

Rugby Raceway

Sunday 21st March 2004 Presents Promoter. Jon Cutts

1/12th Stockcars BRCA Round 2

Round two of the national series is at the Rugby club this year, as we do not have a national scheduled for the club based at Cambridge, which was where round two was held last year. During the year there has been some improvement's made at the club, the most notable being the purchase of a new carpet, also the old outer barrier of the track has been replaced, and just prior to this meeting all the broken transponders have been replaced. The old track record has been smashed by Karl Spencer and it now stands at an incredible 92 laps which he set on 13/2/04 also Karl is the current Rugby points champion after amassing a grand total of 2268, his nearest challenger was Ben Harding. The best lap score from club meetings last year went to Ben Harding and Karl Spencer with 87 although Ben recorded an 89 at the national meeting.

A little bit of the history of the club.

The Rugby club was started by Dave Woodward in 1981 and was held in Newbold, which means the club is now into its twenty-fourth year of racing, sometime in 1985 the club made the switch to its current venue of the Rogers Hall in Hillmorton, Rugby. In those days the racing was on a polished wooden floor and to obtain grip a layer of silicon was added to the tyres, then in 1987 the change to carpet racing was made, old time racers will remember the use of wd40 on the tyres to increase the grip this was a very messy business and by 1990 the use of tyre additives was banned throughout all the clubs.

The National meeting last year attracted some forty racers, the meeting today has seen an increase in numbers with forty-eight racers booked in, although four of them failed to appear which means we have forty-four racers taking part in the meeting today, the non appearance of the four racers is rather annoying as all the heats are pre arranged, and as you will see some are easier than others, great if you are in an easy one but not so great if you were not.

Round 1 Heat 1.

The first heat winner of the days racing went to the current world champion Gary McMullen from the Urmston club which is based in Manchester with a winning score of 84, he was chased by Rob Teuke with 83 laps and Roy Calver with 77 then we had Karl Baker with 75 and he was followed by young Nicholas Cooper with 73. Heat 2. Just into the meeting and Ben Harding equals the track record with his winning score of 92 followed by Mark Cooper with 85 in second place then we had Andy Cox with 76 followed by Derek Cayzer just one lap behind on 75. Heat 3 went to team skint racer Dave Gwilliam with 87 laps to his credit chased by Biddulph Moore racer Stephen farmer on 85, then it was Gary Osbourne with 81 followed by Zoe Spencer with 76 laps also finishing with 76 laps in this heat was Alan Inness. Heat 4 was a real scrappy race which reflected in the race scores at the finish young Aron Eaglen was the winner with 75 from the 71's of Debbie Jackson and Alan Harding. Heat 5 was another very busy race which featured the full seven cars that were scheduled to race at the finish Urmston's Gareth Jones claimed the win with 81 laps chased by Mike Tomkinson on 79 and Anthony Wyper with 78 which made it an Urmston club 1-2-3 then it was Ade Eaglen in fourth with 73. Heat 6 went to Rugby superstar Karl Spencer with 90 laps he was followed by Stewart Smith with 85 and Matt Bennett on 84 chasing these three was Diamond racer Jason Bartropp with 81 laps. Heat 7 was a very good contest between the racers involved, at the finish Rugby club member Pete Clarke was first across the finish line with 82 laps followed by Phil Chadbourne with 80 laps also finishing with 80 was Pete Ayriss in third place then we had both Michael Fryett and Alan Crossland finishing the race with 76 laps to their credit.

Round 2 Heat 1

We had a surprise winner in the shape of Urmston racer Karl Baker with 82 laps with an even bigger surprise in second place which pleased me greatly as it was a great result for my son Nicholas Cooper coming home in second place with a fantastic score of 78 laps which is now his personal best lap score around his home track he was followed by Dave Forrest another Rugby racer with 72 and then came Andy Cox with 71. Heat 2 was won by Ben Harding with 89 laps followed by both Mark Cooper and Zoe Spencer with 78 laps with Allan Inness just one lap behind these two. Heat 3 was win number two for Dave Gwilliam with 82 laps chased by both Stephen Farmer and Gary Osbourne on 78 laps followed by previous heat winner Aron Eaglen with 73. Heat 4 was another low scoring heat which was won by Jamie Burkett with 74 laps he was followed by young Daniel McMullen with 71 and Debbie Jackson with 70. Heat 5 was a high scoring heat which was won by Gareth Jones with 90 laps followed by Matt Benett on 88 then we had both Ade Eaglen and Mike Tomkinson with 83 laps followed by the 79 of Jason Bartropp.

