

Whilton Mill Rotax ABkC Championships Round 1

Lucky with the weather, the challenging circuit threw up some good close racing for the first Rotax round of the re-vamped series.

Nathan Harrison enjoyed a full points haul in MiniMax as the drivers in the other classes adapted with ease to the new qualifying, two heats and two points scoring finals system. First final Junior Max winner Edward Brand was bested by Spencer Barrow in the second outing, whilst in 177 Harry Cockill was untouchable. From winning the first, Daniel Graham had to settle for fourth in the Max final two, Lee Jenner in top spot there.

ABkC MiniMax

Qualifying: Jay Goodwin (47.29), Sam Ward, James Singleton
Heat winners: Harrison Scott, Singleton x2, Charlie Robertson
Repechage: Ward, Joe Byrne, Oliver Myers, Tom D'Arcy
Final 1: From pole Singleton went out ahead but was reeled in by Nathan Harrison, towing along George Line. The subsequent battle allowed Corby Gormley to join in, and he and Harrison traded the lead for several laps. A frantic last lap saw Harrison sneak inside Gormley at the Boot for the win.
Results: Harrison (pictured below), Gormley, Crawley, Singleton, Scott



Final 2: This time Harrison got the break at the start, until Scott, Jack Barlow and Gormley approached. Scott went off trying to relieve

Gormley of the lead, giving Harrison the win when the race was prematurely ended by a red flag. Jonathan Davis had had a terminal steering failure and had stopped on the Boot exit. Then George Line rolled over at the Pits corner, and Jody Fannin later ploughed into Davis' stationary kart, wrecking both.

Results: Harrison, Barlow, Gormley, Singleton, Kyle Fowlie

ABkC Rotax Junior Max

Qualifying: Edward Brand (45.68), Ash Hand, Matthew Parry
Heat winners: Brand, Parry, Brand, Lee Napolitano
Repechage: Fraser O'Brien, Declan Jones, Shaun Slavin, Sean Babington
Final 1: Never headed, Brand withstood a strong challenge from Parry and Spencer Barrow, whilst behind that Hand powered up the hill for pass after pass from grid 14 to fourth.

Results: Brand, Parry, Barrow, Hand, Bill Cowley

Final 2: Brand's small cushion evaporated under attack by Barrow, Brand backing out of a last lap dive on his team-mate. Parry brought off a last lap move on Andy King for third.

Results: Barrow, Brand, Parry, King, Hand



Spencer Barrow, Junior Max

ABkC Rotax Max

Qualifying: Daniel Graham (44.84), Lee Jenner, Tom Healy
Heat winners: Graham, Tom Fawcett, Mike Spencer, Jenner
Repechage: Spencer, Chris Grieve, Michael Epps, Rikki Gordon

Final 1: Graham had clearly adapted well to Rotax, qualifying pole and leading much of the race, but many eyes were on Spencer's progress from the back to sixth

after a heat exclusion for working on his kart on the dummy grid. Fawcett overcame Robert Browning then sneaked into the lead, only for a tiny tap by Graham at Ashby aiding his recovery for the win. Jenner relieved Browning of third at Christmas corner, whilst Stefan Di Resta salvaged fifth.

Results: Graham, Fawcett, Jenner, Robert Browning, Stefan Di Resta
Final 2: The first five escaped the carnage at Christmas Corner, Di Resta also through but retiring. Graham's lead was under attack by Jenner, dropping him to fifth. Spencer seized a last lap opportunity to nip up inside Fawcett for second, the latter half-spinning trying to brave it out, gifting third to Browning.
Results: Jenner (pictured below), Spencer, Browning, Graham, Fawcett



ABkC Rotax Max 177

Qualifying: Harry Cockill (45.73), David Griffiths, Luke Woodland
Heat winners: Cockill x2

Final 1: The class of the field, Cockill eked out nearly three seconds on Woodland as Lewis Turner came up to threaten.

Results: Cockill, Woodland, Turner, Lucas Orrock, Griffiths

Final 2: Cockill again steamrollered his way to an even bigger lead, whilst Woodland jumped ahead of Turner and managed to just hang onto second in what was a fairly static race.

Results: Cockill, Woodland, Turner, Orrock, Griffiths



Harry Cockill, Max 177



CHAMPIONSHIPS

Mill Murmurs

A little analysis of the track time between last year's format and the new 2009 format shows that competitors are enjoying at least ten minutes more practice time and 28 minutes more competitive track time over the three days. Competitors and teams had nothing but praise for the format.

Clutches were replaced by brand new units supplied by the organisers for many competitors before the start of the finals. This is available under the regulations for any component of the engine.



*Competitors clutches after exchange
all Images courtesy www.kartpix.net*

BRP Rotax has awarded the ABkC Junior and Senior Rotax Max championships three free entries to the Max Challenge Grand Finals, to be held 7-12 December in the Red Sea resort of Sharm El-Sheikh. Subject to age and other criteria one entry will be offered to first place in Juniors, and two in senior Max, the second placed driver being entered in DD2. If the drivers do not wish to take up the offer, it will be offered to the next placed driver in the series. This is seen as a continued endorsement of the importance of the Super One to BRP Rotax and the organisers wish to thank JAG Engineering for their assistance.

Shaun Carter completed a clean sweep of the tyre changing competitions held so far, with an improved time of 36.8s for removing four tyres from rims and refitting them. The video will be on the S1 website.

The next Rotax round is on 25/26 April at Rowrah.

Roundups

TKM Rnd 1 @ Fulbeck

Oliver Hodgson dominated Junior TKM, with Daniel Burton storming through to 2nd, whilst 3rd placed Ash Crossey was excluded. In Extreme Tom Oliphant took advantage of the front row pair's woes whilst Ryan Cole recovered well for 2nd from a heat mishap. Carly Latcham replicated her 2008 junior win in Senior 4-stroke after Michael Rich lost his chain. In the junior category, William Thomas led a fairly processional final. Daniel Ticktum was a delighted Honda Cadet winner.

MSA Rnd 1 @ PF International

Alex Gill stole a march on his rivals with two Cadet wins, whilst the KF3 finals were shared between Sennan Fielding and Alexander Albon. Jake Dennis' pair of seconds brought him the points lead. Jake Ball seemed to have the best strategic setup in KF2, taking both finals. In KF1, Jordon Lennox-Lamb capitalised on the lack of pace by the other fancied runners, both wins his and off to a great start to the season.



*The senior Max top three
at Whilton Mill*