



## The InKart Championships at Daytona Tamworth Round 9 Race Report by Chris Hodson

Welcome to Round 9 of the Championship where we see the racing split over two days with the Saturday holding the Sodi RT8 Endurance race whilst the Cadets/Juniors and DMAX-GT races are being run on the Sunday. Weather for the Saturday is overcast and extremely windy with the track drying out after earlier showers, providing a challenging circuit for the drivers to master. Sunday's weather is damp but a lot more settled than Saturday.

### Cadets

#### **Heat 1**

Brendan James lines up on pole for the first Cadet race. Brendan James makes a good start but Reece Checkley manages to get past for the lead to lose it at the next corner. Andrew McWilliam is in 3<sup>rd</sup> challenging the pair of them. Andrew McWilliam finds a small gap to get by both drivers as Brendan James and Reece Checkley fight for position. Debutant Harrison Adcock-Zamani slips back to 5<sup>th</sup> whilst Nathan Britain slides out of the chicane dropping time at the rear. Andrew McWilliam starts to stretch a lead whilst Abi Sanders has made good progress into 3<sup>rd</sup> behind Reece Checkley. Brendan James is in 4<sup>th</sup>. Andrew McWilliam pits from the lead promoting Reece Checkley into 1<sup>st</sup> although Abi Sanders is climbing all over the back of him. Abi Sanders gets a better exit from the hairpin and gets to Turn 1 in the lead. Nathan Britain has now caught Harrison Adcock-Zamani and starts to harass him for 4<sup>th</sup>. Abi Sanders gets her head down and opens up a small gap as Reece Checkley overdrives the kart trying to hang on. Brendan James is now closing in on Reece Checkley. Nathan Britain has promoted himself to 4<sup>th</sup> yet is too far behind to make any more progress. Abi Sanders is comfortable out front whilst Brendan James is now occupying 2<sup>nd</sup> after getting by Reece Checkley. Harrison Adcock-Zamani is shadowing Nathan Britain. Andrew McWilliam is using this race as a test session after their earlier pit stop. Finished Abi Sanders, Brendan James, Reece Checkley, Nathan Britain, Harrison Adcock-Zamani & Andrew McWilliam.

#### **Heat 2**

Sam Cole starts from pole position. A slow start by Sam Cole allows Alessio La Malfa to lead through the chicane but Sam Cole gets a better exit out of Turn 3 and passes on the entry to Turn 4. Jake Perry and the hard charging Brendan James are in 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> leaving Reece Checkley fending off Harrison Adcock-Zamani at the tail end. Sam Cole has to get his head down as Alessio La Malfa is keeping him honest. Sam Cole keeps it neat and tidy and opens up a five second gap to Alessio La Malfa who in turn is three seconds ahead of Jake Perry. Brendan James is clinging on in 4<sup>th</sup>. The drivers are fairly spread out with the closest battle being Jake Perry a kart length ahead of Brendan James. Sam Cole has kept stretching the lead to put a 13 second gap to Alessio La Malfa driving a very good race in 2<sup>nd</sup>. Brendan James has finally caught Jake Perry and immediately strikes to relieve Jake Perry of the final podium spot. Brendan James holds onto 3<sup>rd</sup> despite Jake Perry fighting back. Finished Sam Cole, Alessio La Malfa, Brendan James, Jake Perry, Reece Checkley & Harrison Adcock-Zamani.

#### **Heat 3**

Abi Sanders starts from pole position. Abi Sanders gets away at the front and puts a bit of daylight between herself and the chasing pack. Nathan Britain is in 2<sup>nd</sup> fending off Jake Perry who punts Nathan Britain at Turn 5 receiving a Black Flag. Abi Sanders is controlling the pace at the front with Andrew McWilliam now in 2<sup>nd</sup> after the earlier altercation in front of him yet he is being closed down by Sam Cole. The top three have closed in on each other as Abi Sanders has made a small mistake allowing the gap to close. Sam Cole makes a clean move into the hairpin to get past Andrew McWilliam but Andrew McWilliam gets a better exit at the chicane to retake the place. Sam Cole returns the favour at Turn 4 to claim 2<sup>nd</sup>. Jake Perry is now being caught by Alessio La Malfa and Nathan Britain is trying to recover from the earlier incident. Sam Cole is dragging Andrew McWilliam

