

1/12th Electric Stockcar European Open Championship

31st - 1st February 2004



Hosted by the Fryslan 1 club at the Racing Expo Show at Franeker

Our relationship with our colleges over in Holland continues, we are now into our fifth year of racing with our friends at the Fryslan 1 club, and in November we will be visiting the Lobith club for the European Championship. Just to show how things have progressed since our first visit in the year 2000 when the first five racers ventured over to race with the Dutch at the Fryslan 1 club, this weekend we have an amazing twenty four making the trip over from the UK. Another interesting statistic from these visits is the fact that this will be the fourth venue that we have raced in, but the mainstay of the Het Graadwe Paard remains the same, this is where most of the visiting racers will be staying for the weekend, and was the venue of our first meeting in Holland. Once again many of us owe a debt to Andy Cattell who had arranged the Mini bus once again; he also did most of the driving along with Damon Smudge Atkins – pass me another Red Bull!. The plan was to leave Friday evening and travel through the night – no sleep again! – and arrive early Saturday morning, enjoy the weekend then depart Sunday evening and travel through the night again and be back home sometime Monday morning, great two nights without sleep! and for some of us there was a club meeting to look forward to at Stoney Stanton on the Monday night. Once again we were indebted to Auke Kooistra at the Het Graadwe Paard as he had agreed to meet us upon arrival, which was just after seven am and provide us with breakfast, boy is this man a saint or what!

We had a good number of racers for the Open Championship, which was a total of fifty-six; unfortunately Reinhardt Brandstatter and Sigi Huber were unable to make the trip from Austria as they were snowed in. Which meant there were fifty-four racers and with only six racers to a heat, due to the Dutch only having the six transponders, this made a nice total of nine heats.

The first two rounds of racing was on the Saturday, followed by two more on the Sunday morning followed by the quarter finals and semi-finals then the Open final itself. Also there was a race to decide the Junior Open champion between the top six juniors from the qualifying rounds.

Here are the results from the two rounds on the Saturday. All of the qualifying heats are of four minutes duration and not the five that most of us are more used to.

Round 1.

Heat one was won by Adri Middelkoop with 72, followed by Roy Calver with 70 and the 68 by Ger Hoekstra. Heat two went to Ben Harding with 81 laps chased by Hidde de Jong and Peter Kampen both with 68. Heat three saw Paul Riddell take a win with 74 followed by Tjepke de Vries on 69 and the 66's of Gysbert vd Bij and Andy Cattell. Heat four was won by the current European and World Champion Gary McMullen with 77 then it was Andy Cox on 71 and Marten Biljsma with 69. Heat five was won with 74 laps by Mark Cooper followed by Niek Middelkoop with 68 and in third place we had Karl Baker on 67. Heat six went to Ian Bingham on 76 followed by Jason Bartropp on 73 and the 69 by Joop Biljsma. Heat seven was won by the impressive Evert Jacob Klok with 77 laps followed by Niels Hoekstra on 66 and the 63 by Peter Ayriss. Heat eight went to the former World Champion Phil Smith with 72, followed by the 68's of Klass Biljsma and Nicholas Cooper. Heat nine went to Ryan Cattell with 75, chased by the current 1/8th scale I.C. Stockcar World Champion Jean Pierre Steegen on 68 and the 65 by Marco Duyster.

Round 2.

Heat one saw Roy Calver out in front this time out, with an improved score of 73 laps from Patric Lievens with 69 then we had Adri Middelkoop with 68 who was closely followed by Ger Hoekstra and Allan Inness both with 67. Heat two was won with 81 laps by Ben Harding equalling his first round score he was chased by Hidde de Jong with 75 and Peter Kampen on 66. Heat three went to Tjepke de Vries with 72 followed by Paul Riddell with 69 and Andy (no sleep) Cattell with 67. Heat four was won by Andy Cox using his new Lecatt Pro type of car with 77 laps he was chased by Gary McMullen just the one lap behind on 76, then we find Damon Atkins finishing in a healthy third place with 72. Heat five was won once again by Mark Cooper who went one lap better than his first round score of 74, he was chased by Karl Baker on 72 and Niek Middelkoop with 71. Heat

six saw Jason Bartropp record a heat win with 74 followed by the 71 laps of Joop Bijlsma. Heat seven was won by Karl Spencer after his mishap in round one, he put an healthy 77 laps on the score chart he was followed by Pete Ayriss with 75 and Evert Jacob Klok on 70. Heat eight was taken by Phil Smith once again with an improved score of 78, he was chased by Jelle Bijlsma the reigning European Junior Champion with 76, and then came Klass Bijlsma with 64. Heat nine went to Ryan Cattell with 69 laps followed by Marco Duyster on 67 and then we had Jean Pierre Steegen and Daniel Wissman both on 66.

