



In association with Excel Courier Services C/O Miles Allen

The toughest national meeting of the year, judging by last year's national, of all the finals this is probably the hardest to qualify for, as is usual with the Urmston national a good turn out of 48 cars were in attendance, although 51 had actually booked in to race. Again we had racers travelling long distances, some from Cornwall and some from Scotland.

There has been a lot of activity going on at the Urmston club since my last visit, the most noticeable being the new track outfield constructed out of thicker and higher wood than the old one, also it is held together by a simple but effective angled iron pieces that slot over the wood but hold it very firmly in place, also there was a new drivers rostrum that is also linked to the outfield helping to keep it in place, also the club has been upgrading the lap counting equipment in various ways, the infield has also been revamped, very impressive I must say. Once again we had Colin Eardley in attendance to do the scrutineering, not an easy job, as there are so many different types of car now being raced, also our safety officer Andy Wallace was in attendance, happy with all the changes that have been made to the track and the drivers rostrum.



Round One.

Race winners were Joe Brown winning his heat on 84, as did Gareth Jones on 79, the best lap score of the round went to Gary McMullen winning his heat and also beating the old track record into the process on 88 laps, some achievement this as we are running the standard 540 Mabuchie motor, as compared to the faster Graupner motor of last year. Ben

Harding also won his heat with 85, as did Rugby veteran Clive Buckler on 80, Mark Cooper also recorded a win in his heat with 81, World Champion Phil Smith also got off to a winning start on 85. Other drivers worth a mention in this round were 79's by Jon Cutts and M.Tomkinson young Ryan Cattell, Urmston racer's Pete Ayriss and Stewart Smith. A good

score of 84 was recorded by Robert Teuke, Dave Hasting on 83 which only gave him fourth place in his heat, Martin Cooper recording 84 which gave him third in his heat, long distance traveller Ross Kerr also went well to record an 80 lapper.



Round Two.

Heading the leader board this round and increasing the track record as well was Ben Harding with an impressive score of 89, Gareth Jones records his second win with an 83 as did Gary McMullen going two laps better on 85, and look at this from the Urmston newcomer Duncan Bullock recording a heat win on 86, also we had Andrew Cox winning a heat with 82 laps. Clive Buckler just missed equalling the new track record by winning his second heat of the day with 88, as did current World Champion Phil Smith winning on 82. Other good lap scores were 85 by Jon Cutts, another 84 by Joe Brown, both Karl Spencer and David Smith had 84 laps, in Karl's case this was only good enough for fifth place in his heat! Dave Hastings recording a fine 84 and Andy Cattell recording an 82, Mark Cooper scoring another 81, which gave him second in his heat, Scottish racer Ross Kerr improved his last score by five laps with an 85. The best of the juniors was Robert Teuke with 80 from National Junior Champion Ryan Cattell's 75 and Arron Eaglen with 72.

Round Three.

Recording his first win and increasing his best score by some 11 laps was Anthony Jewell on 88, matching this was Ben Harding, another first time race winner was Paul Jenkinson with 83, Gary McMullen made it three out of three with another win on 82, Clive Buckler also wins his third heat this time on 81, another having a first heat win and looking like a good bet for the final was Rugby youngster Robert Teuke recording a mighty 86 lapper and last of the heat winners was Dave Hastings with 82. Other good scores this round was a third score of 84 by Joe Brown, David Smith on 80, both Andrew Cox and Stewart Smith get 81, Phil Smith scores 85 which was only good enough for second in his heat, we had Cambridge National winner Martin Cooper scoring 83, and both Liskeard racers, all the way from Cornwall, Martin Nash and Andy Wallace both got 79 laps.

Round Four.

Top score this round was an impressive 86 lapper by Mark Cooper, also we had Jon Cutts recording his first race win of the day with 83, as did current European Champion Karl Spencer winning his heat with an 85, both Ben Harding and Clive Buckler completed their set of race wins, Ben winning with an 84 and Clive with 81, another first time race winner was Andy Cattell on 82 laps, and collecting his third win was Phil Smith with an 84, other good scores were 82 laps by Darren Grace which was for a second place in his heat, young Alan Bellis posted a fine 80 lapper, Gary McMullen finished off with an 83, Ryan Cattell finished with a 74 and surprisingly he did not win a single heat (unlike his dad!) Pete Ayriss had a good heat finishing with an 80, and another good score by Scottish racer Ross Kerr with 82 but once again no heat win.

