

## Cadwell Park (GB) 30<sup>th</sup> British Superkart Grand Prix

Cadwell Park in England staged the 30th Superkart Grand Prix for the 125cc classes, 250 National and Division 1. The English motor sport organisation led by Ian Rushforth and John Osbourne put on another splendid event. Dave Harvey supplied the teams with electricity as Cadwell has not got electricity in paddock. The event was supported by many sponsors, without whom it could not have been possible.

The International Superkart Series was represented by many drivers in all categories. Most teams got on their way on Thursday and were practicing hard on Friday. All categories had 6 sessions at their disposal.



In the Division 1 all together 26 participants were entered and for the F250 National there were 46. The circuit of Cadwell Park only allows 40 starters, so for the F250 there had to be a last chance shoot out, allowing only the final few places to be filled.



On Saturday, after a short period of rain, the free training took place. All believed that it would be typical English rainy weather. Wrongly, all of the other sessions were dry. The fastest on the damp circuit was Dave Harvey ahead of Carl Kinsey with Jurgen Reinke 4<sup>th</sup> followed by Rob Knock with 6<sup>th</sup> place going to Jorg Bernhard. Robert Chilcott, Marcel Massmann and Vesa Lehtinen the top drivers from the ISS were only in positions 8 to 10.

Both time trainings were dominated by current CIK FIA Europe champion Gavin Bennett, who finished his pole with a lap of 1:22.72, followed by Robert Chilcott in 1:23.40 next Lee Harphan, multi champion over the past years with a time of 1:23.70, with Dave Harvey 5<sup>th</sup> place and Vesa Lehtinen in 7<sup>th</sup>. Charles Craven was 9<sup>th</sup> and Marcel Massmann in 10<sup>th</sup>. Jurgen Reinke and Jorg Bernhard could not get it together and ended 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> in the heats, things were a bit better for Rob Knock in 14<sup>th</sup> and Mark Verhaar in 16<sup>th</sup>, followed by Danny Stockmann.

On Saturday afternoon the heats took place that would determine the starting position for the prefinal. Unfortunately, Jurgen Reinke could not start because of engine damage and he returned home frustrated. Also Priscilla Speelman, the highest placed Dutch

woman driver, could not start. The first heat was dominated again by Gavin Bennett ahead of Vesa Lehtinen, with Charles Craven, Robert Chilcott, Dave Harvey, Marcel Massmann and Jorg Bernhard failing to finish. Things were worst for Dave Harvey; he crashed his kart backwards into the wall, luckily he was not badly injured, only a few painful scratches. He then spent the entire night fixing his kart with his mechanic and was able to start in the prefinal and final on Sunday.



In the second heat, Marcel Massmann finally got into it and finished second behind Gavin Bennett. Robert Chilcott finished 3rd and Vesa Lehtinen 5th. Danny Stockman finished ahead of Mark Verhaar in 10th position. Jorg Bernhard finished 13th ahead of David Maxim and Vic Hempshall. Rob Knock and Gary Parkes failed to finish.

The starting position for the prefinal of the 30<sup>th</sup> BSGP was set. Pole position went to Gavin Bennett with Vesa Lehtinen in

second followed by Charles Craven and Nigel Dace. ISS drivers Mark Verhaar and Danny Stockman shared a 4<sup>th</sup> row start. Marcel Massmann had to start from the 5<sup>th</sup> row because of his non-finish in the first heat. Row 6 was shared by Robert Chilcott and David Maxim. Rob Knock started from row 7 and Jorg Bernhard from row 9.

In the F250 National Sascha Buchwald was unlucky and failed to finish in both heats, so he had to be in the Shoot-Out on Sunday. On Saturday evening a lot of work had to be done for all the teams before they could go to the various parties. Simon Holloway organised a karaoke party like almost every year. Henk Hali took very good care of the drivers throughout the weekend and could often be found in their awnings.



After the warming up on Sunday, the Shoot-Out began for the F250 National. Luckily Sascha Buchwald finished this time and qualified for the finals.

The start for the prefinals was a catastrophe for the drivers at the back; Gavin Bennett drove so slowly to the start that the field came to a standstill. In this way, Gavin got a headstart that got even bigger on the way. In second place was for Trevor Roberts, the last world champion, before Marcel Massmann. Vesa Lehtinen was 4th and Charles Craven came in 7th ahead of Dave Harvey. Places 9, 10 and 11 were for Gary Parkes, Danny Stockman and Mark Verhaar with Jorg Bernhard coming in 13th.



On Sunday afternoon, it was the final of the 30<sup>th</sup> British Grand Prix. The start set up corresponded with the finish of the prefinal. However, despite interventions by some of the drivers and Henk Hali, Gavin Bennett repeated his start from the prefinal and again the entire field behind the first start rows came to a standstill. Consequently, Gavin Bennett won the final and the winner of the British Superkart Grand Prix. He was unbeatable this weekend, and would have won also without his

tricks at the start. Second was for Marcel Massmann nearly 19 seconds behind, 3rd was Paul Kennings. 4th and 5th were Vesa Lethinen and Dave Harvey. Charles Craven was 6th and Gary Parkes was in 8th ahead of Rob Knock. One of the victims of the start was Jorg Bernhard who stopped early in the final because of a broken clutch, Robert Chilcott, Danny Stockman, Mark Verhaar and David Maxim also failed to finish. Unfortunately, Sascha Buchwald failed to finish in both finals in the F250 National. Nevertheless he had lots of fun and will take place one more time in the ISS this year. The next event is the second round of the CIK FIA European Championship August 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> at Assen. And then a week later the next ISS round at Zandvoort. For those interested; between Assen and Zandvoort you can take a week's holiday in Zandvoort, e-mail to [Dasian@superkarts.eu](mailto:Dasian@superkarts.eu) for details.