The end of the racing for today gave us chance to have a good look around the racing expo show, during the day there had been lots of noise so it was now time to find out just where it had been coming from the first stop was the Louw Wobbes stand where his car was perched aloft on a purpose built stand along with an entertainer called Turbo M, my first thought here was no chance on pop idol! moving along from here we found the static V8 engine that had periodically been fired up throughout the day, there was also lots of video screens around the hall showing all types of racing from grass to dirt and shale as well as tarmac in fact there was just about something for everyone here including a bouncy castle for the kids, that's if we say Turbo M was for the ladies. As usual we spent the evening back at the Het Graadwe Paard where we were duly refreshed, fed and entertained, rumour has it that the last of the brits went to bed or should I say sleep around 6.30 am.

Sunday morning was here all too soon along with the main business of the rest of the qualifying rounds followed by the knock out stages of the Open Championship, we were in the same heats as the previous day so lets crack on with the results, Heat one round three, Roy Calver took the honours along with his best score to date 75 laps followed by Patrick Lievens with 71 and Adri Middelkoop on 68. Heat two was a good race between Ben Harding and Hidde de Jong which went to Ben by one lap the scores were 80 and 79 respectively then some way back in third place we had Wilbert Sloot with 67. Heat three saw both Tjepke de Vries and Paul Riddell finish with 72 laps followed by Andy Cattell on 70. Heat four was another entertaining race between Andy Cox and Gary McMullen, at the finish both racers were on 77 and not far behind these two was Michel Berendsen with 73 and Damon Atkins with 72. Heat five went to Mark Cooper with 72 followed by Karl Baker just the one lap behind with 71 followed by Ytzen Korf with 69. Heat six saw Jason Bartropp join the select few who had broke into the eighty or more laps with his effort of 80, second place in this heat went to Ian Bingham with 77 followed by Shane Moorecroft on 71, Shane showing some improvement with his new Team Skint racer. Heat seven was won once again by Karl Spencer with 79 chased by Evert Jacob Klok and Pete Ayriss both on 73. Heat eight was won by Phil Smith with 81 laps joining the few who had recorded an eighty + score he was followed by Jelle Bijlsma on 74 and young Nicholas Cooper with 61. Heat nine was another shared heat between Maikel Rutten and Daniel Wissman with 71 followed by Marco Duyster with 65 and Ryan Cattell with 64.

That's three of the four rounds completed, most will know by know weather or not they are in with a chance of qualifying in the top twenty four, also there is one or two racers needing one more good score to qualify as it's the best three scores from the four.

The fourth and final round, heat one was won by Roy Calver with an impressive 80 laps followed by Patrick Lievens on 77 and Adri Middelkoop with 76, funnily enough these scores were the best of the four rounds for all three of them! Heat two was outstanding for Ben Harding as he set the fastest time so far as he added a further two laps to his previous best of 81 now up to an incredible 83, he was chased by Hidde de Jong with 78 and Stuart Preston on 69. Heat three and saving the best for last was Andy Cattell finally getting a share of a heat win with 72 laps along with Tjepke de Vries they were followed by Paul Riddell with 65. Heat four went to Gary McMullen with his best score so far of 79 followed by Andy Cox with 74 and then it was Michel Berendsen on 69. Heat five was taken by Niek Middelkoop with 77 then both Mark Cooper and Karl Baker finished with 71 followed by Arnauld Laverman with 70. Heat six was won by another Middelkoop, this time it was Koen with 73 laps then in close attendance we had Jason Bartropp with 72 and Shane Moorcroft with 70. Heat seven, and another racer saving his best until the last round was Karl Spencer joining the few who had recorded an 80+ score, his previous best was 79 which now stands at 81 finishing in second we had Evert Jacob Klok with 77 followed by Pete Ayriss with 71. Heat eight and another racer post's his best score in the final round of qualifying this time it was Phil Smith saving the best till last with 82 to his credit he was followed by Jelle Bijlsma with 75 and Kevin de Groot on 66. Heat nine went to Daniel Wissman with 75 followed by Ryan Cattell with 74 and Jean Pierre Steegen with 69.

This is the point of the days racing where we say goodbye to thirty racers as the number going forward into the quarter finals is twenty four, unless you were a junior and had made it into the junior final, and looking at the charts shows that the last qualifier into the quarters was Shane Moorcroft with a total of 208, and just to show

how close it was we had three racers that had just one lap less than Shane with totals of 207, and top of the leader board was Ben Harding with a grand total of 245.

The object of the racing was quite simple finish in the top three and you are through into the next round, finish in fourth place and you go out irrespective of laps. The duration of the heats also changes from four minutes to the more normal five.

