

# **Daytona Milton Keynes Inkart Championship 2012**

## **Round one:**

Firstly on behalf of Daytona I would like to welcome all drivers to this year's Inkart championship; I believe that this year's Championship has the potential to be the greatest Championship we have ever hosted. The early signs certainly suggest we have the talent to make this the most competitive.

Round one produced some fantastic entertainment and the new format certainly added to the excitement in the air. With a mixture of experienced and new drivers, it was always going to be a thrilling start to this year's Championship.....

## **Juniors; Heat one:**

The junior category saw several drivers make their International debut after progressing from the North circuit and it became apparent very quickly that every driver had the components to compete at this level. However, heat one was all about the familiar drivers. In the first of 3x10 minute heats, Tom Harbottle held his nerve to claim a superb victory and pick up the golden 50 points that were on offer with a best lap-time of 1:13.381; Tom will surely be one of the favourites for this year's title. He was pushed close though by the ever impressive Daniel Bull (1:13.880) and taking third place was Mathias Read-Simpson who clocked up a best lap-time of 1:13.747. A close and tense battle by the top three who let the rest of the pack know their intentions! Despite not being able to break the top three, the quickest lap of the heat was produced by Owen Pearce, another of our seasoned pros, who recorded a very impressive 1:12.998.

## **Heat two:**

After narrowly missing out on the chequered flag in the last heat, Dan Bull was not in the mood to let it happen again, and he showed wonderful composure and skill to blitz the rest of his competitors taking the chequered flag by a clear 2 seconds! Dan also clocked up the quickest lap of the heat with a 1:11.164; an early sign of Daniel's intentions. The race for second place was an intriguing one and it was a tense battle to the finish. Ryan Ould and Owen Pearce were the two drivers in contention and their tussle kept the on-looking crowd in suspense. It was Ould who took the second place (1:12.291) meaning Owen (1:13.292) had to settle for third spot. However both drivers can be proud of their efforts.

## **Heat three:**

The first two heats produced some great racing and this heat was no exception. All drivers wanted to maintain the fast tempo and they did not disappoint. This heat showed that to be a top driver you must be able to hold your nerve for the duration of the heat and that is exactly what Mathias Read-Simpson did! Mathias was run close, very close in fact, by Owen Pearce but he managed to stave off the competition and take the chequered flag with a best lap time of 1:11.780. Ryan Ould came in third with a solid effort however he was 7 seconds off the front two which is a clear indication of how well Mathias and Owen drove.

## **The Grand Final:**

The grand final's duration is 15 minutes and the grid is determined on how well a driver has done in the previous three heats. The final and today's round was really dominated by one figure – Daniel Bull! Daniel's consistency in the heats meant he started the first final of the new Championship on pole position and he never looked back. He brushed aside his fellow competitors and simply captivated the audience with a near flawless drive. Dan finished 7 seconds clear of the chasing pack and even managed a superb best lap time of 1:10.860. Mathias Read-Simpson also ended the day well by taking second, and third spot was taken by a graduate from the North Circuit, Jordan Albert.

So, a great start for the junior category, with lots of great driving and competition throughout. Hopefully the next round will produce similar skills. I am certain it will...

## **Lightweights:**

The lightweight category had a great grid size of 22 drivers meaning that the competition and ability was going to be fascinating to watch. This year we see a mixture of some old and new faces, so to predict a favourite at such an early stage would be a dangerous game to play.

## **Heat one:**

Alex Damian had to settle for third spot in the overall championship last season but he certainly set his mark in the first heat of this year's Championship. Alex began in sixth spot but clawed his way up to top spot after only three laps and he did not surrender his lead. Setting a staggering lap time of 1:09.790, Alex finished 8 seconds in front of Anthony Jordan, who was making his debut, and 9 seconds ahead of Harry Law who took third spot. For a first heat, this was a great start to what would only go on to be a fantastic day.

