Minicross Torque

The M.D.A. Newsletter

Edited by Jeremy Evans

September 2003

Hoods Galore Minicross Allrounders Championship. Round 7 – Goodwood (Sprint).

It was of to sunny Sussex for the penultimate round of the 2003 Allrounders Championship. Would this be the day that season long championship leader Jeremy Evans finally relinquished the lead to Trevor Stretch ?

First practice saw Richard Wakeling stun everyone with a 110 second lap – 4 seconds up on last years' winning time and a full 8 seconds clear of the rest of the field, headed by Neil Wade and with Trevor, Jeremy and the ever consistent Paul Fidler all in close contention. Next up were Scott Lawson, Shelley Wakeling, Kevin Woods, Mark Griffin and Dan Smith.

The first timed runs saw Richard put in a 111 second lap showing that practice hadn't been a fluke. Next up was Jeremy Evans, some 4 seconds adrift, closely followed by Paul Fidler. Trevor put a wheel on the dirt and could mange only a 117 second lap.

The final timed runs saw another 111 second lap from Richard. This meant the rest had to pull something special out of the bag to challenge for honours. In a "never say die" attempt, Jeremy Evans threw his black and yellow mini around the track, barely lifting at all, flat out at over 100mph.....until.....he fell off !! An excursion over the grass at the back of the circuit saw him lose valuable seconds – but still cross the line in 116 seconds (a time that would have been good enough for 6th place overall !!) . It was down to Trevor and Paul to try to get close to Richards' time. Both put in massive efforts, only to break into the 114s, still 3 seconds adrift of Richard.

So Richard took the win, Trevor 2nd, Paul 3rd and Jeremy 4th. Playing their Jokers, Trevor and Paul moved into 1st and 2nd in the championship, pushing Jeremy down to third.

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Hoods Galore Allrounders Championship. Round 5 – Gurston Down (Hillclimb).

As Minicross returned to the 'HILL' for the third year, each year the entry has grown, from six in 2001, to thirteen in 2003 and each year a new lap record has been set. This year was to be no different.

We were soon down to twelve, as Trevor Stretch's car dropped a value in practice, putting him out without completing a full run. In practice David Hobbs and Scott Lawson continued their battle from the previous weekend, as they went fastest both breaking into the 43 second barrier.

Richard Wakeling woke up for the first timed runs and went fastest from David, whilst on the second runs, the leaders all hit problems. Richard and David both leaving the track and Scott picking up a puncture. Charlie Whaley having aborted his first attempt, then broke last year's lap record and went fastest to take the win from Richard. The lap record now stands at 42.51 seconds, a 1/4 second faster than last year. Ed Collett also leaped over David and Scott to pinch an excellent third.

Paul Fidler and John Thacker were the only other drivers to break into the 43 seconds barrier, as Championship leader Jeremy Evans, endured a disappointing day and ended up 9th out of the remaining 12 runners. One other driver worthy of a mention is Mark Griffin, who came all the way from York. Now that's showing the 'Spirit of Minicross'. Well done!!

Scott Lawson

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CHAMPION !! Rees takes inaugural Junior Minicross Title.

Congratulations go to the first Minicross Champion of 2003 – 2003 Junior Minicross Champion Grant Rees.

Following Ed Morris' opening win in the series, it has been Grant Rees who has headed the field ever since. Once closest challenger Morris was excluded from the meeting, Rees could not be caught and becomes the youngest ever Minicross champion.

WELL DONE TO GRANT, HIS FAMILY AND SUPPORTERS FOR A JOB WELL DONE!!

No reporters = No reports !!

You may have noticed the long time gap between the last issue of MXT and this.

You may also have noticed the lack of Rallycross or Junior race reports in this issue.

There's a very good reason for both of these....

The Allrounders drivers have organised themselves to write and submit race reports – they get published.

The Rallycross and Junior drivers and supporters haven't – they don't get published !!

200 words is all it takes to have a race report appear – all you really need is who won what, came second and third, and who had an incident with whom. Simple really !!

Hoods Galore Allrounders Championship. Rounds 3 & 4 – Abingdon (Sprint).

The weather forecast did not look good for the Sprint at the Dalton Barracks Airfield. I got up and there was rain in the air. The mini was soaked through from the previous nights rain.

We arrived at the airfield to be greeted by the Lawson's, having come on my own. I parked up next to the Wakelings motor home to find out later we were parked in the wrong area. Cloud was still looming over the air field. We all got through scruterneering and received our drivers brief. The event was over two circuits the Bentley, which we were to start with, and the Abingdon.

We had our convoy drive of the circuit to get a feel for the circuit, which comprised of a long straight into a hard right then up to a hairpin and back down to a right hander. Then a quick sprint to the finish via a short chicane.

We all congregated on the start line behind stratos. Shelley was first up for the practice but there seemed to be a problem while on the grid. It turned out the officials did not like her Red Devil helmet cover and asked her to remove it. They never saw the funny side to it.

