Coaltown Stockcar Club



European Championship 2023

Saturday 17th June

The 2023 European Championship for the 1/12th Stockcars headed north of the border to sunny Scotland on Saturday the 17th of June as 30 drivers battled it out in pursuit of the red and yellow chequered roof. Current holder of the title Anthony Wyper is in red hot form at the moment, dominating the national series against some tough competition. A defence of any title is a challenge in itself as you immediately become more of a target with the precious wing that you hold, so this will be no easy ride for the man to beat… I say this every time, yet he still manages to win!!

The ever present Team Eccles are once again in town and will be looking at taking home some silverware to add to the mantlepiece. Rugby's Ryan Cattell and Alfie Jones are the standout

drivers from the ‘contact capital’ who will be aiming to bring home the title and both are in with an extremely good shout judging by their recent form around their local track.

Other names to mention include Urmston’s Adam Gilbertson who is making the trip to Scotland with his son Sonny who is a name to keep an eye on during the next few years. Leighton Holroyd is another from Rugby who will be looking at upsetting the odds and causing an upset against some strong opponents. Leighton on his day is just as good as anyone and here’s hoping he can be the underdog for the championship. In the juniors, Emily Jacklin will be looking at making it back to back finals after some brilliant results at her local venue Urmston in round 3 of the national series.
Last but not least, you can’t forget the Scots! Gary Riddell, ‘McNobby’ Kev Falconer, Gordon Mutch and Pete Riddell are just a handful of names who I can mention. Sadly with me not in attendance this time around, I’m really hoping ‘McNobby’ Kev Falconer go’s full ‘Nobby’ mode and mixes it up a little! With this being their local venue, I’d expect track knowledge will come into play early doors while the travelling drivers bide their time trying to figure out the best set up for the track.

On the Friday evening, a memorial meeting was held in memory of Ivan Black who sadly passed away whilst traveling to the 2012 European Championship over in Holland. This event was won by Urmston’s Anthony Wyper on 96 laps ahead of Scotland’s Gary Riddell on 91 and junior sensation Lennon Cuthill with 89.

A concourse was held prior to the European Championship qualifying heats took place. This was won by Scotland’s Lennon Cuthill. With practice done, all eyes were now fully focused on the qualifying heats. All to play for as we head for round 1.



Round 1



Heat 1 – Kev Falconer

Heat 2 – Ryan Cattell

Heat 3 – Anthony Wyper

Heat 4 – Graham Eccles

Heat 5 – James Eccles

Scotland's Kev Falconer kicked the weekend off in rapid style with a dominant win in his opening heat ahead on 104 laps ahead of Lennon Cuthill in 2nd on 98. Adam Kirkwood was 3rd on 95 ahead of Brian Cuthill also on 95. Urmston's Michael Clague was 5th on 92 with Graeme Beckett in 6th on 89.

Heat 2 was a fine performance from Rugby's Ryan Cattell who stormed to victory on 109 laps. He was 10 laps ahead of 2nd place Sam Jacklin and Billy Clague both on 99. 4th was Pete Riddell with 98 laps with Mark McCabe and Gordon Mutch a little down the order with 95 laps each.

Heat 3 was Anthony Wyper's turn to taste a heat win with 104 laps ahead of the high flying youngster Emily Jacklin in 2nd on 98. Cameron Riddell was 3rd on 91, with Iain Roper in 4th on 86. 5th place was Lucie Jones on 84 laps ahead of Kayla Mutch in 6th on 74.

Heat 4 was a tight battle for the lead with Graham Eccles coming out on top with 101 laps. Scotland's Gary Riddell and Alfie Jones were 2nd and 3rd, both with 99 laps. Adam Gilbertson came home in 4th with 97 laps with late addition Owen Bates in 5th on 86. Adam's son Sonny was 6th with 83.

Heat 5 was a battle of the Eccles brothers in this one! James Eccles managed to sneak the win on 100 laps, 2 ahead of his brother Brandon in 2nd. 3rd place was Leighton Holroyd on 92, with Andrew Jacklin in 4th on 83. 5th place went to Junior Dutch Open champion Chloe Mitchell on 80 laps, with Hayden Cattell in 6th on 58 laps.

