



Round 2

For round 2 the inkart championship underwent some changes to the race format. Looking for more competitive racing the drivers would now race in 3 heat races before being put on the grid for a grand final. All point scoring races now count both towards the round and the championship. All drivers were briefed on the new format and were given the running order for the day. There were a lot of new faces in round 2 as the graduates from February's race school were given the chance to try out the level of competition and show off their new found skills.

Cadets

Heat 1

The green light was given for the start of race 1. The troublesome first few corners leading on to the bridge are always tricky with so many karts in close quarters. Oliver Royer made an error on the bridge as he lost his back end of the kart. Alexander Baker could do little to avoid the spinning kart and got caught up on the bridge. By the time the drivers were freed by the marshal they were already half a lap down. The fast pace was something the new drivers had to get to terms with but pushing too hard Van Knapton then span on the bridge and allowed Alexander baker to claim a position back. Up in the lead Samuel Cunliffe was holding off a charge from Luke Jenkinson and completed the 10 laps to take maximum points in race 1.

Heat 2

Alexander Baker was looking for a better performance in race 2 but he must have been cursing his luck when he had to apply his brakes hard to avoid contact on the bridge, again on the opening lap. Alexander spun but this time managed to turn himself round again and get going unaided. Alexander now sat in last place and had a task of making up as many places as possible. On lap 2 Alexander caught on to Van Knapton and made a pass to take 6th place. Alexander was setting the pace in the race as he moved up quickly to 5th and posted the quickest lap times of the race. A perfect move on the first hairpin saw him take the inside line and pass Samuel Cunliffe to go 4th. Then on the final lap tries it again on Joe Ellison this time it not being as clean as the previous. Joe Ellison and Alexander get caught

up side by side on the corner and Joe has to brake hard. Joe locks up slightly and leaves enough room for Samuel Cunliffe to sneak by.

Heat 3

Heat 3 had little drama but one talking point for race control was when Oliver Hepplewhite-Ford made an error on the final section and lost control of his kart as he swerved to try and regain control and move back on the racing line. Ben Walker applied his brakes to avoid the contact but Saul Robinson was not so quick on his reactions. Ben Walker ended up facing the barrier due to Saul making contact but the call was more for a racing incident than a penalty. Oliver was the culprit as he was out of control causing Ben to react and Saul was unable to avoid contact. After 10 laps Van Knapton took the chequered flag getting his first taste of victory in Inkart.

Heat 4

A daring move at the start of the race from Samuel Cunliffe sees him issued with a warning flag. Samuel tried to dive on the inside of a driver leading on to the bridge but had to back out of the manoeuvre. Saul Robinson had the pace in the final heat as he opened up a lead in front to 5 seconds when he crossed the line for the race win.

Final

Saul Robinson did not look back in the final as from the start he opened up the lead and set the pace throughout. Blue flags were issued when Saul approached back markers but even they did not slow him down. The action was all happening behind Saul with Samuel Cunliffe, Alexander Baker, Luke Jenkinson and Ben Walker were all battling it out for the podium places. Samuel made an error exiting the bridge, running wide he gave the space for both Alexander Baker and Luke Jenkinson to get through. Luke Jenkinson made the pass on Alexander a few laps later to take second place. Alexander was not letting Luke get away easily though. Alexander pushing hard lost control of his kart at the bottom of the bridge and spun, Samuel Cunliffe and Ben Walker had no time to react as they both hit in to Alexander. This was a big impact causing for the red lights to be called to halt the race. Alexander taking the impact from the drivers needed a minute to collect himself but was ok to continue. Ben Walker however did pick up an injury and had to retire from the race. The race restarted under yellow lights conditions but ended a few laps later with Saul Robinson taking the race win, Luke Jenkinson second and Samuel Cunliffe in 3rd place.

Juniors

Heat 1

9 karts lined up on the grid for the juniors to start racing. As they all filter in to single file round in to the top of the circuit Harry Macdonald gets his nose on the inside of Brandon Bethell and causes him to spin. The first black flag is issued to Harry for an advantage by contact manoeuvre. After serving his penalty Harry is released back on the track in 8th Place. Moments later a second black flag is issued this time to Jamie-Lea Hawley for another advantage by contact manoeuvre. Jamie-Lea didn't brake hard enough at the first hairpin and pushes Aaron Walsh off his racing line. The contact was enough to open up the gap and allow Jamie-Lea to get the pass. With the black flag Jamie-Lea gave the position back to Aaron and also lost 3rd place to Kallum McBride. Connor Woodyatt took the maximum points from race 1 after leading from the front.

Heat 2

Not the greatest start to the second race with all the drivers clashing in to each other on the entrance and exit of the bridge which sees a lot of drivers losing momentum and even spinning around. But out of it all Harry Macdonald cleared the traffic in first, followed by Kallum, Daniel and Connor. On the final corner Kallum made slight contact on Harry Macdonald and span him round. Harry had to wait while the rest of the field passed him before he could turn himself around and get back in the race. Kallum picked up a black flag for the contact on Harry and had to wait for Harry to get past before he could leave putting him down in 8th place. Aaron Walsh was sat in 9th place managed to cut inside on Kallum McBride to get past in to 8th place. Then one lap later on the final corner Harry Macdonald made a mistake as he broke hard to avoid making contact which gave the opportunity for Aaron Walsh to get past and Kallum followed through. Daniel Taylor took the race win after Harry was spun out and Kallum McBride was black flagged.

Heat 3

A much calmer race for heat number 3 with no black flags issued and little in the way of driver errors. Brandon Bethell did run wide on the final corner leaving the door wide open for Kallum to sweep through on the inside. Aaron Walsh utilised the space to follow through, a bit of rubbing with Brandon on the way past but the space was there.

Final

The final had very little overtaking opportunities for the drivers. Connor Woodyatt set the pace from his pole position start and kept his nerve to stay ahead. Brandon Bethell fought off an early attack from Daniel Taylor to keep second place and stay behind Connor. Daniel Taylor had all the work to do in his final after being under pressure from Kallum McBride

and Aaron Walsh throughout. Daniel feeling the pressure resorted to a defensive racing line. Daniel did well to hold off both drivers and keep them at bay. Daniels defensive driving aided Aaron Walsh in getting past Kallum McBride in the only overtake in the final. All the other drivers finished where they started.

Round Points

Position	Driver	Points
1	Saul Robinson	57
2	Samuel Cunliffe	53
3	Luke Jenkinson	52
4	Alexander Baker	50
5	Oliver Royer	45
6	Ben Walker	44
7	Van Knapton	43
8	Joe Ellison	42
9	Oliver Hepplewhite-Ford	40

Position	Driver	Points
1	Connor Woodyatt	53
2	Brandon Bethell	52
3	Daniel Taylor	51
4	Aaron Walsh	49
5	Kallum McBride	47
6	Jamie-Lea Hawley	43
7	Sam Reedy	36
8	Harry Macdonald	35
9	Oguzcan Koncagul	35

