

CAIRPOIRCEY

KARTING

CEAN

RACE REPORT - SATURDAY 1st March 2008

Whilton mill - NOT NORMAL SERVICE RESUMED!

Well, it wasn't quite the usual fantastic weekend of karting for TKT - with a variety of issues for the NatSKA organisers! Hopefully, the cobwebs have now been dusted off, and the gremlins well and truly removed from the systems. But true to form, after the long (some would say too short!!!) winter break, the karts have been well and truly dusted off, and once again TKT drivers returned home with some fantastic results....!

At this point, I think it is fair to say "thank you" to all my pitlane correspondents - for the very first time in the history of the Heath family karting, I did not see a single race, so unfortunately I only have one photograph, and what follows could be a wind up on the part of our not at all renowned for a wind up team leader, and some very esteemed team mates!!!!

First of all let's get the thank you's sorted!

THANK YOU TO:

Jim Murie, Alan Maclellan, and Adam McHugh for towing the team trailers to and from Whilton Mill (at this point, I would like to say that I had to restrain Small Paul from phoning Jim on Sunday...apparently it was his first ever taste of towing - and he brought the box trailer back!!! Special thanks for putting that tow bar on your lease car)

Jim Murie (again! This is not going to be a Murie appreciation report is it?), Paul Duke, and yours truly for Gold Card Scrutineering - I've never seen such a long line of karts - and it seemed to go really quickly too!

Marshalls - Wendy, Amanda, Katharine, Steve Williams (new novice dad - make sure you say "Hello!"), Bruce, Antony Haynes (another new novice dad, say hello to him too!), George Westlake, Adam and Katie McHugh (and hopefully nobody else otherwise I'm in big trouble!

Thank you to John McLoughlin for welding services for another team (Long story - but it is why we love NatSKA and the support that is offered between teams!)

Thanks also to Katharine and Wendy for helping to deliver the results (which after all is a large part of the weekend for the racers!)...

And Special Thanks to Chris Warner and Chris Roberts - from Nicki Murie - apparently the guys sorted out a sheared off track rod end bracket on the chassis - brazing it back on! (?!

Thank you also to NatSKA for reinforcing the training that Mr Roberts from Blacon provided, by letting us

all drive round a bit under a battenburg flag!!!! - Do you remember what it means, now? (if not answer later!!!)

Special mention here of the fact that we DEFINITELY MISSED Andrew Wallace - as we didn't have any marshalls organised (and not too many willing volunteers to wave a flag, either) - hope Simon's rugby tour went well!!

In racing terms (apart from the lack of laps) it was a great meeting - there were no red flags, and no ambulance visits (phew, I've been to Northampton General, and its quite a drive!)

This year has brought the advent of "The Class 7 Fashion Parade" - otherwise known as "paranoid androids" - to join this motley bunch you will need a JKH with this year's plastics and sticker kit, black race suit and white helmet an absolute must.... overall effect is that the short sighted parents amongst us are desperately in need of some recognition factors to put their minds at rest - PLEASE can you add some distinguishing features!

Added note re: class 7 androids - apparently one of my correspondents (TP) tells me that this was a particular problem when watching Josh McLoughlin, James Warner and Rob Wallace - as they were practically nose to tail all day!

Any way...enough of that lets get down to the racing!

As previously if you don't have time to read the full version of the race report then here is Small Paul's commentary on the day:

Weather dry (but cold!) and VERY WINDY - if you missed out on those TKT fleeces ha, ha, ha, ha, ha!

Novices - TEN of them - WOW! And some stunning driving too!

Class 7 - seven drivers in the top ten. Josh and Tom both had three heat wins, with the result determined on countback.

Class 8 - Matt Wood 6th place

Class 11 - two entries! (Shannon and Steve Duke). Shannon took 6th place, and Steve took charge of a

novice for the first time - sharing Ethel!! (Explanation required for next time please Steve!!)

Class 12 - No entries! Come back Simon we missed you!!

Class 14 - six top ten finishers- but no win this meeting.

Class 15 - 3rd place for Luke McLaughlin!