Close scoring races at the moment as the drivers battle hard to try and gain those extra couple of laps on their opposition. Only the top 16 make it into the semi finals so even though there are only 30 drivers, it's sure going to be a tight squeeze to make the all important semis. Onto round 2.

Round 2



Heat 1 – Brandon Eccles

Heat 2 – Ryan Cattell

Heat 3 – Kev Falconer

Heat 4 – Gary Riddell

Heat 5 – James Eccles

Heat 1 of round 2 was Brandon Eccles first win of the weekend with a close encounter with none other than his very own dad! Both tied on 104 laps with not even a tenth separating the pair of them across the line. Pete Riddell was 3rd on 96, with Michael Clague 4th with 91. Iain Roper was 5th on 90 laps along with Lucie Jones just a lap behind in 6th.

Heat 2 was another win for Ryan Cattell. This time beating current holder of the European Championship Anthony Wyper by a lap. Ryan won on 108, with Anthony on 107 and Emily Jacklin in a respectable 3rd with 104 laps. Alfie Jones was 4th on 102. Brian Cuthill was 5th on 96 laps and Owen Bates bringing up the rear on 94. By far the fastest scoring round so far.

Heat 3 was also another win for Scotland's Kev Falconer on 98 laps. 2nd across the line was Sam Jacklin on 94 with Andy Jacklin earning a top 3 place with 84. Sonny Gilbertson was 4th with 82, Chloe Mitchell was 5th on 81 and Kayla Mutch was 6th with 77 laps.

Heat 4 was Gary Riddell's turn to earn a win on home soil with a good drive on 98 laps. Gordon Mutch came 2nd on 94, with Leighton Holroyd in 3rd on 92. Cameron Riddell and Adam Kirkwood came home 4th and 5th with 87 and 84 laps. Youngster Hayden Cattell was 6th with 67. A big improvement in comparison to his last race for the upcoming future star in the sport.

Final heat of round 2 was a win for James Eccles. He scored 104 laps ahead of Adam Gilbertson in 2nd on 101. 3rd place was Lennon Cuthill on 97 with Billy Clague and Graeme Beckett tied with 95 apiece. 6th was Mark McCabe on 88 laps.

No real surprises again in this round, with drivers slowly starting to get used to the tight and technical track with plenty of close battles all over. Onto round 3.

Round 3



Heat 1 – Anthony Wyper

Heat 2 – Ryan Cattell

Heat 3 – Adam Gilbertson

Heat 4 – Gary Riddell

Heat 5 – Brandon Eccles

Round 3 once again was a high scoring round with drivers really starting to stamp their authority on the European Championship. The stakes were high and there was a handful of drivers all he knew full well that only small issue or mistake could be ever so deadly with the racing being so close.

Heat 1 was a close call for the win for Anthony Wyper who just about managed to pip James Eccles to victory by 1 lap. Anthony won the heat with 106 laps. 3rd place was a great drive for Kev Falconer who was just a couple of laps behind the pairing on 103. 4th place went to Gordon Mutch on 98, with Michael Clague in 5th on 89. 6th place went to Sonny Gilbertson with 78 laps.

Heat number 2 was yet another tight battle between 2 of the top guns of the section at the moment with Ryan Cattell winning ahead of Graham Eccles, both on 103. Cameron Riddell was 3rd with 92, Adam Kirkwood in 4th on 91, 5th was Andrew Jacklin on 89 and 6th went to Kayla Mutch on 78.

Heat 3 was a win for Urmston's Adam Gilbertson on 100 laps, his first win of the weekend. Rugby's Leighton Holroyd was 2nd with 97 laps along with Graeme Beckett also on 97. Sam Jacklin was 4th with 92 laps and Iain Roper was 5th with 89. Owen Bates was a DNF in this race with a mechanical issue which meant he only managed 22 laps.

Heat 4 Gary Riddell brought home his 2nd win of the day with 101 laps. He dominated this heat with Brian Cuthill being his closest competition a further 8 laps back in 2nd. 3rd place was Billy Clague on 92 ahead of Lucie Jones in 4th on 88. Hayden Cattell was 5th with 48 laps, but retired late on into the race with a mechanical issue. Chloe Mitchell also had mechanical issues in this one and only managed 40 laps in 6th.

