

Whilton Mill - Saturday 7th October 2006

WINNERS AT WHILTON!!!

The 3rd meeting of the NatSKA season took place on Saturday 7th October at Whilton Mill (Northamptonshire) - and, as nobody has told me anything exciting or funny that happened, the following will have to do as a fair summary of the day!

Novices

The team welcomed three new novice drivers on the day - and what a fantastic day it was too! The weather was perfect for racing - not a cloud in the sky and not too hot - excellent for your first drive (no puddles and spray to contend with).

The three chaps each put in a good show with Ricki Stephens (kart 14), Jack Lister (kart 3) and Jonathon Molyneux (kart 18) all driving smoothly.

Eeeekk moment of the day went to Jonathon when he realised that he couldn't quite reach the brake pedal properly (thanks to George H for giving up his pillow to make a temporary back pad) - and there was a slight problem with the brakes anyway which needed Tony Rollinger's attention.... a real baptism of fire!!!

All three guys (and their parents) are learning the ropes as they go - so all will be watching Mr Woodward, Mr Jackson and Mr Rollinger very attentively.

Class 7

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

Chris Percival (kart 45) got the day off to a fantastic start by taking his first TKM heat win in the opening round - he was going so fast, my camera couldn't keep up with him! (well that's my excuse for it being blurred anyway!)



That result set him up well for the rest of the day and the final table showed that he had taken 6th place overall - well done Chris.

Racing in the TKMs was fast, furious and very close all day (well it will be with 32 of them in the field - even with a split grid!) with "Jet-propelled" Josh Mcloughlin battling with Oliver Bruce and Josh Slade (St Michaels) before eventually claiming the top spot.



Rob Wallace had his best result of the season claiming 5th place overall, and Jack Roberts completed the TKM trophies for Tarpurley by taking 7th place - really excellent results.

Mechanical problems ? - well, yes there were a few for the TKM spanners to sort out - Will Redman seized one engine and bent the crank in another (I'm sure that means something to someone!) - which probably means a very late night in the Redman household given that they were racing at GYG the next day. (Oh, and I suspect that Keiran's doctoring skills were called on when Will burned his hand on the exhaust.....seriously guys - that's the 3rd meeting running we have had burn injuries - **WATCH OUT THEY GET VERY HOT!!!** (First aid supplies are available in the Complete Homes van).

James Warner finished off the day parking up outside the Tarpurley marshall post (very kind of you to lend a hand with the flag waving!) after something went wrong with his kart (unfortunately I didn't write it down when Chris explained what had happened - so I can't relay the problem for you all to avoid the same happening to you)

Class 8

In the super fast Class 8, Stephen Wood took home a trophy after coming home in 3rd Place. - well done !

Class 11

Simon Wallace was just pipped to 1st place by Harry Kightley from Shenley Brook End, but he still completed a very successful day for the family after some super smooth driving - shame Andrew wasn't there to see it, but he had to stay at home to look after horsepower of a different kind at the Shire Horse sales!

Class 12

In class 12 Demon Daz Mclaughlin welcomed his dad Mick home from a trip to Norway by grabbing first place overall with some fantastic driving - just wait until he gets that new engine... There won't be any room left on the sideboard (thanks go to Turner Groundscare and Honda for the engine).

Class 12 proved to be rich pickings for the Tarpurley drivers on Saturday with Ross Haydock finishing 2nd (an excellent result after having to press Chris Roberts in to some running repairs with the welder). Oliver Redman made sure that he balanced up the mantelpiece by taking the trophy for 4th place, and Harry Dobson took the final trophy in the class by claiming 5th spot - must remember to take my camera to the meeting on Wednesday so that I can get a photo of you with it - Richard Parking claimed it on your behalf!

Class 14

In Class 14 Tarpurley drivers quite literally ran away with it, claiming all of the trophies and all bar one of the top ten places.

Fantastic racing between Oliver Jackson, Ben McLoughlin, Stuart Wood, George Kirby, Harry "Hurricane" Heath, Josh Woodward and Alex Rollinger kept us guessing until the

very end as to who would take the win - with Oliver, Ben, Harry and George all taking a heat win.

