



The changeable weather did not put off the large number of drivers, teams and fans who gathered at HRP Lochgelly Raceway this past Saturday evening for day one of the HRP June Speed Weekend presented by Hardie Race Promotions (In Association with Spedeworth Motorsports). The destiny of no less than three British Championships would be decided on the night in one of the most prestigious events to ever be held in Scotland.



The first formula on track were the Rebel Racers making their now annual appearance in Scotland for their Scottish Championship. The Rebels would have seven heats over the course of the two days to determine the grid for the big event and four of those took place on the Saturday. Steven Holgate took the first win of the night with an excellent drive to secure the win ahead of defending champion Rob Jones. The rest of the night belonged to Tom Dayman who managed to claim victory in all three remaining heats to underline his championship potential.



The Superstox have been in incredible form at HRP Lochgelly Raceway so far in 2017 and a large number of cars arrived to do battle for the Dechmont Forklift Trucks British Championship which would be their first race of the weekend. Local drivers Lewis Willacy and Allan Gibson formed the front row while many of the pre-race favourites found themselves starting near the back of the 32-car line-up following the draw for grid positions. The race began spectacularly with plenty of bumper-work on all points of the track as several drivers fell by the wayside but the major talking point was a huge pile-up which eliminated no less than nineteen cars from the reckoning after a fluid spillage saw many contenders sliding into the barrier on turn one and out of contention. The race was eventually restarted after removing all of the broken cars from the racing circuit while the survivors were checked to make sure they were in the correct positions before the green flag fell for the resumption of the race. With only around a dozen cars running, the race settled into a high-speed pursuit that saw English Champion Jordan Salmon take up the running while defending British Champion and World Champion Jason Cooper had carved his way efficiently through the traffic to bring himself into play as he claimed second place in his pursuit of Salmon. As the laps wound down it did look like Cooper was reeling in Salmon but the second-generation racer responded by extending his advantage to complete the remaining laps ahead of Jason Cooper to claim the 2017 British Championship with Cooper second and Martyn Coles third in an all English podium. The other two races were ran in graded order and saw wins for Jason Cooper and Stuart Gilchrist.



The ORCi Ministox made history as they contested their first ever major championship race at HRP Lochgelly Raceway as well over thirty cars arrived to decide the fate of the 2017 British Championship sponsored by Lee Smart Racing. The cars were split into a two thirds format which saw each driver race in two of the three qualifying heats to determine the starting grid for the Championship Final. Cambridgeshire's Charlie Santry has been quick wherever he has raced and reiterated his championship potential as he claimed heat one ahead of HRP Points Champion Sean Naismith and Danny Elbourn. Heat Two saw another English victory as regular visitor David Shearing took the win ahead of Santry and Ben Bateman. The final heat saw the English drivers secure another victory with Harrison Bryant coming home ahead of Naismith and ORCi Champion Steven Burgoyne. Santry's results gave him pole position for the final and, while the expected chaos ensued behind him, Santry drove steadily while maintaining a decent lead until the latter stages of the race where a momentary hesitation saw the gap between him and Sean Naismith reduced to a matter of inches. Naismith managed to get ahead of Santry after battling for a few laps and the large partisan crowd roared on a potential Scottish winner but Santry quickly closed the gap and, with two laps to go, made the decisive move to get ahead of Naismith to cross the line first ahead of Naismith and Ben Bateman. The results for the Ministox British Championship remain provisional until confirmed by the governing body who will ratify them during the week.



The final formula on show were the 2.0 Hot Rods who have enjoyed an excellent first half of 2017 at HRP Lochgelly Raceway. Twentyeight of the very best drivers gathered to do battle for their British Championship sponsored by David Philp Commercials with HRP's own Kenny Purdie defending the title. Heat One saw Gordon Alexander make heavy contact with the wall on the exit of turn two but that did not deter William Hardie who maintained his concentration to overhaul early leader George Turiccki and claim a win ahead of Turiccki and Scotland's Alex Wilson. The second heat saw drivers start in reverse order from heat one and victory went to World Champion Daniel Smith ahead of Gordon Alexander and Nick Ross. With Hardie claiming a fifth place in the second heat; he secured pole position for the British Championship final with heat two winner Smith starting alongside. Hardie shot into the lead from the green flag with Smith tracking his every move while behind them drivers jostled for track position with no quarter asked and none given. Hardie had settled into a rhythm while Turiccki and Gordon Alexander looked comfortable in second and third -until the moment that soured the entire occasion as Jock Campbell took Alexander out of third place before the two experienced drivers proceeded to hit one another in a mini-DD in turns one and two. No way for two of the formula's top drivers to behave. The remaining laps saw Hardie maintain his lead all the way to the chequered flag and his first major title win ahead of Turiccki and the Zetec-powered Gavin Botfield.

Sunday's action saw the Rebels continue the build-up to their Scottish Championship with three further heats which saw some great action as Reece Grinnell picked up the win in heat five before Tom Dayman resumed normal service with victory in heats six and seven. The Scottish Championship Final was another excellent race from the Rebel Racers with plenty of contact and action at every turn but it was defending champion Rob Jones who managed to be in the right place at the right time to successfully

defend his Scottish title ahead of Paul Tagg and Joshua Smith to round off a great weekend for the Rebels. The Ministox were competing in a regular domestic meeting after their British Championship exertions the night before and both heat wins went to Warren Darby before a fantastic feature final saw Gemma Robbins take an excellent win ahead of fellow south-west drivers Warren Darby and Tommy Farrell.

The 2.0 Hot Rods returned for their second day of racing with a slightly depleted field after their incredible British Championship the previous evening for their Open Scottish Championship. William Hardie took two relatively easy heat wins before underlining his dominance of the weekend as he added the Open Scottish title to the British Championship with World Champion Daniel Smith and Robert Gamble upholding English honour with second and third.

The Superstox would contest their Open Scottish Championship in their first race of the day with a random grid draw being conducted on track. Scotland's David Frame had been one of the fastest cars all weekend and he put together a great race to finally take an overdue title as he crossed the line to claim the 2017 Open Scottish Championship ahead of World Champion Jason Cooper and outgoing Open Scottish Champion Bryan Forrest who made a staunch defence of his title from the rear of the grid.

All in all, a fantastic weekend of action enjoyed by the vast majority of those in attendance. The weekend had some amazing racing action, memorable moments and some controversy that will ensure that the 2017 HRP June Speed Weekend will live long in the memory of those who witnessed it.

HRP Lochgelly Raceway returns to domestic action this Saturday as the 1300 Stock Cars contest the final round of the MR Coachworks/Ringtone Racepaints Series while the CC Rods, ProStocks and Stock Rods will all be in action plus the Junior Productions in pre-meeting demonstration races – the action gets underway at 5:30pm at HRP Lochgelly Raceway this Saturday June 17th.