Final race of the 3rd round was a dominant victory for world champion Brandon Eccles who won on 106 laps. Girl racer Emily Jacklin was a close 2nd on 104, with Alfie Jones coming home in 3rd on 103. 4th place was Lennon Cuthill on 99, with Mark McCabe in 5th on 96. 6th place was Pete Riddell on 85. A disappointing result for the Scotsman who's had 2 good heats so far.

Round 4



Heat 1 – Michael Clague

Heat 2 – Ryan Cattell

Heat 3 – Leighton Holroyd

Heat 4 – Brandon Eccles

Heat 5 – Anthony Wyper

The final round of the qualifying heats was the drivers last chance to make the top 16 in order to qualify for 1 of the 2 semi finals. It was all to play for and the tension cranked up a gear with drivers really pushing hard to get the most out of their time on track! A couple of scrappy races made it difficult for a handful of drivers with some just missing out after a tough day of racing!!

Heat 1 was in fact the lowest scoring win of the day with Michael Clague managing to sneak the win in what was a chaotic race with cars crashing out everywhere. He won the race on 85 laps from Owen Bates in 2nd on 81. Iain Roper came home in 3rd, also on 81. 4th place went to Mark McCabe on 74, Kayla Mutch in 5th on 71 and Hayden Cattell in 6th on 62 laps.

Heat 2 was his 4th win out of 4 races for Rugby sensation Ryan Cattell with 105 laps who was closely followed home by Scotland's Kev Falconer on 103. Adam Gilbertson was 3rd with 96 laps, 4th went to Chloe Mitchell on 91, Adam Kirkwood in 5th on 89 and Lucie Jones in 6th on 86.

Heat 3 dominated by Leighton Holroyd on 96, with Cameron Riddell a further 6 laps back in 2nd. Brian Cuthill, Lennon Cuthill and Pete Riddell were all within a few seconds of each other after an entertaining battle between the 3 of them which seen Brian grab 3rd on 89, Lennon on 89 and Pete on 87. Sonny Gilbertson finished in 6th on 80.

Heat 4 was another example of just how good our world champion Brandon Eccles is. He remained consistent in a fast paced heat which led him home in 1st on 103. Alfie Jones continued his promising form with a 2nd place with 99. 3rd place was Gordon Mutch on 94 along with Billy Clague on the same number of laps. Graeme Beckett was 5th with 93 ahead of Andy Jacklin a further lap down.

