

Rowrah - Saturday / Sunday 21st / 22nd October
2006

RIVERS AT ROWRAH!!!

The 4th meeting of the NatSKA season took place over the weekend of 21st / 22nd October at Rowrah (Cumbria) - hopefully what follows is a fair reflection of a weekend that Murray Walker would probably describe as **FAAANNNTASTIC!!!!** (no apologies for liberal use of the exclamation marks).

Unfortunately, given the weather conditions, I only have one photo from the weekend (well I wasn't going to get all wet and cold now was I?)!!

Novices

The team welcomed two new novice drivers for the weekend - and what a weekend to choose! The weather was just about as bad as it could be - and even though the rain was horizontal at times, Steven Duke and Shannon Howes did a tremendous job - and Shannon thoroughly enjoyed herself... Her Mum and Dad say that she is quite disgusted with NatSKA though (Why are they having a winter break when she has only just started karting? - she wants to keep going through December, January and February too!).

Special mention to Shannon's Dad, Henry, who must surely be on for an "Oskart" by having the guts to shelter under a very fetching "Tweenies - Girl Power" pink umbrella (in spite of the ribbing he undoubtedly got from all corners of the pit lane!)

Given the weather conditions, all of the novices (Jack Lister, Jonathon Molyneux, Shannon, Steven, George Heath and Henry Kirby) did very, very well - at this stage in the season special mention to Henry who has shown a phenomenal improvement rate since the first meeting at Fulbeck - really tremendous Henry - and the smile is getting bigger each time you get back to the pitlane too!

Class 7

As usual Class 7 proved to be very exciting with some really close racing.

Oliver Bruce followed on from a string of consistent results and was the class of the Tarporley field, taking second place overall.

Chris Percival continued his upward climb in the results tables finishing this time in fourth place after a string of steady (well perhaps I should say unsteady - more on that in a minute) drives.

I understand that Chris got a telling off from Richard after he was considered to be taking excessive risks in the final hairpin bend when certain to take a third place in heat one. When Chris got back to the pit lane, he found his Dad none too pleased at the fact that he was pushing very hard into the bend (given that he could have thrown away that certain third place!). Richard quite reasonably asked the question as to why Chris was taking the risk of an off - Chris' response was that he had had a £5 side bet with one of the other parents that he couldn't get the kart to drift all the way around the corner. I think at this point you should all note in your diaries the fact that TL Rich was, for once in his life, SPEECHLESS!!!

Josh McLoughlin and Nathan Seeney completed the Tarporley trophies by taking joint fifth spot. Well done Nathan - Rowrah must be one of your favourite circuits, especially following on from your TV starring performance with Miss Parker-Bowles at the last Rowrah meeting in June!

Josh booked himself a date with the Clerk of the Course (and ultimately lost second place).

Special mention in the Class 7s to Tom Walsh - for the first time in a number of events, Tom took the chequered flag (and not just once either!). Well done, Tom!

Class 8

Stephen Wood had a very eventful meeting and probably went home with that "if only" feeling - having been away and clear in three of the four heats, only to find himself sitting at the same corner twice. Overall, he finished fifth - better luck next time.

Class 11

Simon Wallace had another good weekend of racing finishing third overall (in spite of the fact that Mr Percival had managed to persuade the receptionist at the Travelodge to join him in a "merry jest" at the Wallace family's expense by pretending that there wasn't a reservation for them and "no room at the inn"! - suffice to say a "heated exchange of views" between Nicky, Andrew and said lady ensued before she explained that "One last thing... Richard says Hello"!!!!!!).

Class 11 was completed from a Tarporley viewpoint by a solid performance from Chris Pover to finish fourth.

Class 12

It was another good weekend for Ross Haydock - he took 2nd place overall in the senior four strokes. Oliver Redman also taking a trophy for Tarporley by finishing in 3rd place.