The season ahead is looking very exciting - I think I might need to take Michael Winner's advice "Calm down, dear!"

Heartbreak of the day, arguably, went to Josh Woodward, who was leading heat 2 by a fair distance before the Red Flag stopped the race. Fortunately, Calum Murie was ok after going over the gravel "heaps" (well they're certainly not traps!) out of the last corner - but that just about sums up Calum's day - his kart certainly wasn't behaving itself and in the end he had to complete emergency practice in sister Nicola's kart - what a nightmare. Fingers crossed for better luck for both of you at Rowrah.

Mechanical problems in class 14? - well there was the small incident of the wheel coming off Oliver Jackson's trolley (a bit early in the season - but could that be an Oskart?), and then there was Harry Heath's broken clutch on Thursday night and the exhaust bolt shearing off into the engine block - I think that is probably his slice of luck for a while!

Class 15

In class 15 the school was represented by two karts - Matthew Wood (9th overall) and the school Rotax piloted on a shared basis by Chris Percival and James Warner.

All looked sunk for the school kart when another very "considerate" driver decided to overtake by adopting First World War tactics and literally going "over the top" - fortunately Chris escaped from the incident with only a bruised hand - but the kart wasn't quite so lucky, with damage to the radiator, steering column, Nasser panel (no idea if that's how you spell it) and stub axle (and I don't mean George!).

It looked like "GAME OVER" but, of course, that wouldn't reflect the Tarporley never say die spirit - Mr Warner and Mr Percival set to work and (although not quite as good as new) the repairs did the job with the guys eventually netting 10th place overall

HERO OF THE DAY

For anybody's money the hero of the day was definitely Luke Mclaughlin who gave any body who needed it a helping hand (in spite of his bad leg). It must be really tough sitting out when all you want to do is get out there and drive - so, THANK YOU LUKE from all the guys that you helped out.

MARSHALLS OF THE DAY And TRAILER TAMERS!

Special thanks go to the following:

Carol Warner, Katharine Jackson, Angela Rainford, Elizabeth Kirby, Tony Rollinger, Bruce Lister, Helen Rollinger, Mick McLaughlin, Andrew Parkin, Others? Thank you to Chris Kirby, Martin Stephens, Bruce Lister and Mark Rainford for towing the trailers to / from the circuit.

PHOTOGRAPHS

Please note that there was a photographer at the circuit and you can view his website by clicking on the following link:

<http://www.forestbeast.photosite.com/>



...and just to complete the report with a smile (or perhaps a sick bag for those of you with very vivid imaginations!)

On the way home from Whilton Mill, the Heath family were going to Harry and George's cousin's 18th birthday - now, everything had been packed away into the van before we thought about getting changed - and it HAD gone dark so there was nothing for it but to drop trousers and get changed in the field.....it was only when we were all changed that I noticed the security camera!!!! (I hope to God that it didn't have any film in it!!!)

....oh and finally, a word of warning!

At the party Harry decided to take his trophy in to show his cousins - only his Auntie grabbed it and took it to the bar to celebrate in the time honoured fashion (well nearly - she had it filled with Babycham!) - it was only when it was $\frac{3}{4}$ full that she realised that there was a hole in the trophy to hold it on to the base, and it was behaving like a sieve rather than a celebratory cup - much hilarity and some very wet trousers!!! You can't say

you haven't been warned if you try the same process when you take a trophy home!



Results tables are shown on the TKT website:

<http://www.tarporleykarting.co.uk/results.htm>

...and so to Rowrah - where karters are just as nutty and fleece and waterproof sellers are very rich men....Can't wait!!!!

As previously, any errors in this report are my own (through lack of understanding, or hearing not listening!).

If there are any such errors - then maybe you should have told me yourself so that I didn't get 2nd hand information)

Don't forget any and all contributions of fact, gossip and tittle tattle are gratefully received.....and if you want to see your name in the report, then you have to tell me your story - Mystic Meg, I am not!!!

Coming soon:

"Direct drive down the bank"

otherwise known as...

"Rowrah in the Rain"

SEE YOU THERE!!!!

Thanks for reading

Lotus Lane and NQ Superman