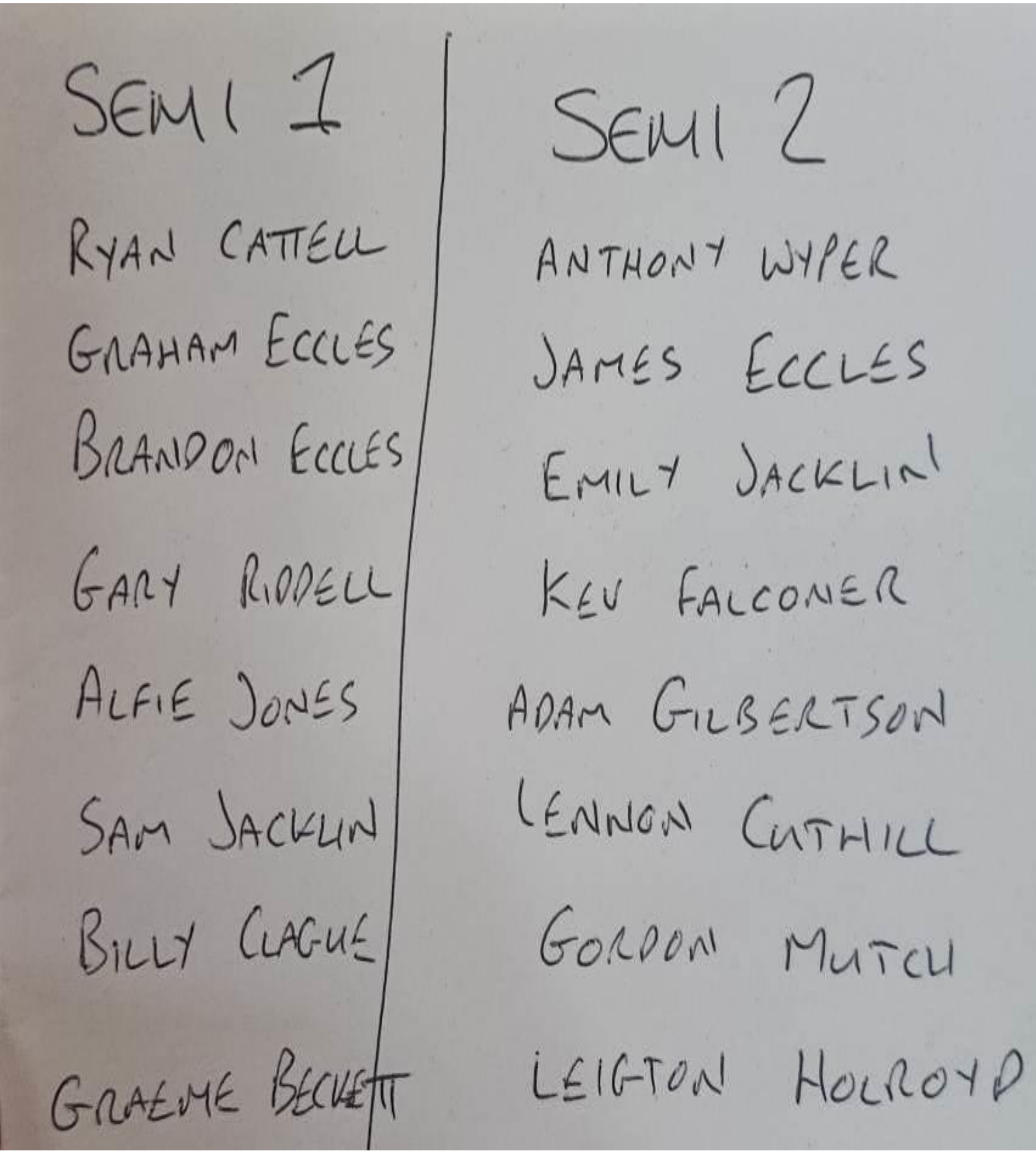
Final heat of the day was by far the most competitive race we've seen so far with Anthony Wyper winning on 109. James Eccles was 2nd with 107, Emily Jacklin was 3rd with 106, Graham Eccles was 4th with 105, Gary Riddell was 5th with 104 and Sam Jacklin even though finished last earnt a

very respectable 99 laps to help his cause for a top 16 place on the grid. All drivers in this race are certainly drivers you've got to be keeping an eye on judging by their performances so far in qualifying!



Current standings after qualifying heats.

(Top 16 qualified for the semi finals)



Semi final 1



Top 4 to progress
Inside row 1 – Ryan Cattell
Outside row 1 – Graham Eccles
Inside row 2 – Brandon Eccles
Outside row 2 – Gary Riddell
Inside row 3 – Alfie Jones
Outside row 3 – Sam Jacklin
Inside row 4 – Billy Clague
Outside row 4 – Graeme Beckett

Result
1st – Brandon Eccles 105
2nd – Ryan Cattell 104
3rd – Graham Eccles 103
4th – Alfie Jones 100
5th – Gary Riddell 99
6th – Graeme Beckett 93
7th – Sam Jacklin 89
8th – Billy Clague 82

Time for the serious stuff! Semi final number 1 is upon us and the nerves have certainly kicked in a level now as the drivers line up on the grid for the opening semi final race. Only the top 4 progress automatically into the European Championship so no one will be hoping they end up in the dreaded consolation race. Ryan Cattell has been in fine form so far, but he will know just as much as anyone that anything can happen come the semi finals.

World champion Brandon Eccles once again proves exactly why he is the best in the business as he manages to sneak through to win the opening semi final against some extremely tough competition. He won the race with 105 laps. Just the 1 lap behind Brandon was Rugby's Ryan Cattell who will be a little disappointed not to win the semi final, however it shouldn't make too much difference in truth as long as he's on that grid I'm sure he'd be happy with that result. Brandon's father Graham follows him through into the European final with 103 laps to put him on the 3rd row of the grid.

Our final qualifier is youngster Alfie Jones who even though he may not have the fastest car on the field he certainly knows how to keep his nose clean, and this proved the case as he managed to pip Scotland's Gary Riddell into the top 4 by a single lap. Gary will be very disappointed not to make the final, but he knows he has a big chance of progressing through the consolation event.

