

Once again round two of the National series finds us at the club based in Rugby under the leadership of Jon Cutts. As there has been no significant changes at the club over the last twelve months, I thought it might be interesting to look back at the National series, most of the racers are aware of it being called the BRCA National Championship so how many are aware of the series formerly being the R.S.C.A. Championship, there are some illustrious names on the shield which dates back to 1992, when I think the series changed over to the B.R.C.A. So hear is a list of the previous champions along with their racing numbers, D. Pepperday car number 33 Champion in 1981 and 1982. S. Talbot car number 8, Champion for 1983. D. Clarke, Champion in 1984-1985-1986 car number 38. From 1987 we have a name that is familiar in Ian Johnson racing under the number 347. Champion for 1988 was M. Bryan racing under the number 238. The first of G. McMullen's titles was won in 1989 racing with the number 50. Rugby club promoter J. Cutts won the title in 1990 and 1991 racing with the number 1 adorned over his car. And the last name to appear on the R.S.C.A. shield is S. Field from 1992 with the racing number 333. Champion for 1993 was M. Cooper racing under the 216 number. D. Hastings took the championship in 1994 with the number 158. R. Woolley took the title in 1995 racing under the number 44. G. McMullen won the title an impressive number of years from 1996 to 2002 with an unprecedented shared championship in 1999 with S. Farmer race number 315, G. McMullen's total championships now stand's at a total of 8. The last two years have been won by B. Harding (2003-2004) his racing number is 417. The previous two nationals at the club based in Rugby has attracted 40 and 44 racers, today's meeting has attracted an entrée of 47 although 50 had actually booked in to race.

Round 1, Heat 1

We start the racing with a full eight car heat won by Ade Eaglen with 77 laps on a split time from Ryan Cattell followed by Jim Burkett with 73. Heat two went to Rugby Superstar racer Karl Spencer with 89 from Clive Buckler on 83 and Darren Grace with 82. Heat three was won with 90 laps by Ian Johnson from Matthew Bennett with 89 and Carl Baker breaking into the 80 lap bracket with 81. Heat four saw Dave Gwilliam take the win with 81 laps from young Tom Forrest with 75. Heat five went the way of Ian Bingham with 81 from Rob Teuke with 80 and Hathern national winner Phil Chadbourne on 79. Heat six was won by March club racer Mark Steel with 78 laps from fellow club member Ian Rolph on 77 laps at the finish. Heat seven was won by the reigning national champion Ben Harding with 83 from Anthony Wyper just one lap behind with 82 he was chased by Rich Harding with 78.

Round 2, Heat 1

As in round 1 Ade Eaglen wins the first heat of the round with 75 laps from Thomas Collins, Alan Crossland and Jim Burkett in that order all finishing with 72 laps. Heat two went to Karl Spencer with 88 from Darren Grace with 85 and Clive Buckler on 83. Heat three was won with another winning lap score of 88 by Matthew Bennett from Urmston club racer Carl Baker with 84. Heat four went to team skint racer Dave Gwilliam with a winning 84 laps from Mark Foster and Jason Reed both on 82 laps they were joined in the 80 lap bracket by Angela Yarwood with 80 laps in fourth place. Heat five saw Ian Bingham collect his second win with 85 laps from Phil Chadbourne on 83 and Tom Forrest with 82 and just one lap behind Tom we had Ian Johnson with 81 followed by Roy Calver with 80. Heat six was a scrappy race which showed in the winning lap score of 73 laps by Ian Rolph, he was chased by Alan Greig in second place with 69. Heat seven was an excellent win for Anthony Wyper with 82 lowering the colours of the reigning national champion as Ben Harding was beaten by a split time after he had finished with 82 as well, and just one lap behind in third place was Mark Cooper with 81.

Round 3, Heat 1

It was win number three for Karl Spencer in the first heat with 90 laps from Thomas Collins and Ryan Cattell both finishing with 82 in second and third place they were followed by Alan Crossland with 81. Heat two went to Clive Buckler with a winning lap score of 81 from Darren Grace with 80 and Ade Eaglen on 79 laps at the finish of the race. Heat three was won by Dave Gwilliam with 87 from Carl Baker on 81 in second place. Heat four saw Matthew Bennett collect another win with 85 laps he was chased by Ian Johnson with 82 in second spot. Heat five produced another low scoring race with the winning score of 75 laps by Ian Bingham with 75. Heat six saw normal service with Phil Chadbourne take a win with 87 laps from Ben Harding (his second defeat on the trot!) with 85 and Roy Calver with 84. Heat seven was a real scrappy race as it featured a full eight cars, the eventual winner was Mark Cooper with 73 laps from Rich Harding with 70.

