

## **International Inkart report: round four**

### **Introduction:**

So with the negativity surrounding last month's round now a distant memory, it was imperative that this round was remembered for all of the right reasons. With it being a bank holiday weekend, the number of participants was not as high as some would wish - nevertheless those who did compete gave everyone an interesting round.

### **Heats: juniors**

First up were, as always, the junior drivers; who have been very impressive in the earlier rounds. The same familiar faces took to centre stage in order to gain the maximum points that may be the decisive factor come what May. Heat one is always a fascinating spectacle as every driver sees it as an opportunity to lay down an early gauntlet. The front two runners for the large majority of the race were Harry Law and the ever-humble Josh Hoy. Hoy had the advantage in the early stages but it was experience that overcame enthusiasm as Law just sneaked over the finish line first. The gap was 0.91 seconds which just shows how tense the conclusion of the race was. CJ Miller wrapped up third spot to start the day brightly.

### **Light weights:**

The first light weights heat was a one man show. Alec Tucker captivated the audience with a superb drive that many of his peers would have been proud of. It was a show that had wonderful composure and flawless technique. In the end Alec finished 8.37 seconds ahead of his closest rival James Pratt. Pratt had a very consistent race but unfortunately for him, he came up against a machine in Tucker. Third spot was captured by the impressive Phil Randall - who finished 14 seconds ahead of Luke Ogorman.

### **Heavy weights:**

The heavy weight category is always facing a challenge as it always follows the junior and light weight drivers...it would be a tall order to match the finishes and displays we had just been treated to. However, match it they did. Some may even say they bettered the earlier heats! This race had the clear winner and the intriguing race for second place. Martin Smith followed Tucker in pulling off a sublime race and smashed his competition by 4 seconds. Surely a win that could only boost confidence! Second place was a hard fought battle between the hard working Stewart McIntyre and the fresh Jack Dutfield. The vital 48 points however, went to Stewart, who I am sure would have enjoyed the battle. I'm positive he would have enjoyed winning that battle more though.

### **Heat 2: juniors**

So after a positive start to the day the juniors had the responsibility of maintaining the positive atmosphere. And they did not disappoint. Daniel Bull and George Dutfield gave the on looking one of the best finishes in Daytona History!! The actual difference in timing was a flabbergasting 0:00.00 but after a photo finish Bull was declared the winner. Both drivers

though can walk with their heads held high and have earned the respect of many fellow drivers. Amazingly Oliver Hinde was only 0.13 seconds off the chequered flag and I would go as far as to predict that if he pulled out that type of performance in any other race – he'd have been victorious. Still a top three finish against the calibre of opponents in the junior section is more than respectable.

### **Light weights:**

The second heat for the light weights was a much closer affair than the previous. Phil Randal showed his talent by scooping the 50 points with a nice, steady drive. Second place was picked up by Josh Booden who has been very good throughout the Championship so far. David Brickley just missed out to the in-form Alec Tucker who followed up his awesome first heat display to take third; Tucker and Randall were now level on 96 points each after the first two heats.

### **Heavy weights:**

There was little incident in the second heat of the heavy weights and top spot was taken by Stewart McIntyre, who so far had been very impressive; a sign of things to come maybe. Ian Dutfield managed to claim some invaluable points with a determined display and he was followed by Lee Ogorman who managed to seal third spot comfortably.

### **Heat 3: juniors**

The final heat is always a great way to build confidence for the final. Firstly it can get some much needed points, and secondly it can help build momentum that could be the difference. Harry Law's good day got even better after he just beat George Dutfield to the chequered flag. Harry accumulated some serious points for the final and his hard endeavour gained the rewards. Ben Irwin made sure he was noticed with a smooth drive to take third. An indication of how good the talent is in the junior section is the amount of different top-three finishers in the heats.

### **Light weights:**

The light weights saw two drivers go into the final heat level on points and they were only just separated in this heat. Phil Randall took a major step towards success by sealing his second consecutive heats win; a real complement to his outstanding natural talent. Alec Tucker finished second meaning he too, completed the heats section with confidence. James Pratt added to his earlier second place finish by taking the third spot and 46 points. James missed the early rounds and only time will tell if that will cost him in the overall Championship. Josh Booden finished fourth and the points received here maybe the telling difference!

### **Heavy weights:**

The heavy weight category ended with some controversy after some aggressive driving by many of the drivers. All drivers were eager to take the points and really go into the final with

an advantage. However, there can only be one winner and Lee Ogorman was the man who prevailed. He topped the list and was followed by Ian Davis and Jack Dutfield who finished second and third respectively.

So with all the heats now completed, it was time for the main events. Everyone who participates in the Inkart Championship always aims for the same prize...victory in the final!

### **Finals: juniors**

The final for the juniors was first up and it was eagerly anticipated. From the green light it was full of twists and turns and at this point a special mention must go to Josh Hoy who had engine trouble within the first lap meaning he was already against it. However, I am sure we will one day see Josh on that podium. Back to the race and it was really looking like a three horse race: Law, Dutfield and Bull were all vying to be number 1! Law, who has yet to taste first place success in one of this year's finals was really looking on top form. Dutfield was closely on his tail whilst Bull had slightly dropped off. Then, going into the final two turns there was a shift in power as Dutfield snatched glory from the clutches of Law. Dutfield greeted the glorious chequered flag with a clenched fist that signalled how much victory meant! Law came in second but it's fair to say that he showed today his future is bright. Bull cemented third spot with a professional drive.

### **Light weights:**

Phil Randal started on pole – just ahead of Tucker and Pratt. And from the get-go it was Randall all of the way. His confidence was clearly visible for all to see and it was a joy to watch. Furthermore it was an excellent lesson in karting to the younger drivers. It seemed his spirit was indomitable and his mind indefatigable!! But then disaster struck on his penultimate lap: his kart lost a wheel forcing the leader to come into the pits and relinquish his opportunity. A frustrating moment, however as Hoy found out it is the ugly side to motorsport! Unpredictability is part of the reason we love it! This opened the door for another driver to steal the spotlight. The question is: who would it be...Tucker or Pratt? Well the answer is neither. Josh Booden has been causing a stir with his lion heart attitude, and his positive frame of mind helped him stun the Daytona audience. He took the golden trophy and the 100 points that go with it! Pratt managed to finish second with a structured and committed drive. Alec Tucker ended a great day by taking third spot. Another great final!

### **Heavy weights:**

Lee Ogorman, Stewart McIntyre and Martin Smith had all won a heats session and it would it was no surprise that these were the three men that contested this final. It may have been different but an unfortunate incident saw Jack Dutfield spin and lose ground on the leading pack which meant it was now between three men to see who would buckle under the intense pressure first. With no Chris Baker, Ty Ogorman or John Horsman this month it gave someone else the opportunity to gain some ground on the leading pack and Stewart McIntyre did just that. Consistent and relaxed throughout the day Stewart really was calm when the main event began. Ogorman pushed him all of the way and it was only just a second that

separated the two. Smith finished in third place to also make some good ground at the top of the leader board.

**Conclusion:**

Today was a good day. An area that is in need of improvement next month is the slight issue of contact. Respect is a key component in any sport and it is important that a win is a fair win...otherwise it is always tainted. Hopefully next month will be friendlier, although still competitive. Apart from this, today was just what was needed and a success. Hopefully next month everyone is treated to the same magnitude of karting that we received today.

Kind Regards,

Graham Charters (Championship co-ordinator)