

MERCEDES BENZ INKART CHAMPIONSHIP 2010 ROUND 9 SUNDAY 26TH SEPTEMBER

Round 9 is always a pivotal point of the Mercedes Benz Inkart season, but with the introduction of the brand new Grand Prix circuit and flyover bridge at Daytona Manchester, there was a special atmosphere filling the viewing balcony as drivers gathered for the morning's action.

JUNIORS

The Junior class were the first to test their skills on the circuit, with an extended practice before Qualifying giving everyone some time to choose their racing lines. The grid line up took a familiar pattern, with Adam Tomkins on pole followed by Luke Gore and Liam Campbell. From the start, Luke found himself struggling as many do from the unfavoured side of the grid, as Liam held his own on the up ramp to take 2nd position. However, he wouldn't remain there for long as Luke quickly fought back, gambling down the inside at speed into the first hairpin and holding his nerve to regain 2nd. The race settled down with drivers really starting to get to grips with the new corners, with everyone eager to stake a claim for a new lap record.

Approaching the later stages, backmarkers both helped and hindered the front runners, while the mid order were serving up the eye catching action on track, especially newcomer Matthew Clayden, who debuted superbly throughout the morning. Towards the final laps, Luke was losing ground on Adam, who completed Race 1, leading throughout to win by 6 seconds.

Luke would have a chance to grab a victory, leading the first ever rolling start over the bridge. As the pack charged into hairpin one, Jason Bagnall slipped up, allowing the remaining drivers to move past. Again the action was hotting up from 3rd to 6th position, with John Gwyneth nearly falling foul of a penalty, as contact warranted a warning flag with John already having lost position in his retreat. This time the backmarkers weren't posing a problem to race leader Luke, or Adam in 2nd, while four drivers went nose to tail for 3rd. An incident on lap 25 was later reviewed by Race Control with Connor Woodyatt adjudged to have overtaking Liam Campbell by illegal contact, therefore switching their finishing positions of 5th and 6th. Luke would take the glory for Race 2 and a bonus of a new lap record of 26.743.

| Position | Name | BestTime Of Event | Race 1 | Race 2 | Total |
|----------|-----------------|-------------------|--------|--------|-------|
| 1 | Luke Gore | 26.743 | 12 | 15 | 27 |
| 2 | Adam Tomkins | 26.833 | 15 | 12 | 27 |
| 3 | John Gwyneth | 27.390 | 9 | 10 | 19 |
| 4 | Liam Campbell | 27.391 | 10 | 8 | 18 |
| 5 | Matthew Clayden | 27.317 | 8 | 9 | 17 |
| 6 | Connor Woodyatt | 27.237 | 7 | 7 | 14 |
| 7 | Jason Bagnall | 27.610 | 6 | 6 | 12 |
| 8 | Dominic Smith | 27.968 | 5 | 4 | 9 |
| 9 | Mark Ashton | 28.257 | 4 | 5 | 9 |

SENIORS

With many of the senior drivers having been taking part in the recent day's practice sessions, expectation was high as to the calibre of racing we would witness from the drivers today. Qualifying put Dwayne Marsden and Michael Lawes on the front row. Lap 1 saw a clean start up and across the flyover, but on approach to the hairpin, Aaron McManus gambled on timing his late braking on the inside, before finding himself quickly retreating and losing 3rd position to Ryan Welch. On lap 24, an untidy hairpin exit cost Adam Bach 4th position. Towards the closing laps, Dwayne stole a march on Michael in 2nd to win by 8.4s, however not claiming the quickest lap for Race 2, as Michael settled for 2nd with the consolation of pole on the rolling start. Adam Clayton sprung a early move past Ryan for 4th, before coming undone himself as Adam Bach stole in on lap 10 for the position. The remainder of the contest saw little action, with Michael comfortable at the head of the pack, with neither Dwayne nor Aaron able to exert any offensive pressure for the lead. Michael took the Race 2 win by 2s, and by posting the quickest lap 26.826 took the round 10 win.