Round 4, Heat 1

This was an unusually low winning heat score by Karl Spencer with 78 laps from Ryan Cattell with 76. Heat two went to Clive Buckler with 78 from Ade Eaglen on 77 and Tom Forrest finishing on 75. Heat three saw the lap scores climbe back inti the 80

lap bracket as Ian Johnson recorded a win with 84 laps from Carl Baker and Dave Gwilliam both on 83 laps at the finish separated by split times. Heat four went to Ian Bingham with 82 from Mark Foster and Bryan Lee both finishing with 81 laps. Heat five went to the impressive Matthew Bennett with 87 from Roy Calver in second place with 80. Heat six went to Ben Harding on a split time after Rob Teuke had finished on 82 laps the same as Ben but in a slower split time, then we had both Phil Chadbourne and Anthony Wyper finish with 81 laps in that order. The final heat of the day was won by Mark Cooper with 81 laps from Rich Harding in second place with 79.

The Consolation Race.

We had some top names go out before this stage, which gave us some new faces to contest the places in the consolation and final, before the final we have the consolation race which is made up of the eight racers that have not automatically qualified into the final by finishing as one of the top seven qualifiers, this race is made up from the qualifiers from eighth position down to fifteenth, and as usual only the winner will go forward to the final. Here are the racers that will contest the consolation race along with their qualifying totals from their best three scores,

1. Carl Baker	248
2. Darren Grace	247
3. Clive Buckler	247
4. Anthony Wyper	245
5. Mark Foster	240
6. Roy Calver	239
7. Tom Forrest	237
8. Jason Reed	235

We were treated to a top class race by all of the competitors, but the winner of the race and through to the final was Roy Calver with 83 laps from Clive Buckler in second place with 82, finishing in third we had Mark Foster with 80 laps on a split time from both Anthony Wyper and Darren Grace in fourth and fifth place after all three racers had finished with 80 laps, sixth position went to Carl Baker with 78 followed by Jason Reed with 75 laps in seventh and Tom Forrest with 73 in eighth position at the finish.

The Final.

We had just four of the racers from last years final through into this-years final, and rather surprisingly the qualifying totals were slightly down on last year, the top qualifier from 2004 had a total of 274 and last qualifier straight into the final had 256, nether the less the quality of racing in my opinion had increase to an even higher standard, with that said the line up for today's final looked like this

1. Karl Spencer	267		
	254	2. Matthew Bennett	264
3. Ian Johnson	256	4. Dave Gwilliam	254
5. Phil Chadbourne	251		
7 Ion Dinchom	249	6. Ben Harding	250
7. Ian Bingham	248	8. Roy Calver (consol	ation winner)

I know I keep on saying this but you should see one of these top quality races for your self and then you would appreciate why I keep on saying why they are top quality, with the final being about skill and not just speed to achieve a national final win, at the end of the race we had a result decided once again by split time as both Dave Gwilliam and Karl Spencer had finished the race with 88 laps, the result went to Karl making it two Rugby National Finals on the trot, in third place just one lap behind Dave and Karl was Matthew Bennett with 87 laps followed by Ben Harding in fourth place a further lap down on 86 at the finish of the race, fifth place was filled by Ian Bingham with 81 laps from Roy Calver in sixth position with 80 laps, also on 80 laps at the finish of the race was Ian Johnson in seventh place followed by Phil Chadbourne with 79 laps in eighth place.

Technical chart of the finalist's

Name	F/Tyre Inside	F/Tyre Outside	R/Tyre Inside	R/Tyre Outside	Gear Ratio	Speed Board	Charger	Car Type	Chassi	Cells	Club	Grade	Qualif	Final Position
Karl Spencer	Jap	812	Pink	Pink	12/50	Mardave	Apex	Elite	Anderton	3000	Rugby	S/S	1	1
Ben Harding	Jap	812	Pink	Pink	12/50	Mardave Mk.1	Apex	Skint	Anderton	3300	Rugby	Silver	6	4
Ian Johnson	Pink	Orange	Pink	Pink	12/53	Mardave	Apex	Bandit Pro	Mardave	2000	Hathern	S/S	3	7
Matthew Bennett	Jap	Jap	Pink	Jap	12/50	Mardave 3 speed	Apex	Lecatt 2	Lecatt	3300	Rugby	Red	2	3
Dave Gwilliam	Jap	812	Pink	Pink	12/50	Mardave Mk.1	Apex	Skint	Anderton	1700	Rugby	Red	4	2
Phil Chadbourne	Pink	Orange	Pink	Pink	12/51	Mardave	LRP	Bandit Pro	Mardave	2000	Hathern	S/S	5	8
Ian Bingham	Mardave	STD Mard	Pink	Pink	12/50	Mardave Mk.1	Apex	Bingo	Bingo	1400	Rugby	Blue	7	5
Roy Calver	SE	PM	PM	RM	12/50	Mardave	Pro Trak	Diamond	Diamond	3300	WRCC	Red	8	6

All of the finalist's received a trophy along with the Concourse winner Bryan Lee, the top junior award went to Tom Forrest, grade awards were presented to, best White, Kayleigh Cooper, best Yellow, Aron Eaglen, best Blue, Rob Teuke, and there was also an extra award which went to the top Rugby racer not to qualify for the final or consolation, this went to Mark Cooper who had missed out on the consolation on the count-back rule.