

Daytona Manchester

F1 Championship 2011

Round 2(Silverstone)

Round 2 has brought a lot of new comers to the grid with the return of James Tunnickliffe to Daytona Manchester who used to dominate the racing here!
Will he be able to challenge our championship leader?

Qualifying session 1 - (8mins)

All drivers hit the tarmac for Q1 with the mind set of making sure they got through to Q2, All drivers wise in this round to finding the space on track to get the qualifying times down. Mitch Millet changes his kart in the first couple of minutes due to mechanical fault which could really hurt him in getting through to Q2, but he goes from being the slowest on the track to P4. James Tunnickliffe and Shirley Hennessy are now in knockout zone with 1 minute to go. The chequered flag goes out and we still have 8 of the 9 drivers on flying laps with Shirley going quicker knocking Mitch of qualifying along with James.

Qualifying session 2 – (5mins)

The green flag was waved to mark the start of Q2 with only 7 drivers on track this time round. 2 minutes into the session and Sam Pickford, Paul Phelan and Craig Whitehead are in knockout zone. Shirley puts in the 4th quickest time but this is short lived as Paul scrapes his time into the top 4. Then from nowhere Nasir Rajah, Lee Maguire and Paul are now battling with the quickest times on track putting our championship leader on the cusp of being knocked out in Q2! The chequered flag drops signalling the end of Q2 and Craig, Shirley and Sam could not go any quicker so were knocked out with their grid positions decided.

Qualifying session 3 – (5mins)

The pole position shoot out began straight away with the 4 remaining drivers getting pedal to the metal and going for broke to get pole position for the start of today's race. Straight away Lee puts in a massive time of a 26.023sec and the rest are around 0.267sec down with their times. Nasir comes close with a 26.031sec looking to nick pole in the dyeing minutes. Our championship leader David is really struggling for pace and can't get out of 4th but then manages to slip him into 3rd as Paul drops down a place. The chequered flag goes out to mark to end of qualifying and Lee keeps pole with his early time of a 26.023sec.

The Race – 52 laps

The red lights go out and it's **GO GO GO!**

It's a Messy first few laps. Craig Whitehead commits an Advantage by contact on the first hair pin putting him to the back and a lap down. Lee, Dave and Nasir are nose to tail pulling away from the rest the pack lap by lap into.

Mitch moves up into 4th from 8th. Lead pair started to pull away from Nasir as fatigue looks like it has already kicked in very early. 44 laps to go, 0.330 gap between Lee and David as Lee goes very wide into the first hairpin as David seizes the opportunity and ducks up the inside on the hairpin and takes lead, Fantastic overtake!

James up into 5th after a poor start, blue flags are now being used from 11 laps in. David sets the pace at a 25.805sec on lap 12 increasing lead to 1.914sec over Lee.

Shirley starts to reel in Sam for 7th place with 37 laps to go. David now has 3.619 sec lead over Lee. Whilst behind them Mitch is 4sec off P3 Nasir with James 2sec behind and closing very fast.

After 18 laps, Lee started to drop off pace with fatigue kicking in. Nasir started to catch him very quickly and is only 1.6 sec behind him. Mitch again closes the gap on 3rd position, only 3sec behind. Lee now drops to 6.064 sec behind leader. There is now only 0.454 sec between 2nd and 3rd. David is now driving like he is on rails, setting consistent 25sec lap times. 4th & 5th, Mitch & James are now rapidly catching Nasir & Lee rapidly.

David sets a blistering time of a 25.653sec on lap 26. There are only 23 laps to go with 7.937 sec between 1st & 2nd place. All looking settled not many changes of position. Blue flags still used for front runners.

Lap 31 and Mitch catches onto back of Nasir kart they are nose to tail going through the centre sector of the circuit with the gap down to only 0.3 sec. Nasir is managing to hold Mitch & James off behind him driving very defensively. Lap 33 and Nasir takes a wide line and loses 2 places to Mitch and James. So a small lapse in concentration costing Nasir some vital points.

Lap 36 Mitch & James make minor contact going through the hair pin complex with resulting in James gaining 3rd place from Mitch. David has a 9.426 lead over rest of pack. Whilst further down the pack it's pretty much settled as Shirley moves into 7th position.

Lap 46 Paul slows down to let leader past allowing Shirley to catch onto back of him but before we get to see a new fight for position on track Paul pulls off into the pit lane and retires.

Lap 51 and the last lap board goes out to David who now has a lead of a huge 12.2sec and all he needs to do is keep the kart pointing in the right direction. As he negotiates the final corner the chequered flag is waiting for him as he crosses the line and once again takes maximum points in round 2, Lee 12sec later crosses the line to take 2nd and James comes home in 3rd.

Let's hope Round 3 (Singapore) is just as exciting!