

MDA/BTRDA Clubman's Rallycross Championship

Lydden Hill 24th March 2012

It was a foggy start for the first round of the 2012 MDA/BTRDA Clubmans Rallycross Championship held at Lydden Hill race circuit. Fortunately the fog lifted in time for heat 1, so the spectators had an excellent view of all the action.

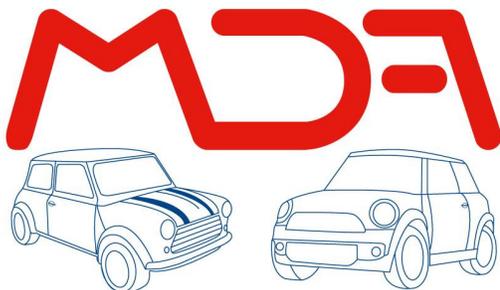
As usual, we had 3 heats, followed by the final race. A Joker Lap – an extra section of track which only has to be completed once during each race/heat – has been added to this year's rounds by the British Championship.

Only 4 cars in this class for this meeting, - Mini-cross veteran, Richard Wakeling, 2006 Champion John Thacker, last year's champion Tommi Edwardes and the relative new-comer, Todd Crooks for whom last year was his first season in senior mini-cross.



Heat 1 saw John Thacker starting from pole with Tommi Edwardes on the outside just managing to squeeze ahead as they went into the first loose section and Todd Crooks starting from the 2nd row opting for the Joker lap straight away.

John Thacker made his Joker lap on lap 2, but still managed to get back out in front of Todd Crooks. Tommi Edwardes and Richard Wakeling both took their Joker laps on lap 3, leaving John Thacker in the lead and both managing to get back in front of Todd Crooks on the final lap.



MINICROSS DRIVERS ASSOCIATION LTD

Result of Heat 1

1st John Thacker, 2nd Tommi Edwardes,
3rd Richard Wakeling, 4th Todd Crooks

Heat 2

In Heat 2, Todd Crooks started on pole, but missed a gear and was last off the line, John Thacker and Todd both took the Joker lap straight away, leaving Richard Wakeling (who started on the 2nd row) and Tommi Edwardes side by side through Chepsons' long loose section with Richard coming out in front. This battle continued through the next 2 laps with Tommi taking to the grass between the Devil's Elbow and North Bend on Lap3, but regaining control to finish 2nd behind Richard Wakeling

Heat 2 Result - 1st Richard Wakeling, 2nd Tommi Edwardes, 3rd John Thacker, 4th Todd Crooks



Heat 3

The loose sections of track were watered just before Heat 3 to keep down the dust. All four drivers got a good start – Richard Wakeling just in front of John Thacker and Tommi Edwardes. Some very close racing with John Thacker seeming to almost be pushing Richard Wakeling's car up the hill. Todd Crooks took the Joker lap and span off at the Devil's Elbow, pushing hard to regain the ground lost on the Joker lap. Richard Wakeling took his Joker lap on lap 2, but came out behind John Thacker – John managed to make up enough of a lead to take his Joker lap on Lap 3 and still come out in the lead. The 3 front runners all so close on the last lap with Tommi Edwardes on the grass again after the Devil's Elbow corner.

Heat 3 Result - 1st John Thacker, 2nd Richard Wakeling, 3rd Tommi Edwardes, 4th Todd Crooks

The Final

Light was starting to fade as the minis lined up on the grid for the final race. Starting positions were - Pole, John Thacker, 2nd Richard Wakeling, 3rd Tommi Edwardes and 4th Todd Crooks.

Lap 1—Tommi Edwardes took the Joker lap with him starting on the outside of the track, John Thacker challenging Richard Wakeling right the way through the first lap. Tommi Edwardes catching Todd Crooks and managing to get past him going into North Bend on Lap 2. This was the closest race of the day for the minis with the lead changing between Richard Wakeling, Tommi Edwards and John Thacker several times. When Richard completed his Joker lap on lap 4 he came out behind Tommi Edwardes and fought hard with John Thacker over 2nd position right the way to the finish line.



Race Result for the Minicross class

1st Tommi Edwardes, 2nd John Thacker, 3rd Richard Wakeling, 4th Todd Crooks

So, that was the first race for 2012 and it looks as though there will be some serious competition for this year's championship.