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along as he closes in at ½ second a lap to Abi Sanders. Andrew McWilliam challenges Sam Cole into Turn 2 but can't find a way through. Sam Cole makes a lunge into the final corner and firmly but fairly escorts Abi Sanders to the edge of the circuit and drives towards the line to take the win. Abi Sanders holds on to 2<sup>nd</sup> just ahead of Andrew McWilliam. Finished Sam Cole, Abi Sanders, Andrew McWilliam, Jake Perry, Alessio La Malfa & Nathan Britain.

## B Final

Reece Checkley lines up on pole for the first final. Jake Perry tries to squeeze into an ever-closing gap at Turn 1 and runs out of space. Harrison Adcock-Zamani spins himself out at the chicane. Andrew McWilliam gets through into the lead at the end of lap 1 and is focusing on pulling out a gap. Reece Checkley and Jake Perry are squabbling over the remaining podium places as Nathan Britain gets a bit aggressive and bumps himself out of contention. Andrew McWilliam continues to pull clear at the front as Jake Perry hounds Reece Checkley for 2<sup>nd</sup>. Nathan Britain in 4<sup>th</sup> is trying to recover and close the gap. Harrison Adcock-Zamani has put on a valiant display in his debut. Andrew McWilliam manages to open a 16 second gap at the halfway mark. Jake Perry tries a move at Turn 6 but can't make it stick and has to rethink his strategy. Nathan Britain is stable in 4<sup>th</sup> with Harrison Adcock-Zamani now matching him for lap times. Jake Perry finally makes a move through Turn 1 to get by Reece Checkley and as Reece Checkley challenges back at the chicane he spins himself out and rejoins just ahead of Nathan Britain. Andrew McWilliam has driven a very controlled race at the front. Jake Perry is now comfortable in 2<sup>nd</sup> with Reece Checkley keeping Nathan Britain at bay for 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> and Harrison Adcock-Zamani still maintaining the gap behind. Finished Andrew McWilliam, Jake Perry, Reece Checkley, Nathan Britain & Harrison Adcock-Zamani. Andrew McWilliam advances to the A final.

1<sup>st</sup> – Andrew McWilliam

2<sup>nd</sup> – Jake Perry

3<sup>rd</sup> – Reece Checkley

## A Final

Sam Cole starts the final Cadet race from pole. The drivers sort themselves out through the chicane. Sam Cole immediately gets his head down to pull a few kart lengths. Abi Sanders fights back into 2<sup>nd</sup> ahead of Alessio La Malfa with Andrew McWilliam closing in on them in 4<sup>th</sup>. Brendan James is bringing up the rear. Sam Cole is controlling the pace at the front as there appears to be a status quo between the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> drivers. Andrew McWilliam finds a bit of pace and challenges Alessio La Malfa to no avail. Alessio La Malfa then pulls clear to close in on Abi Sanders but makes a small mistake to drop back into the clutches of Andrew McWilliam. These three drivers are driving on the edge with any small mistake going to prove costly. Alessio La Malfa again closes on Abi Sanders and challenges into Turn 6. Alessio La Malfa gets a better exit and commits to the overtake into the chicane and makes the move stick. Andrew McWilliam follows through a few corners later and then manages to get by Alessio La Malfa to take 2<sup>nd</sup>. Finished Sam Cole, Andrew McWilliam, Alessio La Malfa, Abi Sanders & Brendan James.