Heat 6 was won by a high lap score of 91 once again it was Karl Spencer tearing up the track, getting close to his own track record, he was chased by Stuart Smith on 86 laps and Phil Chadbourne on 84 followed by Alan Crossland on 77 and Tom Forrest with 76. Heat 7 went to Rob Teuke with 84 followed by Pete Clarke on 79 and Roy Calver with 76 followed by Michael Fryett with 74 and Pete Ayriss on 73.

Round 3. Heat 1

Good result for Gary Osbourne in heat one with a winning score of 79 along with the ten national points for a win, he was followed by Alan Harding with 75 and Derek Cayzer with 74 and Stoney Stanton yellow grader Damon Atkins on 72 laps. Heat 2 went to Stephen Farmer with 83 chased by Mark Cooper on 80 and Joe Brown with 79, then we had young Nicholas Cooper posting another good score this time he recorded a 74. Heat 3 relishing the challenge with his new Lecatt car was Matt Benett, for he finally records a race win with 88 laps he was followed to the finish line by Mike Tomkinson on 84 and Rob Teuke with 80, also posting reasonable scores in this heat were Jane Wyllie and Alan Crossland both with 79. Heat 4 was won by Ben Harding with 86 laps followed by Stewart Smith with 84 and then we find the current world champion back in third place with 82 not a great result for Gary McMullen, he was followed by Ade Eaglen with 80 laps. Heat 5 was win number two for Pete Clarke with a winning race score of 81 he was closely followed over the finish line by Jason Bartropp with 80 then it was Phil Chadbourne coming home in third spot with 76. Heat 6 saw the flying Karl Spencer claim another win with 85 laps he was chased by Zoë Spencer and Anthony Wyper both on 81 then it was Urmston red grader Peter Ayriss with 77 laps in fourth place. Heat 7 this is the kind of race that you would just die for, but let's be honest here it's not very fair if you have just been in a seven car heat and this one has just seven cars, originally there should have been six cars but as Mark Stiles had not appeared this left the race one short, now this is just my own personal view and where this happens I firmly believe that to even things up then a racer from one of the full seven car heats should be moved into this race to make two even six car heats and not the Seven and one five car heat that we have, gripe over back to the result coming home in first place we had Dave Gwilliam with 86 laps followed by Andy Cox with 85 (nine laps up on his previous best score) he was followed by Carl Baker with 81 and Michael Fryett with 75.

Round 4. Heat 1

Claiming his first win was Mark Cooper with 81 laps he was chased by Joe Brown with 75 and Alan Harding on 74. Heat 2 went to the more confident Matt Bennett with 82 he was chased by Rob Teuke with 79 and once again we find Nicholas Cooper racing with new found confidence to come home in third place with 75 followed by young Daniel McMullen with 72. Heat 3 after so many racers had got close to the track record Stuart Smith finally sets a new one, the new record now stands at an incredible 93 laps following Stuart was Gary McMullen along with his best score of the days racing with 90 laps he was chased by Mike Tomkinson with 89 and Jamie Burkett on 81. Heat 4 was won by the reigning national points champion Ben Harding with 89 he was chased by Phil Chadbourne with 81 laps and Jason Bartropp on 78. Heat 5 went to Urmston racer Gareth Jones with the winning score of 85 followed by Pete Clarke on 80 then we had a big gap in laps back to young Aron Eaglen with 71. Heat 6 here we have another five car heat, enough said earlier! and as a consequence we have another racer equalling the track record this time it was Karl Spencer recording a 93 he was followed by Roy Calver with 90 laps (an incredible 13 laps better than his previous best) and Pete Ayriss with 76 followed by Dave Forrest on 73. Heat 7 was win number four for Dave Gwilliam with 84 laps he was followed by Carl Baker on 83 and just one lap behind Carl was Gary Osbourne with 82 followed by Andy Cox with 79 and Michael Fryett with 79, this was another five car race as Derek Cayzer did not participate in the race due to radio interference.

Consolation

With so many odd scores this is going to be a real lottery on qualification, looking back to last year's national the top qualifier for the consolation was Anthony Wyper with a total of 237 and the last place went to Ade Eaglen with 224, and in 2002 the top qualifier was Mark Cooper with 228 and the last place was taken by Rob Teuke with 217, each year the standard has improved and I think this year is going to be no exception, with the new carpet playing a big part along with some high scores, looking down the list the eighth qualifier for the consolation with a total of 243 which included two heat wins, seventh was Roy Calver also with a total of 243, but his highest lap score was a 90 compared to Pete's 82, moving on up to the sixth qualifier we have Phil Chadbourne with 245 and starting in fifth place on the grid we have Carl Baker with a total of 246 just in front of Carl we have Mark Cooper also on a total of 246 but with a higher lap score in the heats of 85 laps compared to Carl's 83, then incredibly on the same total but starting as the third qualifier we have Stephen Farmer his highest lap score was 85 the same as Marks followed by an 83 compared to Marks 81, then on to the front row of the grid with the second place qualifier who was Rob Teuke with a total of 247 which just leaves us with the unlucky Mike Tomkinson with a total of 256 this will become clear as to why it was unlucky later, so compared to last years national the standard has increased by some 19 laps (this is on the last qualification place only) and compared to 2002 it's an increase of some 26 laps.

