



stockcars **March** Bangers

Sunday March 8th 2005



This will be the second year that the March club have hosted a National meeting for the Stockcars and Bangers, it will be the third round of the series for the Stockcars and the first round of the Banger National Championship, last year's meeting attracted thirty-three stockcars and twenty nine bangers, the meeting today has an entr e of thirty-two stockcars and twenty-five bangers. The venue is the same as last year at Maple Grove School, at the meeting last year the club had the facilities of the school canteen and hot and cold food was available, the club did not have the canteen available but had persuaded a burger van to attend, so hot and cold food was available and believe me it was very nice food.

The race director for the day was Paul Barnes, and we also had two new stockcar scrutineers running the rule over the cars, they are Paul Brooks and Brandon Snell who have taken over the post from Mike Tomkinson, and we say hello to the banger scrutineer Alastair Needham, as this is the first meeting of 2005 for this formula.

Round 1, Stockcars,

The first heat saw Phil Chadbourne and Ian Johnson finish on the same lap score of 84 separated by 2.30 second in Phil's favour; with home club member Mark Steel just one lap behind these two with 83 and Fordham club member Jim Burkett finished the race on 79 laps. Heat two was won with 79 laps by Dave Gwilliam from Peter Ayriss with 73 then we had Alan Crossland on 69 laps in third place chased by Gerry Fordham who was just one lap behind Alan followed by young Nicholas Cooper on 65 laps at the finish of the heat. Heat three was won by the defending national points champion Ben Harding with 82 laps from Michael Fryett on 79, then we had a train of racers on 75 laps all separated by a split time, in order of the split we had Bryan Lee in third place followed by Anthony Wyper and Darren Grace in fourth and fifth places. Heat four was won by Matthew Bennett with the highest lap score of the round, a fast 85 laps although the fastest lap was recorded by Karl Spencer who was second in this heat with 84 the fastest lap time was 3.197 seconds, in third place we had Ryan Cattell with 83 followed by Andrew Cox with 81.

Round 1, Bangers,

Alastair Needham got off to a winning start with 74 laps, he was chased by home club members Ian Rolph with 68 and Kevin Swann with 66 laps in third place, then we had the British Open champion Anthony Wyper on 57 laps in fourth spot. Heat two was won with 69 laps by Mark Steel from Keith Schooling on 67, and then it was Andy Pearson with 63 followed by Darren Lord in fourth place with 62. Heat three produced a close race with both Steven Blower and Jim Burkett on 62 laps at the finish, Steven taking the win by 4.10 seconds, and just one lap behind these two racers was Mark Cooper in third spot. The fastest lap of the round was recorded by Alastair Needham on lap 39 of his heat in a time of 3.609 seconds.

Round 2, Stockcars,

The laps go up as Ben Harding wins heat one with 87 from both Matthew Bennett and Ian Johnson in that order on 84 laps, then we had Jim Burkett finishing with 82 laps followed by Anthony Wyper with 80. Heat two saw Ryan Cattell record a heat win with 84 laps from these racers on the same lap at the finish of the heat, once again they are separated by a split time, in second place we had Roy Calver followed by Peter Ayriss in third place and Andrew Cox in fourth place all on 79 laps and just one lap behind these three was Bryan Lee and Ian Rolph, both with 78 laps. Heat three was won by Karl Spencer with 82 from Dave Gwilliam with 78 and Michael Fryett with 74 laps in third place. Heat four saw Phil Chadbourne collect his second win with 82 laps from Mark Steel on 79 and Mark Cooper with 78, then we had both Thomas Forrest and Darren Grace with 77 laps in fourth and fifth places. We had a tie on the fastest lap time as both Ben Harding and Phil Chadbourne recorded a lap time of 3.160 seconds although Phil also recorded a lap in 3.161.

Round two, Bangers,

We had a surprise winner in heat one after Mathew Casbon took the honours with 58 laps from Tracey Cooper on 56 and Ian Rolph left stranded on his side on lap 52; regrettably Mark Cooper was left with no laps after forgetting to fit his transponder. Heat two went to Tony Knowles with 64 laps from Darren Lord with 60. Heat three saw Alastair Needham make it two wins with a winning 69 laps he was chased by Keith Schooling with 65 laps and Jim Burkett on 64, fourth place was taken by Kevin Swann with 61 laps. The fastest lap of the round went to Ian Rolph with his time of 3.626 from Alastair Needham's best lap time of 3.630.