**Cadets A Final** L-R: Andrew McWilliam (2<sup>nd</sup>), Sam Cole (1<sup>st</sup>), Abi Sanders (3<sup>rd</sup>)



## Juniors

### **Heat 1**

Ethan Kirkby starts today's racing from pole. Good clean start by all drivers as they make their way through the chicane in single file. After making a good getaway Dillon Davis gets forced wide at Turn 9 as they jostle for position. Ethan Kirkby gets swallowed up by the pack and crosses the line in 4<sup>th</sup> with Eric Su out in front closely followed by Sam Halle-Hinxman and Ben Sanders. William Potter runs wide at Turn 10 dropping him to the back. Eric Su in 1<sup>st</sup> is trying to stretch a gap but Sam Halle-Hinxman is in close attention and not letting him escape. Ben Sanders is a second behind in 3<sup>rd</sup>. Ethan Kirkby is in 4<sup>th</sup> after his scruffy first lap. Dillon Davis is recovering in 5<sup>th</sup> trying to shorten the gap to Ethan Kirkby ahead of him. Eric Su is fending off Sam Halle-Hinxman as he probes at every corner for a way past. Ethan Kirkby is closing in on Ben Sanders. After starting the manoeuvre at Turn 9, of the previous lap, Sam Halle-Hinxman eventually gets completely past Eric Su at Turn 2 for the lead. Sam Halle-Hinxman holds on for the win, whilst Ethan Kirkby has caught Ben Sanders but run out of time to mount a challenge. Finished Sam Halle-Hinxman, Eric Su, Ben Sanders, Ethan Kirkby, Dillon Davis & William Potter.

### **Heat 2**

Alex Jackson line up on pole. Sam Mason tries his luck going into the chicane but yields and all drivers file through cleanly. Sam Halle-Hinxman goes around the outside at Turn 5 to take the lead from Alex Jackson. And immediately opens a gap as Alex Jackson fends off the pack behind being lead by Casey Baughan. Casey Baughan manages to squeeze by through Turn 11 as he gets a better exit from Turn 10 and then the drivers are three-wide into the hairpin. Ben Sanders capitalises on the manoeuvre to follow through into 3<sup>rd</sup> behind Casey Baughan. Alex Jackson drops to 5<sup>th</sup> as Sam Mason gets past. Mark Whitbread is keeping a watching brief in 6<sup>th</sup>. Sam Halle-Hinxman has put quite a bit of daylight between himself and Casey Baughan who is now giving chase in 2<sup>nd</sup>. Ben Sanders is now comfortable in 3<sup>rd</sup>. Alex Jackson has gathered himself and is now challenging back to Sam Mason. Casey Baughan is closing at a couple of tenths a lap but is it quick enough. Sam Halle-Hinxman looks to be controlling things at the front. Alex Jackson tries to go around the outside of Sam Mason but can't make it stick and the attempt allows Mark Whitbread to close in. Finished Sam Halle-Hinxman, Casey Baughan, Ben Sanders, Sam Mason, Alex Jackson & Mark Whitbread.

### **Heat 3**

Mark Whitbread starts from pole. All drivers manage to just about negotiate the chicane. Mackenzie Stevens gets by Mark Whitbread at Turn 6 for the lead. Alex Jackson has made a good start moving up two places from the back of the grid. Mark Whitbread gets shuffled down the order as the drivers squeeze by through Turns 9 & 10. Mackenzie Stevens is in 1<sup>st</sup> being closely followed by Casey Baughan, Ben Foden and Alex Jackson. Mark Whitbread is a second behind in 5<sup>th</sup> with William Potter bringing up the rear. Mackenzie Stevens is eyes forward trying to break free but the drivers are not letting him escape. Ben Foden makes a fantastic move up the inside of the hairpin at Turn 12 to move into 2<sup>nd</sup>. Alex Jackson manages to capitalise to get by Casey Baughan as well. Ben Foden challenges for the lead at the hairpin and makes a bit of contact, Ben Foden allows Mackenzie Stevens back past avoiding the penalty. Drivers are now three-wide through Turn 2 with Casey Baughan on drivers right trying to force the issue but runs out of room resulting in spinning himself out after clipping Ben Foden who, being caught in the middle, had nowhere to go due to Alex Jackson holding ground on drivers left. Alex Jackson emerges in 2<sup>nd</sup> and sets after Mackenzie Stevens. Alex Jackson gets a poor exit from the final corner and allows the recovering Ben Foden to get a better drive and take 2<sup>nd</sup> at the line. Finished Mackenzie Stevens, Ben Foden, Alex Jackson, Mark Whitbread, Casey Baughan and William Potter.

