

THE OLD BOYS KNOCKHILL 25th MAY 2003.

The last time I wrote an article for "the talk" it was about Knockhill, so I becoming something of an expert.

It's a long old way, but as those who went found out, it was well worth the trip. A great circuit, good facilities, beautiful views and door handle to door handle racing.

I had me intelligent head on this time, stayed at the circuit avoided the town and saved meself a fortune.....kept Susie out of the shops.

High-points of the weekend had to include the Kart race the night before. 10 would-be Jenson Buttons in somewhat defunked Karts causing havoc from the moment we took to the circuit. Matt "Move 'Em Over" Roach reverting to last seasons carefully honed skills of removing as much paint as possible from the rear end of the opposition. The grotty old git running the event waved his black flag with that much vigour I'm surprised he didn't take off ! We all spent so much time in the sin-bin protesting our innocence that Frank (the water boy) Spencer won the race by default, with a 8 mile an hour burst of speed that saw him hoon over the finish line, hands aloft, in a blaze of glory.

Danny was first past the chequered flag in the B final, managing to stay in front of a tidy, ever consistent Rod Stanniland and a jet lagged Nigel Blanks, having flown into Edinburgh fresh from holiday at two that morning. Bringing up the rear, but right on the pace, was the fast improving Ed Collett . Dan now had himself firmly planted on the back of the A, somewhat fortunate really after battling with overheating problems all day and dropping out of one heat altogether thanks to a fuel pump that broke free and went for a swing around the boot, pumping fuel only on the odd occasion.

I was on pole, after three heat wins, with Gary in-between me and Mr Binks. We were all joined at the hip when the red light went out and it was neck and neck into the first corner where we were all supposed to do a sharp right onto the loose. Yorky popped out of the sandwich and I slotted in behind him. John had tried to do a blast around the outside but couldn't get enough space to make it stick and tried to drop into the third slot, however by this time Roachy had already filled it from the second row and Dan with an orgasmic spert (picture that one!) from the back row was breathing down his neck.

Yorky took the honours, with me in second, Matt emerged from the dust after a bit of argy bargy for third, JB next over the white line with Dan attached to his boot lid.

I would probably have won but I was a bit preoccupied taking down notes for me race report. Anyway I'm pleased Yorky won 'cos I'm his main sponsor, in fact when I take back the bits he's blagged off me at the end the season he'll only have two wings, a bonnet and a front subframe left to sell.

Who saw him unload the car the night before ? Steve left him alone for five minutes and he nearly wrecked it ! He opened the back doors of the rocket ship (Sprinter), put the ramps in place, went off to sign autographs and the car unloaded itself. It goes as fast backwards as it does forwards ! it was caught in the slips moments before it could have demolished the Walmsley stand in towing machine.

I nominate YARDY to write the next article : "Sleepless nights in Northampton" DO IT !

Ralph Budd



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jolawson74@hotmail.com.

And they're off.....!!

So, it's another season and... it would appear Minicross is starting it's 26th year in rude health.

We've had the first 2 rounds of the Allrounders Championship with Minicross returnee Trevor Stretch and Charlie Whaley, complete with new car, taking the wins, with yours truly using his "Joker" whilst finishing second at Lydden behind Trevor to lead the championship. The Rallycross Championship has seen three different winners in the first three events, including two "new" winners in John Binks and Ralph Budd – both proving that age is no limit to success in Minicross!!!

So, the early season gives us no clues to the outcome of the titles this year with both main championships wide open. There's the usual early season grumbings of course – race organisers, who's got what in their new engines, who's wheels are too wide, who is driving well, who is being a bit "robust" – but then it wouldn't be racing if there weren't differences of opinions !!

2003 has, of course, seen the introduction of Junior Minicross. Ed Morris was the first winner at Croft, with Grant Rees returning the compliment in Ireland. This new category looks set to provide close racing like the seniors.

So, 2003 has seen winners aged 14 – 50 + (be honest !!), new winners, new cars, new paint jobs and the same close racing that has made Minicross so successful as we set off on our 26th season.

This success is only possible by as many club members as possible offering their help and support in organising events, taking part in committee meetings, helping each other at events, and generally being a friendly open and honest bunch. Just look up and down the pit lane at other events and see if other formulae are as friendly and helpful. The ones that are, are probably those who have been around as long as Minicross.

Enjoy the season!!

Jeremy.

HAVE YOUR SAY

Committee meetings are held, usually, on the first Monday of each month, alternately at Ruislip Golf Club, Ruislip, Middlesex and The Half-Way House, Basildon, Essex.

If you can make it and would like to have your say then come along. If not, Matt Roach and Ralph Budd have taken on the joint role of driver representative.

So if it's too far to go or you just can't make it and you have a point to make or a question to put to the committee then grab hold of Matt or Ralph on race-day. Failing that give either of them a ring or write it down and fax it.

Regardless of their own opinion they will put your point forward for you and see to it that you get a direct answer or a copy of the meeting minutes.

Contact Nos : Matt : 07775 603326 Ralph : 07850 208814 FAX : 01844 238949

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