Graeme Beckett, Sam Jacklin and Billy Clague will join Gary in the consolation event where the winner will join the back of the European grid. Still all to play for as we head for semi final 2..


contact
Graham ECCLES
Schumacher
CATTELL
SKINT

Semi final 2



Top 4 to progress
Inside row 1 – Anthony Wyper
Outside row 1 – James Eccles
Inside row 2 – Emily Jacklin
Outside row 2 – Kev Falconer
Inside row 3 – Adam Gilbertson
Outside row 3 – Lennon Cuthill
Inside row 4 – Gordon Mutch
Outside row 4 – Leighton Holroyd

Result
1st – Anthony Wyper 101
2nd – James Eccles 101
3rd – Leighton Holroyd 97
4th – Emily Jacklin 95
5th – Kev Falconer 94
6th – Adam Gilbertson 92
7th – Lennon Cuthill 92
8th – Gordon Mutch 91

Semi final 2 was a bit more of a lottery in comparison to semi final 1 as we had a number of drivers all looking at making the main event who you don't always see in the final line up, even though they are more than capable of doing so! It's tough at the top!

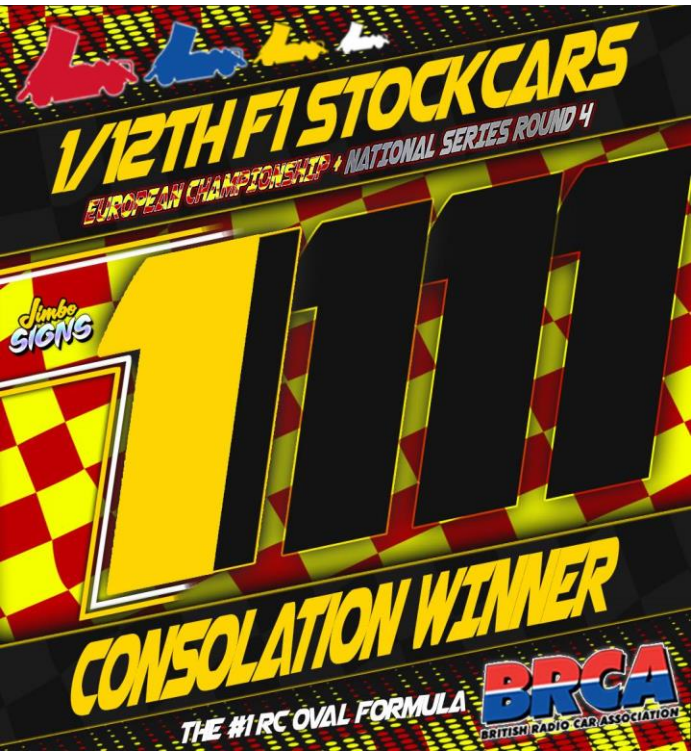
Current European champion Anthony Wyper didn't quite find this completely plain sailing as he was chased all the way by James Eccles who narrowly missed out on the win on split. Leighton Holroyd put in a great performance from the back of the grid to make the cut for the final with a superb 3rd place ahead of girl racer Emily Jacklin who joins Leighton in the big one.

Heartbreak for Scotland's Kev Falconer who once again finds himself missing out by the smallest of margins therefore meaning he ends up in the consolation event which is becoming a common thing lately!! He's put in some great results all day and I'm sure he's still feeling confident he can come out on top in the consolation as long as he doesn't need to go into 'McNobby' mode!

Adam Gilbertson, Lennon Cuthill and Gordon Mutch all miss out and will be joining Kev in the consolation race which follows the Junior European race first.