Round three, Stockcars,

We had a real battle in heat one between Ben Harding and Karl Spencer, at the finish Karl Spencer took the win by just one lap with 83 compared to Ben Harding's 82, behind them we had another battle going on for third place between Ryan Cattell and Dave Gwilliam, both racers finished with 79 laps with Dave Gwilliam ahead by less than 1.5 seconds, finishing one lap behind in fifth place we had Ian Rolph. Heat two victor was Phil Chadbourne with 81 laps from Michael Fryett with 80, in third place we had Mark Steel with 78 followed by Andrew Cox with 77.

Heat three was won by Urmston club racer Anthony Wyper with 86 laps from Mark Cooper in second place with 81 with Peter Ayriss right behind Mark, also on 81 laps but he was behind by just 0.228 of a second, and fourth place went to Thomas Forrest with 80 laps. The last heat of the round was won by Ian Johnson with 86 laps from Matthew Bennett with 84. The fastest lap of the round went to Ben Harding his best time was set on lap 16 with a superb time of 3.157.

Round three, Bangers,

Martin Cooper from the Cambridge club took his first heat win with 73 laps from Mark Cooper in second place with 66 followed by Darren Lord with 64 and Mark Steel with 63. Heat two was won by Keith Schooling with 69 laps from Steven Blower on 61 laps, in third place we had Allan Inness with 59 laps, and just one lap behind Allan came Ian Rolph with 58 and a further lap back we had Mathew Casbon. Heat three was won by the reigning national points champion Alastair Needham with 74 laps from Andy Pearson in second with 69 and Kevin Swann with 65 laps in third place. The fastest lap time was 3.609 seconds set by Alastair Needham on lap 10 of his heat.

Round four, Stockcars,

The final round of qualifying saw a different heat winner in heat one with Jim Burkett from the Fordham club take the honours with 82 laps from Mark Steel in second place with 80 and in close attention we had Peter Ayriss with 79 laps along with Darren Grace with 78. In heat two we had Phil Chadbourn collecting a full set of heat wins with 84 laps, he was chased by Ryan Cattell on 83 and Anthony Wyper who was just one lap behind Ryan at the finish, also into the 80 lap bracket was Michael Fryett with 81. Heat three was won with 85 laps by Ben Harding from Mark Cooper in second place on 78 laps, also finishing with 78 laps in third place was Thomas Forrest. Heat four winner was Karl Spencer with 88 laps which was also the F.T.Q from the heats and takes the extra national point on offer for this achievement, second place was taken by Dave Gwilliam with 83 followed by Allan Inness with his lap score of 76. Although Karl Spencer took the F.T.Q in this round the fastest lap of the round went to Jim Burkett with his lap time of 3.132 which he set on lap 76 of his heat.

Round four, Bangers,

Another racer taking their first win of the day in heat one was Tracey Cooper with 60 laps from Kevin Swann who was a lap behind in second place followed by Allan Inness a further lap back on 58 in third place. Heat two was won by Martin Cooper with a winning lap score of 73 from Jim Burkett who was one lap behind Martin with 72 in second place, with Tony Knowles in third with 69. Heat three resembled a hot rod race as most of the racers needed a good lap score to qualify for the final, which explains why so many of the racers had a decent lap score in this heat, at the finish of the race it was Ian Rolph who took the win with 69 laps, he was followed by both Daniel Martin and Alastair Needham with 68 laps, then we had Mark Steel in fourth place with 65 laps as was Keith Schooling in fifth place, another racer in the sixty lap bracket in this heat was Mark Cooper with 63 laps in sixth place. The winner of this heat Ian Rolph also claimed the fastest lap with a time of 3.538 set on lap two.