The first race of the quarter finals featured Ben Harding, Jason Bartropp, Evert Jacob Klok, Tjepke De Vries, Adri Middelkoop and Shane Moorcroft, at the finish Ben crossed the finish line first with 96 laps followed by Evert Jacob Klok on 90 and taking the important third place was Jason Bartropp with 88.

Quarter final number two featured Phil Smith, Hidde De Jong, Jelle Bijlsma, Patrick Lievens, Niek Middelkoop and Damon Atkins. Once again the race favourite takes the win in the form of Phil Smith on 91 closely followed by Hidde De Jong with 90 and the final qualifying place went to Jelle Bijlsma with 88.

Quarter number three had Karl Spencer as top qualifier followed by Roy Calver, Ian Bingham, Ryan Cattell, Paul Riddell and Andy Cattell, this race proved to be the most even of the quarters and was a delight to watch, at the finish the racers to go through were Karl Spencer with 95 followed by Roy Calver with 93 and Ryan Cattell with 91, just missing out were Ian Bingham and Andy Cattell both on 90.

The last race of the quarters featured Gary McMullen, Andy Cox, Mark Cooper, Pete Ayriss, Karl Baker and Daniel Wissman. At the finish Gary McMullen crossed the line in first place with 94 followed by Mark Cooper on 93, and Pete Ayriss just got through in the last few seconds of the race when he overtook Daniel Wissman, after both racers finished on 87 laps, but Pete had the better split time and progressed into the semi finals.

We are now down to the last twelve racers who had fought their way through the quarters and were now faced with an even greater challenge, that of the semi-finals, as the quarters it's just the top three in each that would make up the Open Final.

Semi final 1.

The line up resembled a who's who of our section, and on paper looked the tougher of the two semis, we had the Frysland 1 club Champion Hidde de Jong, Evert Jacob Klok the new Dutch Open Junior Champion, more about that later, Gary McMullen the current World Champion, and European Title Holder, Ben Harding current National Points Champion, Phil Smith former World Champion and Karl Spencer the current British Open Champion and English Open Champion. What a race that was well done to all that was in it, at the finish we had an unbelievable result with the top three all finishing on 94 laps, the win was adjudged to be Karl Spencer followed by Ben Harding and Phil Smith in that order, they were followed by Hidde de Jong who was just one lap behind with 93 laps in fourth, coming home in fifth place was Gary McMullen with 90 laps then it was Evert Jacob Klok in sixth place with 87.

The second semi final line up featured Roy Calver, Mark Cooper, Jason Bartropp, Jelle Bijlsma, Ryan Cattell and Pete Ayriss, no less a semi than the first one, but it proved to be more of a scrappy race than the first one, at the finish it was Jelle Bijlsma who took the win which was greeted by a mighty roar from the watching Dutch contingent with 91 laps then we had both Ryan Cattell and Jason Bartropp in that order on 89, they were chased by Mark Cooper with 88 in fourth place, then we find both Pete Ayriss and Roy Calver with 87 laps in fifth and sixth place respectively.

The Dutch Open Final 2004

The six racers to contest the final were

1. Karl Spencer
2. Ben Harding
3. Phil Smith
4. Jelle Bijlsma
5. Ryan Cattell
6. Jason Bartropp

We had a race of two halves as it turned out, after both Ben Harding and Karl Spencer had broken away from the chasing pack, at the finish Karl Spencer was crowned the Open Champion finishing just one lap ahead of Ben Harding with 95 lap to Ben's 94, then it was very close between the remaining four racers for the final rostrum place, this honour went to Phil Smith with 88 laps he was followed by both Jelle Bijlsma and Ryan Cattell on 87's in that order, and just one lap behind these two in his first major final was Jason Bartropp with 86.

Technical chart of the finalist's

Name	F/Tyre Inside	F/Tyre Outside	R/Tyre Inside	R/Tyre Outside	Pinion	Car/Type	Cells / make / size	Club / Race no.	Radio Gear	Charger Make / Type	Qualiy position	Final position
Karl Spencer	SE	LM	Pink	Pink	12/51	Elite	3300	51	27	Apex	1	1
Ben Harding	Jap	812	Pink	Pink	12/50	Skint	1700	471	40	Apex	2	2
Jelle Bijlsma	UFRA 25	Silver	SCM	Silver	12/52	Bandit	1700	H54	Mega Tec 40	Robbe	4	4
Ryan Cattell	SE	812	SE	SE	12/51	Lecatt Pro	3300	75	40	Apex	5	5
Phil Smith	Jap	Jap	Pink	Pink	12/50	Bingham	2400	318	40	Apex	3	3
Jason Bartropp	Jap	Jap	Pink	Pink	11/50	Diamond	2000	22	40	Pro Trak	6	6