MBR
MCNOBBY
Talent Not Tempered With
BLACKBOOT
OVAL RACING CLUB
LRP
GAMBLE
Jumbo ECCLES
WASTED
Racing
2

Consolation



Winner joins back of grid
Inside row 1 – Gary Riddell
Outside row 1 – Kev Falconer
Inside row 2 – Graeme Beckett
Outside row 2 – Adam Gilbertson
Inside row 3 – Lennon Cuthill
Outside row 3 – Gordon Mutch
Inside row 4 – Sam Jacklin
Outside row 4 – Billy Clague

Result
1st – Kev Falconer 97
2nd – Gary Riddell 95
3rd – Adam Gilbertson 93
4th – Lennon Cuthill 90
5th – Gordon Mutch 88
6th – Billy Clague 87
7th – Graeme Beckett 82
8th – Sam Jacklin 74

Pole sitter Gary Riddell made the perfect start as he made an early break ahead of Graeme Beckett and Kev Falconer who decided to opt to the outside line in the opening lap to escape the first bend lunges. Kev made a move going into the next bend and managed to sneak under Graeme and into 2nd. Graeme immediately went for a hard hit on Kev but failed to make an impact as he ended up putting himself over the fence!!

Gary's early getaway was short lived as he tangled with a few drivers half way down the straight which allowed Kev to take over the lead spot. This once again was short lived as he ended up coming under the same issues that Gary did. For a good half a minute to a minute, the pair of them were swapping places every couple of laps especially when there was a track blockage in their way! Normally I'd be saying 'as the race began to settle down' but judging by the video posted online it looked to me like there was bumpers flying in and on track blockages happening every couple of laps. It was going to be a case of who's going to get a little bit of luck and just about have enough in the tank to get over the line in first. Adam Gilbertson, Billy Clague, Gordon Mutch and Lennon Cuthill all were within a shout of the two flying Scotsman's, but sadly not enough to make the main event.

Kev's hatred of consolation races appears to be fast behind him as he makes yet another final through the consolation event this year. Could he be a real underdog and upset the odds?



Junior European Championship 2023



Inside row 1 – Emily Jacklin
Outside row 1 – Lennon Cuthill
Inside row 2 – Lucie Jones
Outside row 2 – Chloe Mitchell
Inside row 3 – Sonny Gilbertson
Outside row 3 – Kayla Mutch
Inside row 4 – Hayden Cattell

Result
1st – Emily Jacklin 90
2nd – Lennon Cuthill 86
3rd – Sonny Gilbertson 76
4th – Lucie Jones 72
5th – Kayla Mutch 66
6th – Chloe Mitchell 56
7th – Hayden Cattell 54

Time for the juniors! 2023 European Championship and with no Noah Bailey in attendance a new champion will be taking home the title in a matter of a few minutes. Going into the race, Emily Jacklin is the standout junior you'd expect to be taking home the win, but in stockcar racing you just never know what may happen! Lennon Cuthill has found it tough at top this weekend but as we all know Lennon has that deadly killer instinct about him and when he gets in his grove, he can certainly be someone you've got to watch out for.

Current Junior Dutch Open champion Chloe Mitchell will also be someone you'd expect to be battling at the top of the grid along with the 2 outright favourites Emily and Lennon. Can Chloe add a European title to her CV? Son of Adam Gilbertson Sonny is a fresh face to the formula and already he's proved that he's capable of being up their competing for the win. He's certainly not afraid of using the bumper either (as proven on his very own dad at his local Urmston recently!).

We also have Rugby's superstar Alfie Jones sister Lucie who's experiencing racing in Scotland for the first time I believe. If she can follow in the footsteps of her older brother, you just never know what she can achieve! Kayla Mutch and Hayden Cattell are both fairly new to the sport too, so I'm sure they'll want to be getting stuck in and show no fear against their opposition.

The race as expected was a messy start with drivers trying to fight their way through the traffic and have an early advantage on the rest of the field. Scotland's Lennon Cuthill plan of attack was quite clear to see within the first few seconds as he immediately went flying in with the bumper on pre-race favourite Emily Jacklin. Unfortunately a pile up half way down the straight allowed Emily to get a jump on Lennon as they began their pursuit of a European title.

Chloe Mitchell started off brightly but after a tangle with a couple of drivers it was clear she was suffering with some sort of mechanical issue and ended up pulling off half way through the race before later rejoining. Her dreams of a European championship currently on hold this time around. Sonny Gilbertson was driving well and appeared to be keeping pace with the early pace setters as we reached the half way mark,

Considering we had a 7 car race full of juniors, you'd expect carnage! But in truth it wasn't as messy as what first thought. Hayden Cattell was going around well even though he did end up over the fence a couple of times, but I'm sure with plenty of track time and years behind him Hayden will be someone you need to keep an eye on once he reaches the age of the likes of Emily and Lennon.

