

Daytona Milton Keynes National Inkart Championship 2012

Round one:

Cadet Lightweight

Heat one:

The first race of the season was from the Cadet Lightweight drivers and they certainly got the season off to a flying start! On paper, as I scanned through the starting list I genuinely believed any of the seven entries could win it. Harrison Pughe, starting on pole position got away very well and led the field with an air of confidence that appears to really have matured over the winter break. All drivers did extremely well in tricky, drying conditions to keep the karts pointing in the correct direction. However, after the 5 lap heat Harrison fended off the pressure from his close following colleagues to take the victory and maximum points from heat one.

Heat two:

With the grid reversed from the previous heat, it ramped up the pressure on all parties to secure a good qualifying position for the final. Again, the racing was close and furious between all seven drivers and with the track still wet in certain areas, it increased the pressure on young heads. Jack Deakin was the star of this heat, beating all of his competition comprehensively to earn him some much needed points. Lewis Harmer, despite some intense pressure finished second but bagged himself pole position in the final with the consistency of the results. Unfortunately for heat one winner, Harrison, not a good race but his combined points made him one to look out for in the final...

The Grand Final:

Lewis Harmer, a relative newcomer to the series, led the karts out of the pitlane to begin the first final of the 2012 championship. After the first lap, Lewis managed to retain his first place despite some intense pressure from Jack and Harrison just behind. With some great scraps going on right down the field, one of the most entertaining was between Luke, Jay and Sam for 4th, 5th and 6th – keeping the audience engaged, despite the freezing weather! Harrison and Jack swapped positions twice before, on lap 5, Harrison seizing his opportunity to take the lead and dropping Lewis down to 3rd place. The result stayed the same for the remainder of the event, however, all drivers must be congratulated on their performance. I am truly looking forward to another close encounter in February!

Cadet Heavyweights

Heat one:

Dean Thomas, now a seasoned professional in the InKart series, had the first opportunity to start from pole position this season. He showed the other drivers with extreme confidence how it should be done with a brilliant

victory and leading from the start-to-finish with confidence, despite the challenging conditions. Behind Dean, there were some excellent battles from new and old members of the InKart field with Levi Anderson putting in a great performance and Tor Outfin proving he still has what it takes despite a season away from the field.

Heat two:

Whilst Dean Thomas dominated heat one, in the second heat Elliot Lloyd proved that he could do anything Dean can! He came through to take the victory by less than a second and taking the victory on the final lap. Again, both Levi Anderson and Zac Outfin impressed in 2nd and 3rd places consecutively, just separated by 0.2 seconds at the chequered flag. This heat also saw some great battles between Liam Milburn and Toby Goodman for 4th and 5th, who crossed the line just half a second apart. The best lap time of the day thus far was set by Dean Thomas (1:02.846), as a warning to his fellow competitors.

The Grand Final:

After some sterling performances, Dean lined up on pole position with Elliot and Levi starting just behind. One of the biggest gains throughout the final was by Zac Outfin, who managed to move up two positions to finish fourth, just off the podium. Piling on the pressure at the front was Elliot Lloyd, who again set the best lap time of the round (1:00.839) however, in spite of the very quick drivers behind him that were desperate to get past, Dean Thomas secured the victory for the first round of 2012 in excellent fashion.

With drivers of this magnitude competing in this series, I can't wait to see more close battles over the course of the season!

Junior Lightweights:

Heat one:

"Unpredictable" is how I would describe my feelings about the Junior Lightweight category before any racing had begun. With three excellent cadet drivers graduating, one returnee after an absence and two drivers that I had barely seen turn a wheel in anger it was going to be an exciting race! Last year's comprehensive North Circuit cadet champion, Spencer Olds, led the field from the start but unfortunately slipped down to third place on the final lap. This allowed the impress Brandon Callimano to take the victory despite starting down in fourth place. Newcomer Tyler Parslow shot out a warning to his competitors however, with a scorching best lap of the race (1:06.759).

Heat two:

With the realisation that the points gained in this heat would guarantee them a better starting position in the final, the drivers ramped up the pressure on their opponents. Tor Outfin began on pole position and, like Spencer in the previous heat, unfortunately lost out on the final lap. The real start of this heat was Tyler Parslow who proved, in spite of his lack of experience around this circuit he was a force to be reckoned with and managed to

take the win, despite a lowly starting position of fourth. Also impressing this round was Matthew Diemer, showing that he was getting to grips with the new category and finishing 3rd.

The Grand Final:

Pole position was held by Tyler Parslow with Brandon starting 2nd and Liam Coleman 3rd. Spencer Olds made huge gains from his 5th place starting position to finish in 2nd place and ending up on the podium. Another, ex-cadet driver from last season – Matthew Diemer – also made great strides to really impress the crowd by coming home 3rd after starting in last place. However, Tyler Parslow again stole the show with a commanding performance from start to finish to win the first round of 2012. This category is one to look out for in the coming season with some excellent drivers producing some brilliant driving!

Junior Heavyweight:

Heat one:

With the new rules and circuit for 2012, there were no clear favourites in this category – it was open to all drivers to impress! The first heat was dominated by the superb Sam Howell who led from start to finish to really lay down his marker to his competitors. Jamil Said secured a second place with a controlled and confident drive. The only other gain in this first heat was from Alexander O’Sullivan, who overtook Jamaal Ahmed to gain 5th position.

Heat two:

Much like Sam in the first heat, Alexander O’Sullivan dominated this round by leading from start to finish. In third place was Archie Reynolds, who had a poor 2nd lap and dropped two places but regained his third position superbly on the following lap. The driver of the heat for me was Alex Churchill who gained second place by gaining two places over his fellow drivers and also set the best lap of the race (1:02.997), almost a second quicker than his rivals.

The Grand Final:

Despite the excellent standard of driving and the prominent overtakes so far, the final was a little processional! Sam Howell started from pole position and there was no doubt that he was able to retain the position for the rest of the race. Likewise, Alex Churchill started and finished in second place to earn a well-deserved second place on the podium. Archie Reynold’s gained 3rd place from Alexander O’Sullivan on lap 2 to take the final podium position.

Conclusion:

A huge thank you to everyone that turned up for the first race of the series and congratulations to all our trophy winners. I look forward to more exciting encounters next month!

Kind regards,

Ben Turner

Championship co-ordinator.