### **Heat 4**

Dillon Davis starts the final Junior heat from pole. Dillon Davis is clinging onto the lead as the top four drivers fight over the same piece of tarmac. Ethan Kirkby has got past Sam Mason and sets after

the leading pack. It is now a five-way fight for the lead. Ben Foden emerges at the front with a small gap to the squabble behind. Eric Su looks to be getting clear in 2<sup>nd</sup> whilst Dillon Davis and Mackenzie Stevens fight over the last podium spot. Ethan Kirkby after briefly taking the position is shuffled back to 5<sup>th</sup>. Sam Mason although driving fantastically well on his debut round is struggling a little with the pace of this race. Eric Su is closing in on Ben Foden as Mackenzie Stevens currently occupies 3<sup>rd</sup> with Dillon Davis and Ethan Kirkby in very close attention. Eric Su has now caught Ben Foden and starts to probe for a gap to squeeze through. Mackenzie Stevens, Dillon Davis and Ethan Kirkby are still running nose to tail. Dillon Davis gets a better exit out of the hairpin and drives alongside Mackenzie Stevens through Turn 1, claiming the spot at Turn 2. Mackenzie Stevens gets back past at Turn 4 then in an attempt to return serve Dillon Davis slows himself up letting Mackenzie Stevens off the hook. Eric Su makes a dive into the hairpin and manages to reach the flag first for the photo finish win 0.083 seconds ahead of Ben Foden. Finished Eric Su, Ben Foden, Mackenzie Stevens, Dillon Davis, Ethan Kirkby & Sam Mason.

## **B Final**

Alex Jackson starts from pole. All drivers are very polite through Turn 1 as they slot themselves into order. Alex Jackson puts a bit of daylight between himself and the pack as Dillon Davis gets into 2<sup>nd</sup> only to lose out to Ethan Kirkby at Turn 7. Mark Whitbread is fending off Sam Mason and William Potter for 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>. Alex Jackson sits out front with a one second lead over Ethan Kirkby who is being shadowed by Dillon Davis. Mark Whitbread has got Sam Mason in close attention whilst William Potter tries to cling on. Dillon Davis gets right on the bumper of Ethan Kirkby making his presence felt. Ethan Kirkby isn't flustered and keeps his eyes forward trying to catch Alex Jackson. Sam Mason pits releasing Mark Whitbread and promoting William Potter. Alex Jackson has now opened up a three second gap to Ethan Kirkby and Dillon Davis as they tussle over the remaining podium positions. Ethan Kirkby is putting on a brilliant display of defensive driving to keep Dillon Davis behind him. Dillon Davis tries up the inside at Turn 6 and for a split second takes the position, Ethan Kirkby gets back past into Turn 7. Finished Alex Jackson, Ethan Kirkby, Dillon Davis, Mark Whitbread, William Potter & Sam Mason. Alex Jackson advances to the A final.

1<sup>st</sup> – Alex Jackson

2<sup>nd</sup> – Ethan Kirkby

3<sup>rd</sup> – Dillon Davis

## **A Final**

Sam Halle-Hinxman starts on pole for the last Junior race. Mackenzie Stevens manages to get into the lead to cross the line in 1<sup>st</sup> with a swarm of karts behind him. Two laps in and all drivers are still nose to tail. Casey Baughan squeezes through into 2<sup>nd</sup> past Sam Halle-Hinxman at Turn 1. Ben Sanders then spins under braking into the chicane sending Ben Foden wide. Casey Baughan immediately pounces on Mackenzie Stevens to lead over the line and Mackenzie Stevens returns the favour into Turn 4. Sam Halle-Hinxman makes a nice clean move inside Turn 7 to take 2<sup>nd</sup> away from Casey Baughan. Casey Baughan gets back past through Turn 9. Sam Halle-Hinxman dives into the hairpin making a bit of contact and sportingly allows Casey Baughan back through to avoid a penalty. Eric Su having been quiet so far makes a move and gets into 3<sup>rd</sup>. Ben Sanders and Ben Foden are trailing at the back trying to recover from the earlier incident. The top five drivers are swapping positions virtually every corner. Eric Su continues his rise through the pack and gets into the lead fending off Mackenzie Stevens. Sam Halle-Hinxman shows great determination and squeezes into 2<sup>nd</sup> demoting Mackenzie Stevens. Alex Jackson and Casey Baughan are having their own battle for 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>. The drivers continue to fight over the same piece of road and swap positions again and again. Eric Su opens up a ½ a kart length with Mackenzie Stevens and Sam Halle-Hinxman squabbling behind. Casey Baughan makes a dive inside Sam Halle-Hinxman to take the position through Turn 8 and then Sam Halle-Hinxman comes from a long way back to slide up the inside as they enter Turn 10 taking two positions, the move slows them all down allowing Alex Jackson to poke his nose in front. There is a bit of rubbing into the hairpin as the drivers take it to the wire trying to sort

