

North Circuit Junior InKart Championship

With the rain falling, and the new rules and regulations in place, we were set for a great start to the season. With eleven drivers in each Class, there was plenty of competition for everybody. Also with the extended heat lengths and updated point scoring, even the experienced drivers had to adapt to the changes, which gave some of the newcomers a good opportunity to score some good results during the event.

Some minor issues with the computer solved and we were underway with the first heat of the day.

Cadets

We had one minor glitch regarding the karts in heat three of the cadets, with Nick Sumner dropping from pole position to sixth place due to a clutch spring, showing that the testing session a week prior was worth its weight in gold.

Heats

H1) No changes in the first three positions, it was the fight for fourth, fifth and sixth where the action was. Both Alex and Nick, moving up a position into fourth and fifth respectively, with Thomas dropping down to sixth. It was Tor from pole position who took the chequered flag followed by Zac and Sam.

H2) There was an incident within the first couple of laps which took our pole position driver Matthew, dropping down to sixth position. This left the race wide open for the taking, and the driver who took it by the scruff of the neck was Jordan-Lee. Who then went on to take the chequered flag, followed by Zac, Tor, Jamaal, Dean and Matthew.

H3) Nick Sumner starting on pole, he managed to keep the kart going holding the lead until the third lap, where the clutch spring finally gave way. He was quickly drawn in by the other drivers as he pulled over to the side of the circuit. Gino motioned for him to make his way back to the pit lane. Meanwhile, Jordan-Lee had made his way to the front from third position. Some great overtaking manoeuvres by all drivers, with Jordan-Lee taking back to back heat wins, followed by Sam, Alex, Thomas, James and Nick.

H4) Due to having an odd number of drivers, the remaining three heats were down to five drivers. The main mover in the field was again Tor who made his way from third to first with some spectacular overtaking manoeuvres. Jamaal having a particularly bad heat dropping from pole position to fifth place due to spinning out in the testing conditions. No other changes in the field so taking the chequered flag was Tor followed by Dean, Matthew, Jordan-Lee and Jamaal.

H5) In heat five we only had one mover in the group, with Nick moving from third to second, everyone else finishing in their respective starting positions. Sam taking the chequered followed by Nick, James, Zac, Matthew.

H6) Alex had a storming heat leading from pole to the chequered flag, the action behind was a different matter. There were a few changes for position throughout the heat, with a battle between James and Jamaal for second and third, and Thomas and Dean battling for fourth and fifth. Dean had a great start of the line, unfortunately spinning out a couple of laps into the heat, as many had done in previous heats. Proving the conditions were testing for even the more experienced drivers.

Cadet Grand Final

With the final called, the drivers made their way to their karts. Starting positions were as follows;

Pole position – Tor outfin

2nd – Jordan-Lee Plummer

3rd – Sam Barclay

4th – Alex Wright

5th – Zac outfin

6th – Dean Thomas

With the drivers sat on their respective grid positions, all eyes were on Gino our start marshal, building up the tension with a raised static green flag. Three seconds pass and he kicks into action, waived green race underway. There was some early contact between the front runners but nothing more than a racing incident. Jordan-Lee had a little spin dropping him to the back of the pack from second on the grid. With a ten lap final anything could happen so he got his head down and started to reel in the drivers battling for position. Meanwhile Tor was building a bigger advantage at the front of the field, as each lap went by. Jordan-Lee started making his way through the field with some tremendous overtaking manoeuvres. However time wasn't on his side, a solid drive from pole to the chequered flag secured Tor with the first win of the season. A great drive by all drivers, dealing with the ever changing weather conditions.

Final Result

Best Lap

1st – Tor Outfin	19.882
2 nd – Sam Barclay	20.434
3 rd – Alex Wright	20.451
4 th – Jordan-Lee Plummer	20.655
5 th – Zac Outfin	20.459
6 th – Dean Thomas	20.437

Juniors

Within the junior event one black flag was issued in heat five to Jamie Bull, this was for an ABC (Advantage By Contact). We had a number of kart issues within the pit lane but thankfully, none that affected the heats themselves. A great effort by Antonio the engineer, not only to fix the broken karts, but to make sure we didn't fall behind on time by doing the fixes in record time.

H1) Heat one saw the debut for recent race school graduate Mathias Read-Simpson, have a one hundred percent record by winning his first heat, coming from second on the grid. For the rest of the field, no one stayed in their respective starting position. Jay had a horrible first heat and dropped from pole position to finish the heat in fourth place. Matt done well and moved up from third to second, Owen with a cracking drive moved up from fourth to third, and after a great battle Jack finished the heat fifth, just in front of Liam in sixth.