Muppet moment of the day goes to both these guys - who were very very lucky after joining the back of the grid at the end of the warm up lap, that the third heat ended in a red flag on the Saturday evening and was re-started on Sunday morning. GUYS PLEASE PAY MORE ATTENTION TO THE RACING AND LESS ATTENTION TO THE TV IN THE CARAVAN - did you not know that watching TV can seriously affect your results - a DNS costs more points than a DNF?

Class 14

Stuart Wood put in another series of competitive finishes to take his best result to date - 2nd place in the Rakets. I will spill the beans Stu and tell you that your Mum was getting very excited while lap-scoring the final heat (and as the results were changing with each lap that went by, she could easily have a second career as a "statto" - quickly working out what the impact of the current scores would have on the overall result...I think its fair to say fanomenal!!! - and yes that is how I meant to spell that).

Adam Sirett also got his best result in the Raket taking fourth place overall proving that consistency is the aim of the game when it is raining (I understand that AS thought that his results wouldn't be good enough to take a trophy home - Adam you need to ask your dad for some tuition from Tina in the calculation of the scores on the doors!)

Completing the trophies for the Tarpoley contingent was Oliver Jackson with another fantastic drive in Heat 1 when the weather caught a number of the other drivers out - I think that Oli is trying to emulate his hero the rain master Mr Schumacher!

Just for information (and for those of you who, like trainspotters are keeping a record) Harry Heath has nearly completed the ambulance set..... a red flag in the practice session at turn 3 (right next to the Tarpoley Marshalling post) resulted in the unmarked ambulance being dispatched - we only need the motorcycle paramedic now to complete the set!!!

Now, here is a lesson for those new to the classes which need an electric starter (and perhaps another Oskart nomination!!!). Round Spanners R'Us is not a name that will be instantly recognisable to many dedicated Karters - and that is because one of the first lessons to learn is **HOW TO ENGAGE THE STARTER IN PLACE BEFORE PRESSING THE BUTTON**. This lesson is **CRITICAL** if you are going to avoid having to replace the clutch at a **cost IN EXCESS of £60** a time (and the possibility of having to sit out races while waiting for your clutch to dry). For the benefit of the suitably embarrassed, at this point I will not name and shame - but beware (I'm sure that you know who you

are at this point! - please also remember to teach your novice the benefit of properly placing the starter before trying to ignite the engine).

Class 15

Tarporley had a couple of entries in Class 15 with Matthew Wood and the school Rotax piloted by a combination of Rob Wallace and Calum Murie. I understand that all put on a good show - but Calum took the prize for performance of the day by putting in a series of ballerina style pirouettes (in the kart!) at the final hairpin - applauded of course by a number of Tarporley team mates!

HERO OF THE DAY

For my money the hero of the weekend was definitely George Kirby who, following Harry's red flag accident at Turn 3 dragged his own kart, and then Harry's (with Harry **stuck** in it) clear of danger - now I have to say that that puts George at the top of my "Most Wanted Teammates and Friends" list.!!!

MARSHALLS, START/FINISHERS And TRAILER TOW-ERS!

Special thanks go to the following:

Mark Walsh, Mark Rainford, Chris Roberts, Bruce Lister, Nigel Bruce, Katharine Jackson and Wendy McLaughlin for start / finish.

Chris Warner for being the NatSKA observer on Saturday. Andrew Wallace for a sterling job in the rain and wind on the grid.

A whole list of people completed a marshalling stint - but unfortunately I had a muppet moment and left the list that I had made at Rowrah - after this weekend it would be easier to name and shame those who hadn't marshalled anyway - so be warned for Wigan!

Thank you to Bruce Lister, Mick McLaughlin and Mark Walsh for towing the trailers to / from the circuit.

...and just to complete the report with another smile (or perhaps a sick bag for those of you who have weak stomachs!).

If you ever need catering facilities - its probably best not to ask at the Heaths - there are very few people in this world who can't even manage to make toast without of burning it.....but I am one of them - sorry Adam, next time I will try to get your breakfast right!