As the race began to settle down it was quite clear it become a 2 horse race between the pre-race favourites Emily and Lennon. Lennon was still trying his hardest to make an impact and attempted to try and get Emily out of her rhythm. Sadly for Lennon, Emily was just 1 step ahead and came home with the win by 4 laps as the buzzer went off to mark the end of the race.

Sonny Gilbertson was a few laps adrift of the top 2, but nevertheless he came home on the podium in 3rd with a great drive for the newcomer. Lucie Jones was close behind in 4th, with Kayla Mutch in 5th ahead of early absentee Chloe Mitchell in 6th. Hayden Cattell finished in 7th.

Well done to all our juniors who have competed in the European championship this weekend and a big congratulations to Emily Jacklin who is our new Junior European Champion for 2023.



AVOX
RUGBY RACEWAY
CORE-RC
MONSTER JAM
HELMET
AUS
21

European Championship 2023



Inside row 1 – Brandon Eccles
Outside row 1 – Ryan Cattell
Inside row 2 – Graham Eccles
Outside row 2 – Anthony Wyper
Inside row 3 – James Eccles
Outside row 3 – Alfie Jones
Inside row 4 – Leighton Holroyd
Outside row 4 – Emily Jacklin
Inside row 5 – Kev Falconer

Result
1st – Brandon Eccles 102 laps
2nd – James Eccles 100 laps
3rd – Ryan Cattell 99 laps
4th – Graham Eccles 98 laps
5th – Anthony Wyper 97 laps
6th – Kev Falconer 95 laps
7th – Alfie Jones 94 laps
8th – Emily Jacklin 93 laps
9th – Leighton Holroyd 92 laps

Final time and it was all to play for as the drivers lined up on the grid poised for the start! Anthony Wyper being the current holder must be a target with everyone looking at taking a precious title over the man in form so far this year. Brandon, James and Graham Eccles have all been on the pace all day and will be looking towards a family 1-2-3 if at all possible.

Ryan Cattell has been in splendid form as always; he'll be hoping his luck is in his favour in this one after just missing out on the top spot in the recent national events he's attended. You can't rule out the underdogs either! Anyone that can make a final at national level recently is certainly someone you wouldn't want to see in your race! Could we see an underdog stamp their authority on the European title?

As expected, a few bumpers going in every now and then with drivers trying to capitalize on their opponents troubles. With a 9 car final around a tight and technical track, it was always going to become a little messy. It was more of a case of escaping the tangles and hoping for the best!

Brandon Eccles proved exactly why he's World, British and National Points champion right now as he was able to keep his cool and bring home the European title to become what I believe is the first driver to hold all 4 major titles in the UK. A massive achievement which only I could ever dream of!! A huge congratulations to Brandon and the Eccles family who not only won the race, managed a 2nd place and a 4th place finish in the shape of brother James and father Graham!

Ryan Cattell managed to split the Eccles family (just about), managing to beat Graham onto the rostrum by just 1 lap. Outgoing European Champion Anthony Wyper found the race a step too far even for him and could only manage 5th place. Commiserations to Anthony who I'm sure will hold the European championship again in years to come.

'McNobby' Kev Falconer managed a 6th place finish after winning the consolation so I'm sure he'll be happy with his day's racing .. Even if he did have to battle through the dreaded consolation which Kev has really found frustrating in recent times. Youngsters Alfie Jones and the new Junior European champion Emily Jacklin finished 7th and 8th respectfully. Leighton Holroyd even though he finished last in the main event he should be more than proud to even make the final judging by the high standards which the section holds at the moment. I'm sure just like Anthony, he'll be battling for European titles in years to come.



So that's it for day 2 of the Scottish weekender!! We return with the Scottish Open championship and National Series round 5 in 24 hours time.

Concourse winner – Lennon Cuthill

Best white grade – Andy Jacklin

Best yellow grade – Billy Clague

Best blue grade – Sam Jacklin

A big thankyou to Kev Falconer in particular who has sent me across the race results throughout the day. Without his input, I'd never been able to do this report so a massive thanks to him. Also to Graeme Beckett and the team who have ran the event.

Meeting report by Stuart Clarke.