

## **International Inkart: 2010**

### **Introduction:**

So after a successful first month, it was now time round 2 of this year's Inkart Championship. The last round produced some fantastic driving with some pugnacious attitudes as well as some first class sportsmanship. The track for the second round was National and this meant an increase in laps during the heats goes from 5 to 8. Furthermore, with the clocks going forward by 1 hour fingers were crossed that no drivers turned up late. Luckily everyone was on time and the sun also decided to join us.

### **Heats: 8 laps, 3 heats each.**

The first heat of the juniors' category is always an interesting tussle as it always gives an early indication of things to come. The first heat was dominated by Tom Hardbottle, who won the heat by a staggering 6 seconds. This meant more eyes were clued to the battle for second place as Daniel Bull and Harry Law fought until the bitter end. After a titanic battle, it was Bull who managed to get second, just piping Law. Would this be a sign of things to come?

With more participants in this round, it allowed us to have both a lightweight and heavyweight category for the first time. So first up were the lightweights, who had the unfortunate task of eclipsing the junior heat. Michael Moore laid down an early gauntlet by storming to the chequered flag with impressive endeavour. Michael showed superb driving technique and a wonderful enthusiasm behind the wheel. Second place, went to last month's overall lightweight winner: Josh Booden. Josh showing that consistency might be the key component come what May. Third place saw a three way tussle between Phil Randall, David Brinckley and the returning Chris Anderson; all drivers putting in a fantastic display. But the third place went to Phil Randall who will be hoping for an even more impressive finish in his next heat.

The first heavyweight heat was very entertaining and it was a tight fight for first spot, and as the chequered flag was brandished there was less than a 1 second gap between first and second. The two drivers in question were Martin Smith and Stewart

McIntyre. The race was very well balanced and beautifully poised coming towards the finish line and it was Smith who thumped the air in triumph. A brave effort from McIntyre and his reward was a respectful second place. Ty Ogorman again showed consistency, just like last month, to come third.

Heat number two for the junior drivers was a tight affair and the first place was contested between three competent and vivacious drivers. Alex Luck, George Dufield and Oliver Hinde were bumper to bumper right until the conclusion and gave the audience a superb spectacle. Alex's Luck was in (no pun intended) and he deservedly took the chequered flag with a 0.31 second gap over Dufield and 0.75 gap over Hinde who cemented third. Amazingly there was no sign of any of the three drivers who were successful in the last heat, showing that there are copious amounts of talent in this year's Championship.

The next heat to take place on this glorious Sunday morning was that of the lightweights. And in a good, clean race, with minimal controversy Alec Tucker prevailed as the winner. He was almost 4 seconds ahead of David Brinckley, who wrapped up second place; David finished fourth in the last heat so showed audacious hunger in his bid to be successful. Third slot was again taken by Phil Randall, who has been consistent throughout today's round.

The heavyweights are always very competitive and this was demonstrated during this heat. Chris Baker, who had a superb round, last month, captivated the audience with some awesome driving to get the chequered flag and his first win of the day. Second place went to the ever-present Ian Dufield who leads by example every month for his two boys Jack and George. Ty Ogorman again sealed third spot to show why he is always recognised come the end!

The final heat for the juniors was a tense affair; the drivers knew that this was their final opportunity to gain some valuable points for the final. It was a two-horse race for the chequered flag as two old foes battled it out to achieve ultimate supremacy. In the end it was Law who crossed the line first to rapturous applause slightly denying Bull who came second, just 0.56 off Law. Third place was taken by George Dufield who has really come of age this season.

A special mention must go to Dominic Tucker and Ben Irwin, who had several karting issues through-out the event. However, after speaking with both drivers, I was amazed and proud of the maturity and understanding they showed. This type of attitude will only help with their journey for success.

The finale of the lightweight heats was all about persistence and confidence as Phil Randall just edged out Josh Booden to take first place; Phil's attitude should be commended and his ambition was rewarded. Alec Tucker completed a solid session by taking third place and helping him to gain a nice grid position for the final.

The last heat of the round saw the heavyweights put on a stunning show to the watching juniors, as the top three drivers were separated by less than a second. Ogorman finished first, but not Ty; it was instead Lee who marched to the top shocking the on looking crowd and showing the younger drivers that it pays off to have determination and commitment. Second place was McIntyre who just narrowly missed out on his first win of the season, but still must be content with his heats overall. Chris Baker, who despite winning the last heat, had to settle frustratingly for only third.

### **The finals: 10 laps.**

The first final of the day saw the juniors try and oust one another in order to claim glory. The top three drivers going into the final were Bull (1<sup>st</sup>), Law (2<sup>nd</sup>) and Dutfield (3<sup>rd</sup>). Amazingly it was the same order that they finished in. Bull capping a tremendous day with a solid and tactically smart race. Law and Dutfield gave Bull a fantastic challenge, but both drivers had to settle for second and third place respectfully. Alex Luck came in fourth but can be proud of his efforts from start to finish.

The lightweight drivers also followed the juniors with a 1, 2, 3 grid start that mirrored the final outcome. However, this race will not be remembered for that, it will be remembered by all for the absolutely stupendous sportsmanship shown by Alec Tucker. On the final lap Tucker was second and accidentally bumped the race leader: Randall. This caused Randall to spin and allow Tucker to overtake him. However,

instead of Tucker storming through to take the chequered flag and the win, he simply allowed Randall to regain his place and win today's lightweight final. Come the end of the season, Tucker may lose out on points, but he will certainly be remembered for the right reasons. Josh Booden came in third to complete a solid two opening rounds and cement his place as a challenger to the title. A special mention to Jessica Brinckley, who despite is the only female competitor in the championship, still managed to finish 5<sup>th</sup>; proving that she is here for the long haul.

The heavyweights' final was again a mixture of talented drivers and showed that anything can happen despite an average heats. Last month Chris Baker was beaten to top spot by Jack Dutfield and it would be easy for him to just accept that. However, part of being a champion is character and Baker showed today that he has that in abundance. Baker dominated his adversaries and deservedly took the chequered flag. Second place went to John Horsman who did not finish in the top three at all during the heats, showing that a positive attitude can lead to relative success. Ty Ogorman finished in third and showed he wants his title for more than one season with a nice drive and fair race.

### **Conclusion:**

Despite some unfortunate kart problems, which cannot be helped, we still witnessed a fantastic round and some wonderful driving. More importantly, it displayed unbeatable attitudes and sportsmanship...here is to more of that!!

Well done to all drivers, I look forward to seeing you next month.

Kind Regards,  
Graham Charters (Championship co-ordinator)