themselves out. Finished Eric Su, Sam Halle-Hinxman, Mackenzie Stevens, Alex Jackson, Casey Baughan, Ben Sanders & Ben Foden.



**Juniors A Final** L-R: Sam Halle-Hinxman (2<sup>nd</sup>), Eric Su (1<sup>st</sup>) & Mackenzie Stevens (3<sup>rd</sup>)

## **DMAX-GT Championship**

### **Heat 1**

Kieran Coombs starts the senior race from pole. Kieran Coombs makes a good get away to lead after the first lap. George Kenning has had a fantastic lap to cross the line in 2<sup>nd</sup>. Richard Lavender completes the top three. After a bit of rubbing on the first lap the drivers seem to have settled down into the race. Alex Bomberg challenges Anthony Whitehouse into Turn 4 but can't make it stick. Kieran Coombs sets a good couple of laps to stretch the field and George Kenning is going with him. Ryan Welch is now in 3<sup>rd</sup> with Richard Lavender pushing him along. Alex Bomberg is now clear in 5<sup>th</sup>. Anthony Whitehouse has air in front and behind of him in 6<sup>th</sup>. Joe Hamblett in 7<sup>th</sup> is heading a three-way fight between himself, Darren Holliday and David Hamblett. Patryk Welna is in 10<sup>th</sup> whilst Mark Blaine brings up the rear. George Kenning is the closest he has been to the back of Kieran Coombs with a short distance behind Ryan Welch and Richard Lavender are nose to tail. George Kenning makes his presence felt into the final hairpin and gets a good exit but can't carry enough speed to the line and Kieran Coombs holds on for the win in front of George Kenning. Finished Kieran Coombs, George Kenning, Ryan Welch, Richard Lavender, Alex Bomberg, Anthony Whitehouse, Darren Holliday, Joe Hamblett, David Hamblett, Patryk Welna & Mark Blaine.

### **Heat 2**

Patrick Kelly starts from pole for heat two. The drivers jostle for position through Turns 2 and 3. Steven Humpage gets escorted wide through Turn 3 dropping him down the order. Tony Welch dives up the inside for a clean move to take 2<sup>nd</sup> behind Patrick Kelly. Alex Bomberg lunges into Turn 1 with a great move inside of George Kenning to move into 4<sup>th</sup>. Andy Spencer pulls off a manoeuvre around Turn 9 to move up into 3<sup>rd</sup>. Patrick Kelly, Tony Welch and Andy Spencer are escaping at the front. Ryan Welch is then heading the chasing pack in front of Alex Bomberg and George Kenning. Kieran Coombs and Richard Lavender then follow through in 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>. James Cook is having a quiet start in 9<sup>th</sup>. Mark Blaine holds 10<sup>th</sup> with the recovering Steven Humpage chasing down newcomer Simon Hawthorn. Andy Spencer gets past Tony Welch around Turn 4 and moves into 2<sup>nd</sup>. Andy Spencer is all over Patrick Kelly allowing Tony Welch back into the mix. Andy Spencer gets a better drive out of Turn 3 and gets alongside Patrick Kelly into Turn 4 making the move stick. Tony Welch latches onto the bumper of Andy Spencer and follows through, Patrick Kelly loses two spaces in one corner. Andy Spencer is starting to pull clear as Patrick Kelly gathers himself and chases after Tony Welch. Ryan Welch bogs down along the straight allowing Alex Bomberg and George Kenning past him. James Cook has continued his quiet advance and moves into 7<sup>th</sup>. Finished Andy Spencer, Tony Welch,

Patrick Kelly, Alex Bomberg, George Kenning, Ryan Welch, James Cook, Richard Lavender, Kieran Coombs, Mark Blaine, Simon Hawthorn & Steven Humpage.