Consolation Race.

With such a high standard of racing qualification into the final or consolation was going to be hard, so with the best three scores to count the eight racers making the consolation were, just making it on count back as eighth qualifier was Andy Cattell with a total of 244 laps the same as the unfortunate Stewart Smith, seventh was Paul Jenkinson on 245, sixth was David Smith also on 245, fourth went to Ross Kerr on 247, third qualifier was Karl Spencer with 248, second was Mark Cooper on 248, and just missing automatic qualification to the final on count back with a total of 249 was Dave Hastings.

At some time or other during the race, every single racer lead the race at some time or other during the five minuets of hectic racing, but after the buzzer to end the race the result looked like this,

1 st David Smith	81	split time	0.00310
2 nd Mark Cooper	81		0.00480
3 rd Paul Jenkinson	80		
4 th Martin Cooper	79		1.040
5 th Karl Spencer	79		2.600
6 th Andy Cattell	74		1.540
7 th Dave Hastings	74		3.240
8 th Ross Kerr	73		

So David goes through to the final by the narrowest of margins at the cost of Mark.

Grand Final.

Heading the qualifiers was Ben Harding with a mighty total of 262 which included his new track record of 89, second was Urmston racer Gary McMullen with a total of 255, third qualifier was Phil Smith with 254, comeback kid Joe (pappa) Brown was next qualifier on 252, fifth and making his first final was Robert Teuke on 251, sixth was Clive Buckler with a grand total of 250, seventh was Rugby veteran Jon Cutts with 249, and joining them was consolation winner David Smith.

It has to be said that this race was pure quality, and a real testament to those that were in it, and a real treat for those of us that were watching it! And boy was it fast, the result hung in the balance right to the end with a new track record being set to take the win. If you want quality racing then this is the formula to be racing in, at the end the result was,

1 st	Ben Harding	90	
2 nd	Gary McMullen	89	
3 rd	Clive Buckler	88	
4 th	Robert Teuke	85	0.880
5 th	Jon Cutts	85	1.100
6 th	Phil Smith	84	
7 th	David Smith	72	
8 th	Joe Brown	33	



Final
Winner
Ben Harding

Between the consolation and final a junior race was run, these are the names to watch out for in the future, as Rob Teuke will testify.

1 st	Arron Eaglen	74
2 nd	Joe Huxley	72
3 rd	Jamie Gundry	67
4 th	Daniel McMullen	61
5 th	Nicholas Cooper	60
6 th	Amy Gilpin	56



Name	F/Tyre	F/Tyre	R/Tyre	R/Tyre	G/Ratio	Speedo	Charger	Car type	Chassi	Cells	Club	Grade	Quali	Final
Ben Harding	Jap M	Jap M	Pink	Pink	12/50	Mardave	Apex	Spencer Pinky	Anderton	Corally 1700	Rug	S/S	1	1
Gary McMullen	812	Double Blue	Pink	GLF	12/50	Assoc	Tekin	Pinky MWB	Anderton	Corally 1700	Urm	S/S	2	2
Phil Smith	812	Jap	Pink	Pink	13/53	Mini	Apex	Bingham Schumacher	Bingham	Corally 3000	Rug	Gold	3	6
Clive Buckler	812	O 2	Pink	Pink	13/51	Mk1 Mardave	Apex	Buckmacher	Buckmacher	2000	Rug	S/S	6	3
Robert Teuke	Jap	Jap Soft	Pink	Pink	12/50	Mini	Apex	Teuke Pinky	Anderton	Corally 1700	Rug	Blue	5	4
Joe Brown	SE	812	SE	Pink	11/50	Mini	Apex	Scratch Built	Anderton	Sanyo 2000	Urm	Red	4	8
Jon Cutts	SE Med	Pink	SE	SE	13/51	Mini	Racing Jack	Eaglen	Mardave	Corally 1700	Rug	Red	7	5
David Smith	EH	Gold	812	SE	12/50	Assoc	Pro Track	Mardave	Anderton	Corally 1700	Urm	Red	8	7

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