Not sure that I can add a lot to that - but here goes! Here is the Full Monty (well you didn't think I could write a whole report without mentioning him, did you!)

Novices

I don't have pictures of the novices on track - that would have been quite a task - there were TEN of them!

Thank you to Chris Roberts for the following information....

For four of our novices this was their first NatSKA meeting and certainly not one that they will forget in a hurry. (We can only re-stress that this weekend was not the normal NatSKA! - please come back for more!)

We had one very "Fast-track" novice this weekend - Luke Williams (Year 9) only joined Tarporley School two weeks ago but he passed his Oral Test and completed all the paperwork on 27th February and was out on the circuit at Whilton Mill (now that's what I call "Fast Track" - I didn't see his driving but if its anything like his joining the team, then that boy is going to be QUICK!!). Apparently Luke was allocated to Kart 7, Class 14 but due to engine problems he hopped into "Ethel" and shared her with Steve Duke!

William Laird had his first meeting since Hooton in class 11 kart 5, and it was also David and Gareth Haynes (our Malbank affiliates!) first drive since the test day - apparently all of the guys had smiles like Cheshire Cat's in spite of the relatively small number of laps!

Another correspondent (TP) tells me that David Thorne was having great fun finding "the limit" in his

Raket - resulting in not one but two spins! (That was Dad, Bill's excuse anyway!).

....Oh, and I've been building up to this one for half a page now....

CONGRATULATIONS to Jack Oliphant, who took home the trophy for the **"Most Improved Class 14 Novice of the Day"** - well done, Jack!

.....my apologies if you have heard this before, but I think it's a good line...."THE FUTURE IS BRIGHT, THE FUTURE IS OLIPHANT!!

Completing the novice line up this weekend, and collecting their signatures like crazy were:

Class 11: Lucy Roberts, Kathryn Murie and Rory McHugh

Class 14: Rebecca McLoughlin

Class 7

The largest TKM entry in quite some time (42 drivers), always meant split grids - added spice for working out the results! Oh, and this time, the TKMs really did have "go-faster stripes"....well, fancy coloured "flashes" to show which restrictor was being used in the kart!!!

Well TKT drivers really had this class sewn up this weekend - taking the win in every heat! Three each to Josh McLoughlin and Tom Oliphant, unfortunately for Tom, the "dropped" heat was going to count, and with Josh having a 3rd compared to Tom's 4th, that is how the trophies were decided.

As already mentioned, Andrew Wallace was AWOL this weekend - so Rob had a slight problem with the start procedure for his direct drive TKM.....

....I have it from a very good source (the horse's mouth!) that Rob asked TL Rich to help him out...(and that's where it all started to go a bit pear shaped!)

Richard says that he remembered from previous occasions when he had been pressed into such service, that Rob's kart was a bit of a "monster" (not exactly the word that he used!) to get started - and so he determined to give it an extra "heave" to make it go....unfortunately, he didn't count on Rob having tackled the technical issues and resolved them....so when it decided to "go" somewhat earlier than Richard expected, he went A over T like an extra

from "Dancing on Ice"....suffice to say, he is black and blue all over from where he hit ground and then commando rolled out of the way of the oncoming TKMs (EEEEKK!).

Richard's assistance aside, Rob had a good consistent day (two seconds, and two thirds) giving him third place overall.

James Warner also had a good day - he also took two second places, a fourth and a fifth to grab fourth place overall.

These guys were closely followed in by Chris Percival (3,4,6,DNF), George Kirby (9,4,5,6 - great start to life with that new TKM!), and completing the top ten Adam Sirett (in spite of turning to face the whole pack in the last heat and spinning in the second corner - lucky to get away with just a bent axle) (10,6,DNF,4). Well done all!

I don't know if you can recall the last Whilton Mill and an incident between Axle and Oli, that ultimately "murdered" Gill, Oli's old kart? Well, they both had a deja vu moment this weekend! Oli spins in exactly the same place, Harry is behind him and has that awful feeling of "Oh no, not again" - slight difference to last time in that, this time, he was able to take evasive action....this time Oli pulls away, and Axle is left to contemplate the day from the safety of the side of the track! One of these days we will get them both to the finish line!!!!