## Heat 3

Darren Holliday lines up for the final heat in 1<sup>st</sup>. James Cook gets a good start and drives around the outside of Darren Holliday at Turn 1 to take the lead. James Cook leads over the line with Andy Spencer chasing him down in 2<sup>nd</sup>. Darren Holliday is holding 3<sup>rd</sup> ahead of the rest of the field. Andy Spencer gets by James Cook at Turn 4 and immediately pulls clear. Steven Humpage dives through at Turn 6 to get by Darren Holliday but can't quite hold it around Turn 7 and loses out to Anthony Whitehouse who moves through on them both. Darren Holliday gets shuffled down the order as he can't get back on to the racing line and crosses the line in 8<sup>th</sup>. Andy Spencer has opened up a five second gap to James Cook who is comfortable in 2<sup>nd</sup>. Anthony Whitehouse is in 3<sup>rd</sup> fending off Joe Hamblett, Tony Welch and Patrick Kelly. David Hamblett is a short distance back in 7<sup>th</sup> with the flamboyant Patryk Welna in 8<sup>th</sup> just ahead of Darren Holliday. Steven Humpage is challenging Darren Holliday whilst Simon Hawthorn is clinging on at the back. Joe Hamblett and Tony Welch have dispatched Anthony Whitehouse with Patrick Kelly making his way past at Turn 4. Joe Hamblett messes up the hairpin and Tony Welch wastes no time in getting by for the final podium spot. Finished Andy Spencer, James Cook, Tony Welch, Joe Hamblett, Patrick Kelly, Anthony Whitehouse, Patryk Welna, David Hamblett, Darren Holliday, Steven Humpage & Simon Hawthorn.

## B Final

Joe Hamblett starts the first final from pole. Joe Hamblett makes a good start whilst Patryk Welna runs wide onto the grass. Joe Hamblett is in the lead with Richard Lavender chasing him down. Anthony Whitehouse is currently holding 3<sup>rd</sup>. David Hamblett is occupying 4<sup>th</sup> with Darren Holliday all over the back of him. Patryk Welna is in 6<sup>th</sup> Steven Humpage follows through in 7<sup>th</sup> with Mark Blaine in 8<sup>th</sup> and then Simon Hawthorn at the back. Joe Hamblett has a two second gap to Anthony Whitehouse now in 2<sup>nd</sup> getting past Richard Lavender out of Turn 10. Richard Lavender immediately dives back up the inside at the hairpin with a nice clean move to retake 2<sup>nd</sup>. Anthony Whitehouse manages to get by at Turn 4 and make the move stick this time. Darren Holliday has been setting a great pace to close in on the battle for 2<sup>nd</sup>. David Hamblett spun at Turn 3 and forced Steven Humpage off in the process. Joe Hamblett is maintaining a two second lead in front of the fight between Anthony Whitehouse, Richard Lavender and Darren Holliday. Patryk Welna is in 5<sup>th</sup> being reeled in by Mark Blaine. David Hamblett retires as a result of his off. Richard Lavender hasn't got an answer for Anthony Whitehouse and starts to feel the pressure from Darren Holliday behind. Joe Hamblett controls the pace at the front. Finished Joe Hamblett, Anthony Whitehouse, Richard Lavender, Darren Holliday, Mark Blaine, Patryk Welna, Steven Humpage, Simon Hawthorn & David Hamblett. Joe Hamblett advances to the A final.