Stockcar Consolation

What the round by round details do not show you is how much the racers had struggled to find the right set up, there were a lot of cars that had either too much grip or not enough, this was not helped by the changing track conditions, mainly due to the change in temperature and also the moisture content in the air when it started to rain outside, I think most chose to go with slightly too much grip and back off sooner on the entry into the bends, with that said it was the same for everyone so here are the qualifiers for the consolation race along with their qualifying total,

1. Jim Burkett 243
2. Mark Steel 242
3. Dave Gwilliam 241
4. Michael Fryett 240
5. Peter Ayriss 239
6. Andrew Cox 237
7. Mark Cooper 237
8. Thomas Forrest 235

What we had was a race between two halves, as some had got the right set up and some were in dire straights with grip roll, and as I was one of them I decided that it was time to settle a few debts from the past as I was not in contention for the winning place with qualification into the final, at the finish it was Dave Gwilliam that progressed through to the final with 84 laps from the handicapped Andrew Cox in second place with 82, home club racer Mark Steel finished in third place with 81 he was followed by Peter Ayriss with 79 and Michael Fryett with 74 laps in fifth place, also on 74 laps at the end of the race was Jim Burkett in sixth position, then it was the spoiler of the race Mark Cooper with 73 laps in seventh place followed by Thomas Forrest in eighth with just 21 laps after his cells had run out of charge. Interestingly Dave Gwilliam did not feature in the best ten lap times, Mark Steel posted the fastest lap with a time of 3.143 seconds on lap 7, so Dave took the win with consistent lap times and avoiding the trouble.

The Stockcar Final

Interestingly we do not have a home club racer through to the final, although we have four different club represented, along with the list of qualifiers I will also give you their home club,

1. Karl Spencer	255	Rugby
2. Ben Harding	254	Rugby
3. Ian Johnson	254	Hathern
4. Matthew Bennett	253	Rugby
5. Phil Chadbourne	250	Hathern
6. Ryan Cattell	250	Stoney Stanton
7. Anthony Wyper	248	Urmston
8. Dave Gwilliam	-	Rugby

We were treated to a very clean race, with two racers managing to break free of the rest, at the end it was another national win for Ben Harding with 87 laps from Ian Johnson with 86, then we had the consolation winner posting a great result of third place with 83, which pushed the current points leader Karl Spencer into fourth place as he was one lap behind Dave, in fifth position we had Ryan Cattell with 81 laps followed by Matthew Bennett with 80 in sixth place, seventh went to Anthony Wyper with 76 laps and the last place was filled by Phil Chadbourne with 74. The fastest lap was posted by the final winner Ben Harding which he achieved twice once on lap 24 and again on lap 40, the time was also the fastest of the days racing as he went round in 3.113 seconds, Ben achieved eight of the ten fastest lap in the final and the other two was achieved by Ian Johnson.

The National Points top ten after today's meeting

1. Karl Spencer	292
2. Ben Harding	292
3. Ian Johnson	284
4. Dave Gwilliam	280
5. Phil Chadbourn	279
6. Matthew Bennett	274
7. Anthony Wyper	265
8. Ryan Cattell	265
9. Mark Cooper	246
10. Darren Grace	238

The Banger Final

Qualification into the final wasn't easy as anything can happen during the heats, just ask the current British Open Champion Anthony Wyper, who had endured a miserable meeting today and had not qualified for the final with scores of 57, 32, 6, 20. The Banger finalist's along with the qualifying totals were,

1. Alastair Needham	217
2. Martin Cooper	203
3. Keith Schooling	200
4. Jim Burkett	198
5. Mark Steel	197
6. Ian Rolph	195
7. Kevin Swann	192
8. Mark Cooper	190

As it turned out this was a race of attrition as some racers went on the attack as allowed under the current rules, so I will give you the result in reverse order as there were only four cars remaining on the track at the finish, the first racer to get put out of the track was Martin Cooper his race coming to an early finish on lap 5, he was soon joined by Mark Steel on lap 7, so we were down to six racers now and still the mayhem continued as Kevin Swann was the next to go on lap 19, we now had five left and still the process of elimination continued as another car was put out of the track on lap 46, this time we said goodbye to Jim Burkett, the remaining racers managed to finish the race, in fourth place we had Mark Cooper with 53 laps, third went to Keith Schooling with 66 laps beaten by a split time as Alastair Needham had also finished with 66, and the winner was home club racer Ian Rolph with 70 laps. The fastest lap was clocked by Alastair Needham with a time of 3.493 on lap 23 of the final.

The last event of the day's proceedings was the Banger D/D which is worth an extra national point to the winner, this turned into a battle between an experienced racer and a young novice, it could have gone either way but in the end young Kayleigh Cooper came the off worst in one of the many skirmishes that happened between the two racers, so it was a final and D/D double for Ian Rolph the eventual winner of the D/D.

Race report prepared by Mark Cooper.