 7 Rob Wallace took his first overall TKM victory, claiming three individual heat wins! (Perhaps wisely

choosing to sit out the fourth heat!!!). So that was the second win in the bag!



In joint 2nd place were Chris Percival (2.1.2, DNF) and Josh McLoughlin (DNF, 2.1.2) - you can't get any closer than that!

Some one who said he had a "bad day" was James Warner (5th overall) - well I could do with a few bad days like yours James! (and I can think of a fair number of drivers who would say the same!),

Axle had a superb day, (6.5.5.5) taking 8th place overall - and with a wheel that wanted to come off! - thank you to the Redman's for the loan of Will's spare set of tyres!! Watched by all of his family (including 87year old great-grandma) - they now believe us when we tell them how fast you guys all go - they might want some valium before they come to watch again!

Adam Sirett also had another good day (5.4.6.7) - and as the results show the racing between Harry and Adam was very close all day (Tall and Small Paul's were doubtless dealing with the "Eeek" factor while watching their drivers together!)

....and to complete the top ten TKT results in Class 7, Will Redman brought home his kart in 10th place (6.6.5.15) and was perhaps a little unlucky to have a lap deducted in the last heat after forgetting to slow up into a corner and cutting across the grass!!!

Newbies to Class 7 this meeting were Oli Jackson (23rd) (Gill making her debut!), Josh Woodward (24th) and "Flippin" Ben McLoughlin (25th).

At scrutineering, having completed the examination of Ben's kart, I did say to him "I would say you are cleared for take-off, but given what happened to Harry last year, I won't!" - so Ben, there really was no need to get airborne!!!

Class 8

Here again, the team were let down in the top spot stakes!!! - Having spoken to Tom Oliphant at the Dual Meeting with F6 when he came third and had a "bad day"(!) I think that Tom will say that he had a day that was not of the "Mae West" - but that's a reflection of the standards that he sets himself! (DNF, 2.0.2) - but at the end of the day he was REALLY close to the eventual winner taking 2nd place overall. - Having not written that Nationals race report, I haven't had chance to share a couple of photos which might make you smile!

First - here is Tom O celebrating taking the Class 8 National Championship in style!



Second - here are Paul and Polly doing a rain dance (I'm sure that you understand why!)



Also close in the running at GYG was Mike Booker (2.0.3.3) who took third place overall.

Big Bro Pete had one of those days....resulting in a very bent rear axle and broken calliper which left the wheel hanging at a very peculiar angle - and certainly not to be run on! - this meant that Pete had a 4th in the first heat followed by a DNF, and 2 DNSs - unlucky.

Stephen Wood - is now retired (!), but came along with Dad, Nigel to mechanic for Stuart and Matt - more on that later!

Class 11

Class 11 is looking good again for TKT this season - on this occasion though, we were beaten to top spot...

Johnathan Molyneux was so close to the winner that you couldn't have put one of those number stickers between them - and his results were 2,3,0,0 ! The eventual winner (from somewhere else!) had a score of 0,0,2,2 - how close is that! So we know that the top trophy in this class will be coming our way again soon...



..Also very well done to Steven Duke who had a good run in his first race from the back of the grid.

Class 12

Only one TKT entry in this class - but with one this good, who needs any others! Like his big brother, Simon Wallace took three heat wins, and sat out the fourth heat, to take his first Class 12 overall win, in his first Class 12 entry! Fantastic - mum, Nicky was almost beside herself on her debut in race control - and she got the honour of presenting her drivers with their trophies too!



Class 14

As with Class 7, its fair to say that TKT dominated this class with seven out of the top ten finishers....

A superb result for Stuart Wood, who took the overall win (his first without sharing!! Yeeehaah!) (7,0,2,0) with some absolutely classless driving - brother Steven had been instructing Stu on which lines to take - and was very pleased in the last heat when Stuart started listening and leaving the other drivers well behind (mind you, he wasn't doing so badly when he wasn't listening either!!!)



In 4th place overall was flying Squadron Leader Ben McLoughlin, who put together a consistent string of results (2,4,3,4) - I should imagine it was quiet in the McLoughlin's van on the way home after Ben had done both class 7 and 14!

In his first outing in the Rakets, Demon Daz overcame some tricky mechanical issues to put together 4,DNF,8,3 and claim 5th place overall. Once again, Daz has a novice under his wing (David Thorne) - so perhaps he really is a "Driving Instructor".

...Daz was closely followed home by Raket debutant Stub who had a fantastic day in his new little Haas (special thanks to Paul Crosbie for sorting out some technical issues for the scrutineer while Small Paul was otherwise engaged dealing with Axle and technical flags). Stub's series was 9,3,8,5.

Florrie Kirby has carried on where she left off - and boy does she make that Raket go! 6,8,3,4 were her heat scores to claim 7th place...Florrie and Bethan are keeping the girls flag flying...Bethan claimed 8th place with her scores of 8,9,7,DNF.



Completing the top ten was Jack Lister, who in his first race in the mix of the grid, had the dubious pleasure of pole position in heat one EEEEEKKKK! 5,12,13,10 put Jack in 10th place - and I'm sure he was as pleased with that as he was to get that pole position over and done with!

Class 15

The school Rotax was put through its paces in good style this weekend....Lightning Luke followed up his top ten TKM nationals score with an overall win! Yeehah! Taking two heat wins, a DNS and a third, was the sort of repayment necessary after the amount of TLC I believe that the kart has had over the summer!

Luke was closely followed by Matt Wood (2.6.2.0) who with his 4 points, pushed Luke really close - once again with performances like this its looking good for TKT!

We had a new kid on the block in this class too! Ollie Redman pushed his Rotax hard and seemed to relish the challenge that the extra power provides compared to his Four Stroke - Ollie brought his kart home in all four heats, and that sort of consistency will only be repaid in the future. 5.5.6.8 brought Ollie home in 7th place overall!

With SOOOO many fantastic TKT drives this weekend, its really difficult to choose my **"Driver of the Day"**, so this week, I will take the unusual step of awarding it to.....the **Air Ambulance Helicopter pilot!** - not only for the smooth landing and take off, but also for the fact that he made such a good job of it, there was no debris left on the circuit for the next race to Hoover up! Excellent work, sir!

Kart Doctor has a headache this week, so is off to take something medicinal! More Kart Doctor next time....please email me your ideas / questions....seriously, if you have a question that you wanted to ask, but were to afraid / embarrassed to ask for fear it mad you look like a numpty...ask me (I'm not bothered about the numpty bit - after all I write this

every meeting!!!!) I will find out the answer and publish it (and I won't publish your name either!!!)

That's all for now.....So we hope to see you all at the picturesque Rye House circuit in Hertfordshire for the next Natska meeting 29th September....and if you are short of something to do, then you could always email me to order your tickets for THE social event of the winter season....that's right the TKT Christmas Dinner.....and I won't accept any hair washing excuses - after all, we all know that a hairdryer is only used for smoothing your number plates on!!!

TKT Christmas Dinner - Saturday 8th December 2007 at the Swan Hotel, Tarporley - be there, or be.....somewhere else (but remember, it is YOUR kart club!!!)

For now, thank you for reading.....hope you enjoyed it!

The FIA's conundrum creator (who else could have thought up a punishment which means that a team can lose its points, but its drivers don't!!!) I'd like to meet that man...

Have a good couple of weeks until we meet again...