1<sup>st</sup> – Joe Hamblett

2<sup>nd</sup> – Anthony Whitehouse

3<sup>rd</sup> – Richard Lavender

## A Final

Andy Spencer starts the final race of the day from pole. James Cook moves up the inside of George Kenning at Turn 4 and moves into 3<sup>rd</sup>. James Cook has certainly got the bit between his teeth as he gets by Tony Welch at Turn 7 to take 2<sup>nd</sup>. All this has allowed Andy Spencer to open up a gap at the front. Patrick Kelly and Ryan Welch are hounding George Kenning whilst out of nowhere Joe Hamblett slices through into 6<sup>th</sup>. Andy Spencer is now pulling away at a few tenths a lap with James Cook in 2<sup>nd</sup>. Tony Welch has gapped the pack in 3<sup>rd</sup>. Ryan Welch has moved into 4<sup>th</sup> with Joe Hamblett hunting him down. George Kenning has been shuffled back to 6<sup>th</sup>, whilst the remaining three drivers are fighting over the same piece of real estate. James Cook is pushing hard now matching the leader's pace. George Kenning has now dropped into the clutches of the last few drivers and immediately gets passed by Patrick Kelly and Alex Bomberg leaving Kieran Coombs to

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climb all over the back of him. Ryan Welch is setting a good pace and closes in on Tony Welch. Ryan Welch's advance has dragged Joe Hamblett with him to make it a three-way contest for the final podium spot. Alex Bomberg has found an opening to move past Patrick Kelly, whilst George Kenning is defending heavily against Kieran Coombs. Ryan Welch makes a move on Tony Welch resulting in Tony Welch spinning out at the exit at Turn 1, the manoeuvre is under investigation. James Cook can't make headway into the lead of Andy Spencer as he continues to match his pace. Ryan Welch is currently in 3<sup>rd</sup> being harassed by Joe Hamblett. Alex Bomberg and Patrick Kelly are swapping positions lap by lap and run side by side through Turn 11, Alex Bomberg holds onto 5<sup>th</sup> as they cross the line. Finished Andy Spencer, James Cook, Ryan Welch, Joe Hamblett, Patrick Kelly, Alex Bomberg, Kieran Coombs, George Kenning & Tony Welch. The result of the investigation involving drivers Ryan Welch and Tony Welch is no penalty meaning the results stand. Darren Holliday wins the Super Heavy class.



**DMAX-GT A Final** L-R: James Cook (2<sup>nd</sup>), Andy Spencer (1<sup>st</sup>), Darren Holliday (Super Heavy winner) & Ryan Welch (3<sup>rd</sup>)

Congratulations to all drivers for handling the tricky conditions over the weekend. We now look forward to the penultimate Round 10, which is on the 2<sup>nd</sup> June.

## SODI Endurance

### **Qualifying**

Team Smith open the bidding for pole with a 1.01:578 just one thousandth ahead of Team Holliday in 1st. Half way through Qualifying and the teams that need to swap drivers have handed the reins over, Team Cook are currently on pole with a 1.01:103. As the session comes to a close Team Cook are still on top and qualify in pole 1 tenth ahead of Team Summerill who put in a late charge, with Team Holliday ½ a tenth back in 3rd. Team Cook claim the extra championship point for fastest Lights team whilst Team Holliday claim the extra championship point for fastest Heavies team.