| Position | Name | BestTime Of Event | Race 1 | Race 2 | Total |
|----------|-----------------|-------------------|--------|--------|-------|
| 1 | Michael Lawes | 26.826 | 12 | 15 | 27 |
| 2 | Dwayne Marsden | 26.839 | 15 | 12 | 27 |
| 3 | Aaron McManus | 26.984 | 8 | 10 | 18 |
| 4 | Adam Clayton | 27.391 | 9 | 8 | 17 |
| 5 | Ryan Welch | 27.437 | 10 | 7 | 17 |
| 6 | Adam Bach | 26.796 | 7 | 9 | 16 |
| 7 | Steven Thresher | 27.582 | 6 | 6 | 12 |

CADETS A

Ishola, Tom, and Elijah were joined on the starting grid by debutant Lee Chamberlain, using the remaining end of season rounds to get some Inkart experience for 2011. Elijah had a slow start from pole, but with Ishola and Tom focused on defending from each other, Elijah remained in the lead. However on lap 11, Ishola took the oppoutunity to move into 1st, taking advantage of Elijah misjudging the backmarker in front. 6 laps later and Elijah would receive a black flag for an inside line manoeuvre that didn't come off. Tom would push Ishola all the way to the line, with just 0.1s the difference as Ishola took the Race 1 win. Race 2 would see Tom leading from the front in the early stages and looking set for a win. However an early Turn 1 incident would ultimately decide the race. With the decision made on review, Ishola would receive a black flag from the incident in question, with an unfortunate but ultimately costly contact move as he challenged for the lead. The re-adjusdted finished positions awarded Elijah 1st with Tom in 2nd.

| Position | Name | BestTime Of Event | Race 1 | Race 2 | Total |
|----------|-----------------|-------------------|--------|--------|-------|
| 1 | Elijah Montaque | 27.385 | 10 | 15 | 25 |
| 2 | Ishola Finni | 27.529 | 15 | 10 | 25 |
| 3 | Tom Geaney | 27.100 | 12 | 12 | 24 |
| 4 | Lee Chamberlain | 28.690 | 9 | 9 | 18 |

CADET B

An exciting charge off the grid saw Aaron lead from pole, with Kallum and Jamieson both distracted by each others position, leaving the ever opportunistic Elliot to swiftly overtake Jamieson round the outside on approach to Turn 2, as Kallum held the line and 2nd position over the bridge. Aaron would remain unchallenged as Kallum was forced to keep one eye over his shoulder on Elliot's efforts for his 2nd place. Aaron took the first win, and pole position for Race 2, which turned into an exciting spectacle to end the morning's action.

All seemed to be going with the flow, but approaching mid-distance, Elliot found his way into the lead, passing Aaron. In a close battle between the two drivers, Aaron responded quickly, but over-cooked his efforts, nudging Elliot wide on the exit of the tunnel, to briefly regain the lead. However it didn't last long as a black flag was issued, dropping Aaron to a finish of 4th. Elliot returned to 1st and held off the late charge from Kallum to take the chequered flag.

| Position | Name | BestTime Of Event | Race 1 | Race 2 | Total |
|----------|------------------|-------------------|--------|--------|-------|
| 1 | Elliot Lloyd | 27.344 | 10 | 15 | 25 |
| 2 | Aaron Walsh | 27.175 | 15 | 9 | 24 |
| 3 | Kallum Mcbride | 27.525 | 12 | 12 | 24 |
| 4 | Jamieson Pomeroy | 27.539 | 9 | 10 | 19 |
| 5 | Jordan Cain | 28.189 | 8 | 8 | 16 |

So the Mercedes Benz Inkart Championships edge ever nearer to a conclusion. Race calls and manoeuvres may always be up for debate, but what everyone was in agreement over just how much fun the new circuit was for all drivers. We all now look forward to Round 10 on October 31st.

Arrival Times

Cadets 8.30am

Juniors 9.30am

Seniors 10.15am

James Acheson

Inkart Co-ordinator 2010