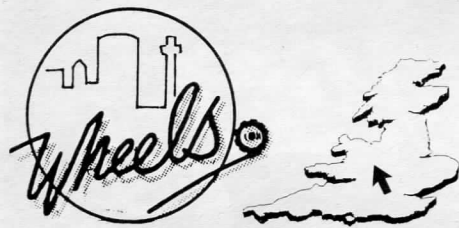


BIRMINGHAM



After a fine start at Chasewater Wheels, the 9th October turned wet mid-afternoon. With the Club's season nearing its end, competition for the Driver of the Year awards is hotting up with the top positions very close in some classes. The annual presentation takes place on 18th November at Moor Hall Hotel, Sutton Coldfield. (Tickets available from Glenys Mill, Secretary of CKRC).

Cadet. Heat 1 — 1 Dean Haddon, 2 M. D. Brown, 3 Robert Holmes. Heat 2 — 1 Haddon, 2 Holmes, 3 Brown. Heat 3 — 1 Haddon, 2 Brown, 3 Holmes.

Only three entered this meeting — we really would like to see more youngsters at "Wheels". The pattern set in the heats continued into the final with Dean having a good start off pole to maintain the lead until the finish. All three lads were on novice plates. Results: 1 Dean Haddon, 2 M. Brown, 3 Robert Holmes.

Junior Britain. Heat 1 — 1 Gareth Hunt, 2 Nik Berriman, 3 Paul Kennings. Heat 2 — 1 Rob MacDonald, 2 Berriman, 3 Hunt. Heat 3 — 1 Paul Giles, 2 Berriman, 3 Hunt.

With a lot of regulars here today we expected a good competitive race, although Lee James, the current class and overall leader, was absent. Nik Berriman had pole and with a good start he retained the premier position to the finish. Paul Kennings had 2nd with Gareth Hunt close on his tail. A good drive put Rob MacDonald into 3rd by lap 2, separating Kennings and Hunt.

As the race progressed Gareth began to lose form allowing Paul Giles into 4th place. Paul Browning also had a good start but mid-race lost ground, although he still finished a respectable 8th. So, with very little change at the front, except for an excellent 2nd place for MacDonald, it was a well deserved win for Nik — his first this season, I believe, at Wheels.

Results: 1 Nik Berriman, 2 Rob MacDonald, 3 Paul Kennings.

Senior Britain. Heat 1 — 1 Mike Topp, 2 Kevin Newman, 3 Richard Few. Heat 2 — 1 Few, 2 M. Lawson, 3 Newman. Heat 3 — 1 Lawson, 2 Few, 3 Newman.

This was the best represented group of the day and the most competitive. In the Driver of the Year table it is the most fought class and it will be interesting to see the final outcome.

A good start from Kevin Newman put him into the lead which he maintained for the duration of the race. Close behind were M. Lewson, Richard Few and Chris Winter. As the race progressed Few managed to overtake Lewson and a strong drive by Mike Topp took him up through the field to 3rd by lap 8, while Winter lost places. Few and Lewson were now having to contend with Topp who was challenging for the upper positions. Unfortunately, Mike Topp, who finished 2nd over the line, was disqualified but, to the winner Kevin Newman — well done. The best novice in the final was Dennis Hewes in 6th place. Results: 1 Kevin Newman, 2 M. Lewson, 3 Richard Few.

100 National. Heat 1 — 1 D. Homer, 2 Alexis Peake, 3 Robert Holmes. Heat 2 — 1 Peake, 2 Alistair Boyd, 3 John Coultas. Heat 3 — 1 Peake, 2 Homer, 3 Boyd.

Again a respectable grid with some quick drivers like Alexis Peake, John Coultas and Alistair Boyd, the current class leader. However, a win in the first heat by John unfortunately resulted in his exclusion.

Alexis was on pole; he led from the start and drew away to stay out in front. Although D. Homer, a visitor from Cheshire, made a good start we unfortunately lost him in lap 2. Alan Edwards, a novice with respectable heat results, had a good grid position and managed to keep John Coultas behind him. Coultas seems to have lost form lately — are you in love John? The rear of the field was spread out and Alexis won ahead of a consistent Alistair Boyd. Results: 1 Alexis Peake, 2 Alistair Boyd, 3 Alan Edwards.

210 National. Heat 1 — 1 Stuart Warsop, 2 Martin James, 3 Rob Peters. Heat 2 — 1 James, 2 David Bailey, 3 Andy Hatton. Heat 3 — 1 Warsop, 2 Glyn Jones, 3 Hatton.

Not too bad a grid but, considering there are over 30 Villiers members of Chasewater KC, race entries are low. Participating today was current class leader Stuart Warsop who is well ahead in the Driver of the Year stakes.

Two wins gave Stuart pole and in very unpleasant wet conditions he went straight into the lead to open up a substantial gap which, unless anything drastic happened, guaranteed him yet another victory and, as Stuart is an excellent wet weather driver, he totally

dominated the race. Martin had Rob Peters on his tail towards the end, pushing him for 2nd place; however he was unable to pass and had to make do with 3rd. The other drivers were a fair way behind the front runners and David Bailey had to retire mid race. Results: 1 Stuart Warsop, 2 Martin James, 3 Rob Peters.

250 International/250/125 National/P&R. Only Bob Kennings was entered for the 250 International which meant that if he could finish he would win which, of course, he did in his usual style ahead of the other classes.

250 National. With residents Kevin Mason and Gary Long and visitor from Cheshire A. Roberts it was two heat wins for Kevin and one for Roberts. Although Kevin had his usual superb start in the final, for the umpteenth time this season, he couldn't manage to finish. Result: 1 Gary Long.

125 National/P&R. As the only P&R Alan Ford only managed to complete one heat but got it right in the final to take 5th overall.

In the Nationals Kevin Norman took two heat wins and Malcolm Green the other. At the start of the final Malcolm was only just ahead of Kevin but from mid distance he began to open up a small lead. There were consistent drives from novices Tony Pegg and Julian Greenwood. Results: 1 Malcolm Green, 2 Kevin Norman, 3 Julian Greenwood.

So, despite the rain and with no major incidents, the day's racing came to a close. I would like to thank all those from Merseyside and Lion Kart Clubs who have helped us in officiating recently. This has been of great value to Chasewater, especially over the holiday periods, in the running of two race tracks. Good luck in the advent of your own circuits and thanks again.

In reply to letters in the karting press, I resent the attempt to cast aspersions on Chasewater Kart Club. It's committee, members and friends are trying against numerous odds to make the 'Wheels' a success. I believe that anyone with maturity and foresight will understand that any new project is likely to encounter 'teething troubles' which inevitably take a little time to sort out. Even with the immense experience and skills of certain committee members and others associated with the Club, problems have arisen and subsequently been solved, all at the expense of the free time of willing volunteers, which is sometimes comparable to that of a second job. I therefore urge readers of the karting press to take these adverse comments with a 'pinch of salt'. Come along to 'Wheels' and have a good day's racing and watch this new track grow. All the Best.

Liz Peters