## **Heat two:**

Alex had to be content with third spot this time as it was Vaughan Roberts who took the chequered flag; Vaughan, a regular to the Championship, showed superb skill and endurance, and held his first place spot from the second lap onwards. Vaughan, much like Alex in the previous heat, finished some way ahead of his rivals. Tom Szwed, who finished second, was still 7 seconds away from the start/finish line when Vaughan crossed it. Vaughan made sure this heat belonged to him by also claiming the fastest lap of the heat with a 1:10.681.

## **Heat three:**

The final heat before the final saw three fresh faces take the top three spots. Chris Anderson, George Wilson and Oliver Woodman put on a titanic battle for the on-looking crowd and in the end there was only 2 seconds separating the all three drivers. However, Chris Anderson was the man who punched the air in jubilation as he took the chequered flag with a 1:10.776 to show for his endeavour. George Wilson (1:11.230) was only 0.192

away from Chris, but unfortunately had to settle for second and Oliver Woodman (1:11.202) took third with a credible drive.

## **The Grand Final:**

The final was delicately poised with all drivers believing they could be the winner. The final was a great show with all drivers showing tremendous courage and skill under immense pressure. However, the man who claimed the gold trophy was not a name we've heard already today; it was in fact Thomas Davis, a consistent driver who shows great persistence in the march for glory. Thomas hit a brilliant 1:09.913 and finished marginally clear of Anthony Jordan (1:10.456) who came in second in what was his debut round of any Championship. Third place was captured by Daniel Truman, a young driver who has been getting rave reviews from spectators and peers. Daniel hit a 1:10.400 and must be delighted with his day.

After some tense battles and some excellent driving, the lightweights really set an impressive standard for the rest of the Championship. It remains to be seen if the quality on display can remain at a consistent level, but the early signs and comments from the drivers tend to suggest they are all brimming with confidence for the number 1 spot!

## **Heavyweights:**

The heavyweight category always offers some close racing as many of the drivers are of the same calibre. Over the past few years this has been apparent by the number of different winners; this year will no doubt see a new face try and rise up to claim the title of Inkart Championship winner!

## **Heat one:**

In Championships it is no surprise when one man or team throws down an early gauntlet and this Championship is no exception! Liam Savage may not have been a regular driver over the past few years, but today he certainly sent a harsh warning to all of his rivals with some mesmerising driving. Liam took this heat with a best lap-time of 1:12.076, finishing 2 seconds ahead of his nearest rival – Andy Whymark. Andy had a very solid drive and even clocked up a quicker lap time than Liam, with a 1:12.058. Third spot went to Adrian Cuttell (1:13.157), who fought off Stuart Shearman with excellent tactics.

## **Heat two:**

Liam Savage did not let his ambition slip. He simply stormed to victory once again this time being a comfortable 6 seconds ahead of second place, Ty Ogorman (a former Inkart Champion and a well respected driver amongst his peers). John Horsman finished third with a 1:13.110 showing that this season he intends to be up near the top end of the table.

## **Heat three:**

Liam Savage has already accumulated 100 points out of a possible 100. Surely he could not make it 150? Well, yes actually he could! However Liam was made to work exceptionally hard for his win by Stuart Shearman and the pair were only separated by an inch when the chequered flag was shown. Both drivers were close throughout and made sure they were centre stage for the last heat before the final. There was a family feud brewing for third spot as Lee and Ty Ogorman battled back and forth for the duration of the heat. However, this time Lee scooped the bragging rights and managed to claim third spot!

### **The Grand Final:**

After dominating the heats, the bookmakers had Liam Savage as the odds on favourite to make it a clean sweep. However the bookmakers do not always get it right and on this occasion any punter who backed Savage would be left empty handed as Stuart Shearman used all of his experience and talent to pick up the gold trophy! Stuart drove with stupendous grace and kept his calm and nerve to hold off Savage who did get the second place spot on the podium. Of course there are three podium positions and John Horsman was the man who settled that! John had a good day and whilst Shearman and Savage take the headlines, Horsman must be content with his overall input into a great day's worth of Championship racing!

### **Conclusion:**

A great start to what will surely be a thrilling Championship. There was some magic produced by a number of drivers, and we were also treated to some fantastic debuts! Much more of the same please, drivers.....

Kind regards,

Graham Charters

Championship co-ordinator.