

29th June 2006

Perfect One Day, Better the Next

Not quite the case in a literal sense, but it could have been said that every day was perfect at Ipswich for Round 3 of the Championship. Brilliant facility, amazing track and the most helpful accommodating hosts we've come across. A bloody perfect weekend!

Some drove, some flew, and some drove and flew (ask Daniel – JBM). For those lucky enough to be there on the Friday for a first drive around the Ipswich track, they were not disappointed. Long straights, banked corners, and a flat out (for some) turn with a dipper.



The weather was good through the day, on dark the lights were switched on for another couple hours of furious fun.

Saturday was patchy (not perfect at all), which allowed teams to experience the track under various conditions. Triple 1, Westrac Omega, SMS, EKA, Horsepower Racing and Buildline filled the top places in the lead up to qualifying.

Qualifying was wet enough for all teams (bar Westrac) to choose to run a wet weather tyre. Twenty five karts rolled out for a ten minute session where the slowest five karts would be dropped. Huge effort from the Streamline Team qualifying at the top of the time sheet, the only kart in the 1min 13sec bracket. BRM 2 and SMS were next followed by Buildline the second B team in the top five and under 3/10ths of a second from top spot.

The second 10 minute session would have the fastest twenty karts fight for a spot in the top ten. The level of skill and speed in our B grade is a credit to TEKA and the drivers in that category as Streamline and Buildline battled it out for top spot through most of the session until the last lap where Team XLR8 pipped them by 1/10th of a second for number one spot. Buildline ahead of Streamline by 3/100ths followed by Intrepid, Enforcer, EKA and Team OZ. The top ten were decided, the remainder of the teams who cut the mustard were Horsepower Racing, BRM 2, and Triple 1 (managing well on an antique set of Maxxis).



A final ten minute fight for the top spot and starting order of the first ten karts followed. Buildline, Streamline, and Intrepid had the speed through most of the session, swapping spots regularly. Team Oz did enough in six laps to make third, The Enforcer team told there no. 1 driver to pull his finger and he did. In only five laps Enforcer managed pole position. Intrepid after a spin late in the session still managed 2nd position leaving 4th and 5th to Streamline and Buildline Racing.

After the rain all day Saturday there were 25 teams x 3 drivers + pit crew + supporters praying for a clear day on Sunday. It worked, the conditions were suspect but the sun was always gonna shine. The carby session was damp and some (Pipe Smoker) found the conditions difficult, unless of course he was just entertaining the huge crowd with his spin.

Come the green light there were only a couple of damp patches left on the track. The field was given the green light. It only took a few metres and Streamline with their highest start were turned around causing momentary mayhem for the middle of the pack. Peter 'Pipe Smoker' O'Brien was said to be involved. His version: everyone else broke to early, I timed it perfectly up the inside and held my line.



What really happened: He's jumped off the line like a cat scolded, kept the boot in up to the first corner where is was still damp, threw it up the inside 3-6 karts who tried to hold their line around the outside of the corner to no avail. Peter with the sprint kart style he entered the corner realized he needed every inch of track available on the way out. Some took advantage of the mayhem and bolted.

Intrepid didn't jump as well as they'd hoped, Enforcer on the other hand did and established a solid lead immediately. Team Oz avoided the trouble, as did PCR and XLR8 making up a few spots. Kinetic have come from 16th on the grid, drove around the mayhem and began to make up places quickly. After

driving to fourth an anonymous Kinetic driver shoved it up the inside of Intrepid to find the only wet braking area on the track and spun the kart around losing two spots to PCR and 'here comes Pipey again BRM 2'.

The B graders were even tighter just behind the lead bunch. Racing nose to tail for the first hour was Horsepower Racing, Streamline, Buildline, Dynamite and TDF Racing. Kelly's Transport were in amongst it having a great run, as was Repsol Omega in B2.

Bloom'n Roses were doing well in there first run, up to 19th the first of the N Graders.

The race settled into a fast smooth rhythm for the next few hours. Dynamite were out of the race for a short period with issues fingering a broken side pod bar as the problem. Issues also for Full Noise and JBM (who used the day to test a spectacular looking new chassis).



By the end of seven hours racing and only one safety kart period (due to a broken kart on the track) a couple of positions would be clear and others were being fought for right to the end. Bloom n' Racers were coming home strong until they blew a muffler. A quick pit stop and a borrowed muffler they were able to return to the track and still take out N grade ahead of Lusty Rico. After a real good showing early on Repsol Omega finished second behind Lusty Racing 3 in B2 with Nexus rounding out the top three (this hire kart managed a best lap of 58.038 – second fastest of the day).

The B grade battle was intense all day. With 30 minutes to go Horsepower Racing were only 15 seconds behind Buildline who were in the lead. They were catching, but ever so slightly. It got exciting when the gap narrowed to under ten seconds, although every couple of laps Brad from Buildline would do the quicker lap. In the end they won with Horsepower second and Streamline who had been fast all weekend in third. A great result for Kelly's Transport getting to like the taste of their new/old Swiss Hutless coming fourth. Dynamite coming home stronger than anyone but to no avail after their issues ended up fifth followed by JBM and TDF Racing.



In A grade Enforcer just had too much speed and clean air. They were unchallenged and beat all to the chequered flag. SMS were catching Triple 1 hoping to mount a challenge for second. As fast as the local gun was traveling the lead was just too big. SMS's brilliant third on track was overshadowed by their lack of time keeping, allowing Steve to drive over the hour (by only 45 seconds) and relegate them five positions to seventh. Triple 1 second, a precise comeback from a poor qualifying position and a lack of speed early. Team Oz stayed out of trouble not far behind coming in third and EKA showed great turn of speed all day to come in fourth. Lusty 1 fifth followed by

Team BRM 2, SMS and Intrepid Racing.

Thanks again to all, what a spectacularly brilliant weekend!!

Next stop, Eastern Creek 350 Lapper!

Justin Sydenham

Photos courtesy of [Horizons Fine Photography](#) - Thanks.