### **Race**

Good start from all drivers as they try and sort themselves out for the hour-long race. At the front Team Cook fend off the physical advances of Team Summerill through Turn 5. Team Smith pit immediately for their stop. Team Holliday finds a gap to move into 2nd at the end of the first lap. The front 5 teams are now nose to tail with Team Cook heading the way in front of Team Holliday, Team Summerill, Team Kenning and Team Hatto. Team Venturini in their debut race are falling away at a rate of a second a lap. Team Kenning makes a clean move up the inside at Turn 7 to get in front of Team Holliday. Five laps in and the rain starts to fall. The top five teams have now been caught by Team Barratt and Team Okonski making it a seven-way fight as the drivers struggle with the changing grip levels. Each lap the drivers are swapping positions. Team Barratt come off worse as the drivers jostle for position spinning wide at Turn 6. This incident allows Team Cook, Team Kenning & Team Summerill to open up a gap at the front. Team Hatto, Team Cleaver and Team Okonski make another three-way fight on track for 4th. Team Holliday pit for their stop. Team Kenning manage to find a gap and get by for the lead. Team Barratt make their stop. The sun keeps trying to show through as the track conditions vary each lap. Team Cook have re-gathered themselves to get back past Team Kenning. Team Summerill is still shadowing the front two teams in 3rd. Team Hatto is trying to stretch a gap in 4th with Team Okonski just about clinging on to Team Cleaver in 6th and 5th respectively. Team Okonski start to find their groove and get by Team Cleaver, but lose the position on the following lap. As the leaders start to lap the back markers Team Kenning dives up the inside of Team Cook at Turn 4 yet Team Cook holds on around the outside which becomes the inside for Turn 5. The front three teams are still nose to tail probing at every opportunity. Team Hatto is now comfortable in 4th whilst Team Cleaver is fending off Team Okonski for 5th and 6th. Team Holliday are now in 7th with Team Smith struggling to regain their earlier position after taking an early pit stop and are running around in 8th. Team Venturini are in 9th and yet to stop ahead of Team Barratt. The top three are still nose to tail waiting for the first driver to blink and make their stop. Team Venturini and Team Cleaver make their mandatory stops at the 35-minute remaining mark. Team Cleaver drive into the pits too fast and receive a 20 second stop/go penalty. Team Kenning carry out their mandatory stop dropping him to 5th leaving Team Cook and Team Summerill to fight it out over 1st. Team Hatto move up to 3rd, Team Okonski are up to 4th. Team Kenning are now the first of the teams on the road that have carried out their stop. Team Cook come into the pits for their stop whilst on track Team Kenning are now catching Team Okonski. Team Kenning dives up the inside of Team Okonski at Turn 4 for 4th position and are now three seconds ahead of Team Cook. Team Summerill now have a 14 second lead as their second driver prepares himself in the driver's enclosure. Team Hatto take over the lead on track as Team Summerill pit, leaving only two teams to carry out their stop. Team Summerill exit the pits directly in front of Team Kenning and two seconds behind Team Hatto. Team Okonski is still shadowing Team Kenning. Team Kenning pounce straight away to get in front of Team Summerill with Team Okonski following through on the next lap. Team Kenning have now caught Team Hatto and challenge them for the lead. Team Cook in 5th are closing in on Team Summerill at ½ a second a lap. Team Hatto loses out to Team Kenning around Turn 7. The drizzly rain returns at the 16-minute remaining point. Team Hatto make their driver swap dropping them out of the leading group. The greasy conditions are prevalent as the lap times slow by a few seconds and the drivers search for grip. Team Okonski make their stop with 14

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minutes left to race and return to the track in 6th. Team Kenning pull a three second gap to Team Summerill in 2nd, with Team Cook now tenths behind in 3rd. Team Cook wastes no time and dispatches Team Summerill at Turn 7 with a good move up the inside. Team Smith's early pit stop strategy has now shook them out in 5th just ahead of Team Okonski. Eight minutes on the clock and the sun shines through the clouds again. Team Kenning are maintaining a three second lead as they work through the lapped traffic. Team Cook are in 2nd with Team Summerill now up to speed and keeping them honest in 3rd. Team Holliday are running a quiet race in 4th, whilst Team Okonski in 6th appears to be stuck behind Team Smith. Team Hatto are the last team on the lead lap eight seconds behind in 7th. The chequered flag is a welcome sight as the rain starts to fall again and they finish Team Kenning, Team Cook, Team Summerill, Team Holliday, Team Smith, Team Okonski, Team Hatto, Team Cleaver, Team Barratt & Team Venturini. Team Summerill and Team Kenning also score an additional point each for the fastest race lap in their category.



**Sodi Endurance Lights** L-R: Team Summerill (2<sup>nd</sup>), Team Cook (1<sup>st</sup>) & Team Okonski (3<sup>rd</sup>)



**Sodi Endurance Heavies** L-R: Team Holliday (2<sup>nd</sup>), Team Kenning (1<sup>st</sup>) & Team Smith (3<sup>rd</sup>)

Congratulations to all drivers for handling the tricky conditions over the weekend. We now look forward to the penultimate Round 10, which is on the 2<sup>nd</sup> June.