H2) Yet another heat where pole position found it hard to retain position, with the pressure of the other drivers right on his tail. Jamie had a good start and pulled away from the pack, however the man on the pace was Stephen and he was quickly making his way past Daniel and up onto the tail of Jamie. Fighting for the latter positions were Mathias Jay and Oliver. A great battle ensued, which resulted in Mathias finishing sixth, Oliver in fifth and Jay in fourth. At the front of the field with the chequered flag immanent, Stephen made a great overtaking manoeuvre around the final corner to receive the heat win. Jamie had a solid second place finish, with Daniel finishing third.

H3) Heat three under way, and the result was the closest we had all day to the drivers finishing the same as their starting positions. There was however some great battling going on within the heat, but the only change in position was for forth and fifth place. Matt coming out on top with Liam coming in fifth, It was a great heat for Jack on pole leading from start to finish, Owen and Daniel finishing in second and third respectively, with TaShun finishing sixth.

H4) So at this point we were down to five drivers per heat, the same as the cadets. Oliver making amends for his previous fifth place finish, by storming to his first heat win of the season. Stephen was not far behind by any stretch, taking second place. The remaining drivers jostled for position for the remainder of the heat, with Jamie taking third, Daniel in fourth and Jay finishing the heat in fifth after a small loss of control.

H5) The heat got under way with minimal contact, however quite early on Jamie was a little late on the brakes into the hair pain corner, hitting a kart front to rear causing him to spin out. This resulted in the first black flag of the event and indeed the season. Jamie came in with no complaints and was let back out onto the circuit. TaShun completely turned his fortunes around by taking his first heat win. With Jack a close second, Matt dropping from pole position into third place minimising his point's loss. Mathias had yet another solid drive, but was unable to gain any positions finishing in fourth place, which left Jamie finishing fifth, after receiving his penalty.

H6) It was business as usual for TaShun taking back to back heat victories. After TaShun went passed, Liam could easily have lost his cool but he regained his composure and held onto second place, despite the challenge from Stephen, who finished in third. Owen and Oliver having an interesting battle, with Oliver just getting the upper hand finishing in fourth, with Owen coming in fifth.

Junior Grand Final

The bar had been set by Tor in the cadet final, with a very respectable lap time despite the terrible weather conditions. However the juniors were more than up to the challenge laid down. It was left to Pit manager Alex Stoyles to do the honours, and call the grid for the final in reverse order. The positions were as follows;

1st – Stephen Moffat

2nd – TaShun Tayo

3rd – Jack Evans

4th – Matt Fretwell

5th – Oliver Emanuel

6th – Jamie Bull

So again under starter's orders, all eyes fixed on Gino....away we go with a green waived flag. The first three get a great start, no change in position, a little contact between fourth, fifth and sixth but to be expected under the circumstances. Now all drivers up to racing speed and we can start to see who is on the pace. With Stephen, TaShun and Jack pulling away from the group, and Matt finding the early race pace difficult to handle. However towards the latter stages of the race he wasn't giving up determined to catch the other drivers. Both Oliver and Jamie, having a successful final and both gaining a position. However back to front of the race and we have Stephen receiving the chequered flag and his first round victory. Not a bad way for the defending Champion to let his fellow competitors he still has what it takes.

Final Result

Best Lap

1 st – Stephen Moffat	19.457
2 nd – TaShun Tayo	19.726
3 rd – Jack Evans	20.495
4 th – Oliver Emanuel	20.293
5 th – Jamie Bull	20.145
6 th – Matt Fretwell	20.854

Summary

A great start to the 2010 North Circuit Inkart season, the weather could have become an issue but all drivers coped well under the circumstances, lets hope for a bit of sunshine in round two. From my point of view the day was a success, we had no major incidents on or off the circuit, which is a great example for the rest of the season to follow. I would like to thank all drivers who participated in the first round, all the parents who were here and showed their support to not only their children but everyone elses. Lastly I would like to thanks the guys who ran the circuit, because without them the event could not have taken place. Alex Stoyles our Pit Manager, who I felt did a great job. Sam Hodgson, our Assistant Pit Manager, again outstanding job, and Gino Colucci who was the Grid Marshal who again was spot on. I look forward to seeing you next round,

Marc Lee

