MDA/BTRDA Clubman's Rallycross Championship
Mallory Park 22nd July 2012

After the wettest start possible to summer, a hot and sunny day beckoned for round 5 of the 2012 MDA/BTRDA Clubmans Rallycross Championship held at Mallory Park race circuit.

With the biggest field of the year so far, 6 cars were entered for the event.
Current Championship contenders Richard Wakeling, Mark O'Flanagan, Tommi Edwardes and Todd Crooks were joined by Mark Griffin and newcomer Mark Day, better known for his skills fixing cars at Rallycross meetings and racing in Autograss.
So, 6 cars and 3 Marks driving - a challenge for the commentator!

Heat 1
We had Todd Crooks starting from pole, but Richard Wakeling and Tommi Edwardes got great starts and going into Gerard's it was Richard in the lead, with Tommi 2nd, Todd 3rd, Mark Griffin 4th, followed by Mark O'Flanagan and Mark Day. Tommi lost 3 places through lap 1 with Richard gaining time at the front and Todd and Mark Griffin battling it out for 2nd place. A few changes at the rear of the field too over the next 2 laps, with Tommi and Mark Day passing Mark O'Flanagan. Richard Wakeling finishing several seconds in front of the field.

Result of Heat 1

1st Richard Wakeling, 2nd Todd Crooks,

3rd Mark Griffin, 4th Tommi Edwardes

5th Mark Day, 6th Mark O'Flanagan

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Heat 2

Tommi Edwardes started on pole, with Mark Griffin and Mark Day joining him on the front row, Mark O'Flanagan and Richard Wakeling on row 2 and Todd Crooks bringing up the rear. Another good start from Richard put him up to 3rd off the line, Tommi and Mark Griffin maintaining 1st and 2nd places. Todd Crooks managed to overtake Mark O'Flanagan on the back straight. Excitement at the end of lap 1 when Mark Day spun and hit the barrier on the loose section over the start/finish line, forcing him to retire. Some very close racing followed, but despite tremendous effort from all drivers, there were no further changes of position.

Heat 2 Result

1st Tommi Edwardes, 2nd Richard Wakeling, 3rd Mark Griffin,
4th Todd Crooks, 5th Mark O'Flanagan

Heat 3 Mark O'Flanagan took pole position alongside Tommi Edwardes and Mark Griffin, with Mark Day and Todd Crooks on 2nd row and Richard starting from the rear. A poor start saw Todd Crooks fall to the rear of the field initially, and a good start from Richard Wakeling put him in front of Mark Day. Mark O'Flanagan went out in lap 1 and Todd Crooks suffered an engine problem and retired. Tommi Edwardes battled with Mark Griffin, finally passing him on the loose section to take the lead into lap 3 and keep the position to the finish line.

Heat 3 Result

1st Tommi Edwardes, 2nd Mark Griffin,

3rd Richard Wakeling, 4th Mark Day

The Final

A few delays during the day caused some concern as to whether there would be time for all of the final races to take place, but thankfully the drivers were called for the mini-cross final about 40 minutes before the end of the day.

The line-up for the final was Tommi Edwardes on pole, with Richard Wakeling and Mark Griffin on the front row, Todd Crooks and Mark Day on row 2 and Mark O'Flanagan on row 3.
Richard Wakeling got a good start, moving in front of Tommi, with Mark Griffin and Todd Crooks again battling over 3rd place and Mark O'Flanagan getting past Mark Day. As they exited Gerard's on lap 2, Mark and Todd were still neck and neck going down the back straight, but a mistake by Todd Crooks saw him spin going into the chicane, hitting the tyre wall. This left Mark Griffin free to concentrate on catching Tommi Edwardes and, on the final lap they too were battling down the back straight. This very close racing was great for the spectators and final standings were Richard Wakeling, Tommi Edwardes, Mark Griffin, Mark Day and Mark O'Flanagan.

Race Result for the Minicross class

1st Richard Wakeling,

2nd Tommi Edwardes,

3rd Mark Griffin,

4th Mark Day,

5th Mark O'Flanagan

The next (and final) round is at Pembrey on 7th October with everything at stake with double points on offer!

A Track Day is being held prior to that final meeting on 9th September at Blyton.

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