



While the threatened heavy showers did make a couple of appearances during the evening; drivers, teams and fans were greeted with a dry start to their evening of stock car and banger action as they gathered in large numbers this past Saturday at HRP Lochgelly Raceway. Four formulas were scheduled to take part in what looked, on paper, to be a very exciting event featuring the Rookie Banger Scottish Championship as the headlining event of the evening.

The night's racing got underway with the Junior Productions on track for their first demonstration run of the evening with Cameron Willacy and Amber Tyrell both maintaining excellent attendance records while several other cars are at varying stages of completion. Despite Willacy starting half a lap behind Tyrell, it didn't take him long to overhaul the 314 driver for the lead as he utilized his Ministox experience to the full to put on a dominant display on his way to victory in heat one. Willacy was handicapped further for the second race where he started almost three quarters of a lap behind Tyrell but that did not deter him from taking the race win in a shortened race that was stopped when Tyrell ground to a halt on the exit of turn two having appeared to have run out of fuel. The final run for the Juniors was in very wet conditions as one of those heavy showers made an appearance but that did not deter Willacy from claiming a hat-trick as he continued to dominate the formula.



The 1300 Stock Cars were back in action for the latest round of the MR Coachworks/Ringtone Racepaints Series which sees £1000 on offer during the first half of the season and Lochgelly's own Euan Mathieson led the points at the beginning of the night. It was good to see several lower graders such as Craig McComb, Corey Robertson, Craig Jones and Ian Goodall back on track plus reports of the imminent returns of top stars such as Lee Buchan, Lee McGill and Jazz Moore further boosting the formula. The first heat this past Saturday saw a masterclass from National Points leader Euan Mathieson as he sliced his way through the field with Craig Haxton and Andrew Mathieson in tow to claim a fine win with younger brother Andrew getting the nod over Craig Haxton for second place at the finish line. The second heat was punctuated with a big hit for Goodall courtesy of Peter Low but, while all that was going on, Andrew Mathieson had made his way to the head of the field and remained there until the chequered flag with Ryan McGill and Euan Mathieson completing the podium. The feature final was another excellent race although damage and mechanical issues reduced the field and it was Jordan Cassie who surged into an early lead as the two Mathieson brothers, Craig Haxton, Jock Whyte and Ryan McGill all battled amongst themselves. Cassie continued to lead as the laps wound down and it looked like a nailed-on win for the 77 driver until the final corner when, from a long way back, Andrew Mathieson lunged at the rear of the Cassie car which pushed him wide enough for Mathieson to sneak through for his second win of the night with Ryan McGill also managing to beat the unlucky Cassie to the line as Jordan had to settle for third place in a thrilling finish.





The CC Rods were back on track after a couple of weeks away and another huge field of cars arrived this past Saturday at HRP Lochgelly Raceway. It was great to see Ian Walle back after a big crash last time out as well as father Ian Walle Sr who debuted a great-looking Vauxhall Nova. The first race saw the track wet from a shower of rain but the drivers put on a great display of racing despite the conditions in a race which saw an excellent win for Brian Allen ahead of Kevin Easton in a markedly improved performance for both drivers. The ex-Paul Muir Puma was back on track in the hands of Stuart McDonald and he put it to good use as he took a fine win in heat two in a race that saw a few incidents with the 26 machine of Bob Cairns coming off worst. Having come home in third place in heat one, Scottish and Points Champion Ian Donaldson, managed to go one better as he claimed second from the rear of the grid ahead of Easton who was having a fine evening. The feature final saw a good race soured as the actions of Ian Hotchkies and Jamie Brown embarrassed the formula and, to an even greater degree, themselves as they proceeded to have a tit for tat argument on track with Brown reversing into the Hotchkies car at one point – absolute stupidity. However; this did not deter McDonald who had managed to claim a very healthy lead in the early stages and, as the others battled behind him, McDonald continued to maintain his lead all the way to the end of the sixteen laps as he took his second win of the night ahead of Easton who had his best night in the formula so far and Emma Kirk who came home in an impressive third place.



While the racing in the other formulas had been very watchable, there is no doubt that most of the large crowd in attendance were there to see the main event – the Rookie Banger Scottish Championship. A grid in the mid-30s arrived to do battle including several long-distance travelers such as Steve Saw and Daniel Derbyshire plus Team Trim made a surprise and unannounced appearance on the day to join the local stars on track. As per the drivers' request, the format was changed meaning that the Scottish Championship would be the first race of the night and it was a spectacular race with action at every turn and some big hits going in. The English drivers dominated in the team event here in April and they showed their prowess once again as Rob Haines (a former Scottish Champion) managed to drive through the chaos to take his second Scottish title with Team Trim team-mate Jack Ansell coming home in second while Lochgelly's own Billy Wilson was the first Scot home in third. Around twenty cars made it out for the first of two all-comers races and it was Guildford's Joey Reynolds who took the win ahead of Ansell and newly-crowned champion Haines in an English top three. Ansell finally secured an elusive win on his first visit to the track with an excellent drive in the second all-comers race to round off a great night for the English drivers and Team Trim while a big hit by Wilson brought an early end to the DD with no winner declared.

The next slice of stock car action at HRP Lochgelly Raceway is one of the most eagerly-anticipated fixtures in the 2017 Scottish Stock Car Calendar as the June Speed Weekend comes to Lochgelly next weekend. The Superstox, 2.0 Hot Rods and Ministox will all contest their British Championships while the Rebel racers make their annual appearance for their Scottish title. Four great formulas in action over two days starting at 5pm on Saturday June 10th and 1pm on Sunday June 11th.