The Consolation Result

This was a very hard fought race indeed with a lot of very equal racers vying for the one place in the final that was waiting for the winner, at the finish this honour went to Stephen Farmer with 80 laps from Mike Tomkinson who finished just the one lap behind Stephen on 79, third place went to Pete Clarke with 76 followed by Mark Cooper with 74 laps in fourth place he was followed by Carl Baker who was also on 74 laps in fifth spot, next across the finish line in sixth place was Thames Valley racer Roy Calver with 73 laps also finishing on 73 was Phil Chadbourne in seventh place which leaves us with the race spoiler Rob Teuke who finished with just 65.

The Final

Ok then , time to explain why I said the unlucky Mike Tomkinson, if you remember he was the top qualifier for the consolation with a total of 256, well just look at this the bottom qualifier for the final in seventh place was Gary McMullen with the same total as Mike, but the difference being the 90 lap score Gary had in the heats compared to Mikes best of 89, also with the same total was Gareth Jones in the sixth qualification place he had also recorded a 90 in his heats, starting from fifth on the grid we have Dave Gwilliam with a total of 257 moving on to the second row of the grid we find a very happy Matt Bennett with 260 in the fourth place, starting by him on the grid was the new track record holder Stuart Smith which was also the FTQ score as he set it before Karl equalled it with a total of 264, moving on to the front row of the final we have the reigning national points champion on the outside of the grid with the qualifying total of 270 which was only bettered by Rugby superstar Karl Spencer with the total of 274, just for the record this reversed the previous two years where Ben has started on the pole position, also Ben and Karl are so far unbeaten and Dave and Gareth both have three wins each, although no one can obtain the maximum score of the 100 points as the FTQ holder only had the one race win when setting the FTQ score.

The Final Result

We were treated to another very high quality race, which for the most part was very clean, at the finish the winner was Karl Spencer with 90 laps followed by Matt Bennett with 87 and the final rostrum place went to Ben Harding with 86 laps, also finishing with 86 laps was Dave Gwilliam in fourth followed by Gareth Jones on 85 in fifth, then it was Stuart Smith who had also finished with 85 laps in sixth place, and just the one lap behind these two was Gary McMullen in seventh place with 84 which just leaves us with the consolation winner Stephen Farmer who finished the final with 82 laps to his credit.

Name	F/Tyre In	F/Tyre out	R/Tyre In	R/Tyre out	G/Ratio	Speedo Type	Charge	Car type	Chassi	Cells	Club	Grade	Quali	Final
Karl Spencer	SE	LM	Pink	Pink	12/51	Mini	Apex	Elite	Andert	3300	Rug	////// //////	1	1
Ben Harding	Mini Orange	Jap Med	Pink	Pink	12/50	Mard	Apex	Team Skint	Andert	1700	Rug		2	3
Stuart Smith	Pink	Pink	Pink	SE	12/52	Mard	Apex	Smith Special	Own	1700	Urm		3	6
Matt Bennett	Silver	812	Jap Med	Pink	12/50	Fox 2 speed	Apex	Lecatt Pro	Lecatt	3300	Rug		4	2
Dave Gwilliam	Mini Orange	Jap Med	Pink	Pink	12/50	Mard	Apex	Team Skint	Andert	2000	Rug		5	4
Gareth Jones	SE	812	Pink	Pink	13/51	Mard	Apex	Jones Special	Andert	2400	Urm		6	5
Gary McMullen	TT DB	812	SE	Pink	12/50	Fox 2 speed	Protrak	Rapid Pink	Andert	2400	Urm		7	7
Stephen Farmer	812	812	SE	Pink	12/50	Fox 2 speed	Apex	Modified Pink	Andert	1700	Bid		8	8

Awards were presented to all of the finalist's along with the concourse winner Michael Fryett, as there were no white grade racers taking part in the meeting the award was not presented, the yellow grade award was presented to Damon Atkins his three race total was 221, the blue award went to Carl Baker his total was 246, and the top junior of the day was Nicholas Cooper his total for the day was 227.