Class 8

Just one entry in Class 8 this weekend, Matt Wood was giving the Rotary a try out and letting the Rotax have a rest!

I think that Matt would tell you it wasn't his best racing weekend ever - he finally took 6th place overall....

Class 11

We had just two entries in Class 11 this weekend - Shannon Howes and Steven Duke. We have already heard about Steve's added assistance from his new novice! - and he is still learning about "Ethel" too!

Shannon had a reasonable day, and both are gaining valuable experience now that they are racing, proper!

Well done to you both, keep up the good work!

Class 12

No Simon Wallace this weekend - so no class 12 entries!

Class 14

In a Raket class containing 25 drivers, it was going to be an exciting day for TKT drivers (and parents!)

Top of the TKT Raket tree this week was George "Stub" Heath who came in 2nd overall (5,1,6) - and all that with a dodgy clutch....sack the mechanic and the procurement director!!!

Next up was Demon Daz McLaughlin (3,7,2) - only one point behind Stub in the final standings....it's VERY close between our Raket drivers! Excellent driving...

In fourth place this week was Kevin Tanswell (9,3,3).

Stuart Wood scored 2,9,8 giving him 6th place overall.

Henry Kirby couldn't quite emulate Big Brother, George, (falling just one place short of George's 7th), Henry's results were 12,6,11.

...and completing the top ten was Johnathan Molyneux who took a heat win in his series of races (DNF,5,1) - but at least the scores were going in the right direction!

I did hear (sources anonymous!) that Jack Lister had one of those days ending one of his heats in a gravel shower, hopefully you weren't hurt, Jack...

And we have already heard about Nicki Murie's smashing day!

Class 15

Just "Lightning" Luke McLaughlin out for in the Rotax this weekend (I understand that Oli Redman decided that some revision for the Maths GCSE was a better option - wise move!) Luke had a good day and brought his team Rotax back in 3rd place overall!

Dear Kart Dogtor(s)

(This weekend we have Drs Monty and Jack in the Consulting Room!)

(Courtesy of a former Team Leader....)

Please can you provide some advice to at least two of our team, who seemed to have trouble with the "cut through" on the rolling lap, resulting in DNSs on their score sheets..... Can you offer some advice to help avoid similar situations in the future?

Kart Dogtors say...

Were these drivers trying to start a different trend to the Class 7 High Fashion Race?

Perhaps the best advice to these drivers, is to adopt the "Peter Pan" approach to kart racing....

We can see the blank looks from here...

...but surely you remember "We're following the leader, the leader, the leader, we're following the leader wherever he may go"

Of course, this approach doesn't work if you are the pole sitter!!!!

Other issues for Kart Dogtor to advise on:-

What has 8 legs, is white, and went all the way to Whilton Mill (at great expense to the tow-ers of the box trailer), not to be used? - and which member of the team have such great weather forecasting knowledge that they knew the great white thing wouldn't be needed? (Come on confess! - you could make money advising on which tyres should be used during races!!!)

Kart Dogtor says - ok so you were lucky this time, next time you might get wet....please put the awning up!!!

Kart Dogtor also says: -

use of the Battenburg flag....(because we don't see this flag very often here is a gentle reminder for those that may have forgotten what this flag means.....SLOW DOWN, NO OVERTAKING)

Incidentally, in case you didn't pick up on the subtle hint earlier - we are on a **MARSHALLING RECRUITMENT DRIVE!!!**

Marshalling is great fun - and if we all took a turn, we would only have to go every 3 or 4 meetings!...

And so to complete the report - here is a picture of the TKT happy faces at the end of the Whilton Mill day!



That's all for now...

...and so to throw down the gauntlet to all TKT members who travel on Friday evenings....

...if you were listening to Chris Evans (Radio 2) last Friday you will have heard the "Heath Family" get a mention - "on their way to the first kart meeting of the year"

The challenge being thrown to all TKT members is to get your name on the radio too - let's see how many can achieve it!!!

Thanks for reading

Lewis Hamilton's travel agent (I'm on air miles commission - can't wait to cash them in, NOT!)