

Another dry evening greeted drivers, teams and fans as they gathered at HRP Lochgelly Raceway this past Saturday for another huge international event.



The biggest night in Scotland for the youngest drivers had arrived as HRP hosted the LJM deSIGNS Ninja Kart European Championship with an incredible turnout of almost FIFTY Ninjas on hand to compete for the red and yellow chequered roof. With 2016 Champion Declan Honeyman having reached the “retirement” age of 11 and graduating to Ministox; a new champion would be crowned following a number of races to determine the grid for the big one. The first race of the night was a “last-chance” event for those who had failed to qualify so far and it was regular Northern Irish visitor Aaron Ward who came through from the rear of a very busy grid to claim a fantastic win ahead of Englishman Josh Parfitt who claimed the one remaining spot on the European Grid. Spare a thought for young Demi Ritchie who had led for a number of laps and was sitting comfortably in second heading into the last corner before spinning out in a gaggle of cars – a real shame for Demi but no doubt she will bounce back quickly!



That brought us to qualifying heat one for the Ninja Karts with all drivers in this race being seeded in through their season-long efforts so far. Twenty-four cars took to the track and it did not take long for the expected chaos to begin with a number of drivers losing ground in the heat of battle including British Champion Charlie Hardie. At the end of the ten laps and, having seen his brother Josh qualify for the big race earlier, it was Toby Parfitt who claimed an excellent win ahead of Robbie Armit and Anthony Weaver. The second heat saw the drivers start in a “reverse grid” from heat one. This put Charlie Hardie on to pole position and, having lost ground on his opponents in heat one, Charlie put in a determined drive to take a fantastic win and put himself back in the championship hunt with Scott Allardyce and Toby Partridge completing the podium.

The results of these heats put Allardyce on pole with Armit alongside in an all-Scottish front row with Toby Parfitt and Kasey Jones heading the English challenge on row two. The race was stopped almost as soon as it began and this necessitated a complete restart and it was Allardyce who leapt into the lead with Armit tracking his every move in the early laps while some great battles going on down the grid for some of the lower placings between Bailey Millar, Lennon Grant, Max Eaton and Charlie Hardie among others. Armit eventually caught and passed Allardyce and set about increasing his advantage but this effort was halted a couple of times due to race stoppages but West Lothian’s Robbie Armit held his nerve and drove a fantastically mature race to cross the line first and claim his first major title as the 2017 Ninja Kart European Champion!!! Allardyce held on for second place while World Cup winner Max Eaton came through from his 13th position start to claim an excellent third place in one of his final meetings as a Ninja Kart driver before retirement. A great evening of Ninja Kart racing and the spirit in which these children race and conduct themselves sums up what short oval motorsport is all about.

The 2.0 Hot Rods were back on track after a few weeks off and it was great to see Alex Wilson back for his first outing of 2017 plus Gordon Hendry making his first appearance of the season with a stunning new Peugeot 106 machine. Indeed, it was a winning return for Wilson as he stormed to victory in heat one with a great driver to beat Scottish Champion Gordon Alexander to the line with Kevin Stewart posting his best result to date since his return with an excellent third place. The second heat saw Gill Anderson start the race with clutch issues which meant he would start at the rear of the grid but it was William Hardie who came through the traffic to take what has become his customary win in 2017 with Alexander once again coming home in second and heat one winner Wilson picking up another good result in third. The feature final saw some great racing with no quarter asked and none given as the drivers battled for every position. However, nobody had an answer for Hardie as he dominated the race from the early stages to take yet another win with Gordon Alexander completing a hat-trick of runners-up places while Gary Black posted an excellent third place for his best result in some time as the formula continues to grow and increase in competitiveness as we head towards their British Championship at HRP Lochgelly Raceway in June.



The ProStocks had another good turnout of cars with John Mason making a welcome visit to the track but neither Mason or any of the other drivers had an answer for Cowdenbeath's Paul Barron who came through from the rear of the grid to take a fine victory. It was great to see Craigie Millar making his 2017 debut and he showed great pace as he claimed second place while Kirkcaldy's Ian Christie came home in third. Christie went not one, but two, better in heat two as the likes of Barron and Millar were held up as chaos reigned once more but Christie wasn't complaining as he took the chequered flag with Jason McAlpine coming home in second ahead of Millar. The feature final saw a slightly depleted grid as

mechanical woes and damage ended some drivers' challenges early but those on track provided some great action once more and it was Craigie Millar who came through on his first outing of 2017 to claim the feature final win ahead of Mason and Scott Gordon on a great night of ProStocks action at the 2017 World Cup venue.



The final formula on show were the Superstox with another fantastic grid of cars as the formula continues its amazing start to the season. With Alex Hamilton's hat-trick from eight days ago fresh in the mind; the question was could Hamilton maintain his blistering form. Hamilton certainly did not look out of place starting further down the grid and, indeed, was only past by three drivers in heat one as he took an excellent fourth behind eventual winner 2016 National points Champion Stuart Gilchrist and the two top contenders for the National Points; David Frame and Scottish Champion Bryan Forrest. Heat Two saw Frame dominate with his car showing some incredible pace as he took an excellent win ahead of early leader Kenny McKenzie and Forrest. The feature final was another excellent race with the bumpers being used at every turn and action on every part of the track as the Superstox pilots put on a clinic of contact racing. It was heat two winner Frame who had made an excellent start who managed to overhaul the early leaders to claim an excellent heat and final double ahead of Gilchrist and Tony Lattka in a thrilling conclusion to a great night of entertainment at HRP Lochgelly Raceway.

The next slice of stock car and banger action at HRP Lochgelly Raceway comes this Saturday April 22nd and features one of the most eagerly anticipated events of the year as Scotland battle England in a 40 on 40 National Banger Team Challenge!!! This promises to be an unmissable event with bragging rights of the

nations on the line. The 1300 Stock Cars will also be back in action in the latest round of their MR Coachworks and Ringtone Racepaints Series while the Ministox complete an all-contact line up. The first race gets underway at 6pm.