We all had our first practice run which seem to go ok apart from the timing system which did not working allowing us not to get an idea of time. My car was running at over 120° to which I found out was due to the lack of water in my radiators which was sorted for the next practice run. All runs went ok without major incidents if you call clipping cones minor. (Mr Wakeling)

It came to the first of the timed runs where Richard Wakeling set a fast time of 65.02 with Trevor a fraction behind in at 65.43. There was not much spitting the top 4 drivers. The second time heat did not see as many people go faster and get better times only half the pack got faster times. But there was no change to the positions Richard and Trevor had. Richard shaved 0.38 sec off his first time lap but Trevor went slowing still allowing him to take second in the morning event. The top 5 drivers were only 1 second off the pace with myself coming in seventh.

Mark Griffin

Junior Minicross - Lydden Hill August.

What a weekend for my son Tommi Walmsley, a spinner in the 3 lap practice left Tommi, already sideways and committed to the corner, with no where to go. The resulting collision left both boys unhurt (thankfully), but Tommi's Mini sustained a lot of damage.

1 A broken steering arm.
2 A bent sub Frame
3 The Mini was now 3ins shorter down the driver's side in comparison with the passenger side.

(continued)

Tommi was determined to race but struggled with handling problems. Then in the third heat coming down Hairy Hill his steering stuck to the right, and he ended up on the grass, the resulting jolt freed the steering, he tried to rejoin the race but the steering stuck again.

Tommi qualified for the B final and was desperate for Dad to get the steering fixed. We thought the steering problem was solved but unfortunately half a lap into the B final the steering stuck again and he went off for good.

All day it was Tommi's decision to keep going although he knew the car was badly damaged.

However Tommi said he had a good chat with the Tow truck driver and was in a good position to watch the Supercar and Modified drivers racing (I taught him to look on the bright side of life) a valuable quality when you get to know his parents!

It was a frustrating time apart from the fact that it seemed like the whole of the paddock wanted to help to fix the car, we are so grateful to all who helped us, whether it was advice or physical help or the loan of tools. It was really good to know we have made so many friends in the short time Tommi has been Rallycrossing.

The other good thing about Lydden is the spectators, we met a young boy who had been at Lydden at Easter. The boy described himself as Tommi's number 1 fan (I thought that was me) he asked Tommi if he would have his photo taken with him and asked him for his autograph. (A bit embarrassing for Tommi). he kept visiting us during the day to commiserate with us and kept wishing us good luck.

The driving standards of the Juniors this year has taken us all by surprise, and every month they continue to improve.

We don't know how the season will end for Tommi, but we will be here again next year (sorry!) and as Tommi is only fourteen he has a little time left to make his mark in the junior class.

Lynne Walmsley

Thanks to Lynne for putting pen to paper and sharing her Minicross experiences.

Hoods Galore Allrounders Championship.
Round 6 – Anglesey (Rallycross)

Anglesey hosted the sixth round of the All Rounders Championship. We were greeted with the first sunny day at Anglesey for a number of years as we moved into the second half of the season.

All the top entires were there and in all 14 drivers took to the track. Pre-race favourites were split between Trevor Stretch and Richard Wakeling who was testing the East Berkshire college car. The only other two drivers every to race at Anglesey before was Charlie Whaley (twice) and Scott Lawson (the once). All other drivers were making their debuts.

The first two heats were probably the best of the morning. Jeremy Evans took his first Rallycross win from Scott Lawson, after early race leader Richard W retired with brake problems. Scott having recovered from a two wheel moment to move from last to second with passes on Dan Smith and Mark Griffin on consecutive laps. Heat two saw Paul Fidler take his first win after Charlie Whaley and Trevor Stretch hit problems.

The next two heats saw sanity return with Richard and Trevor taking the wins. Scott didn't even complete a lap after running into the back of Andrew Smith and destroying the distributor.

The last two qualifying heats gave Trevor another narrow win and the excellent Ed Collett his first race win and a front row start in the 'A' final.

This all left a disappointed Scott on pole for the 'B' final from Andrew Smith and a non starting Neil Wade. Neil had suffered problems all day and decided not to chance any terminal damage. Charlie managed to replace a broken CV joint and made the grid. As the lights changed Scott lead from a fast starting Charlie. Unfortunately Charlie only lasted one lap and retired. Andrew Smith took up the chase but was passed by namesake Dan Smith, allowing Scott to pull away for a clear win. This also being his first Rallycross win and allowed him onto the back of the 'A' final.

The 'A' final saw Ed and Trevor take up the running, but experience told as Trevor took the win from Ed. Richard was third but was passed by Paul Fidler. Jeremy Evans eased away from Scott and Shelley Wakeling who were stumbling over (to Shelleys' advantage) each other and Mark Griffin. Who came home fifth,

In the afternoon we decided to run a non championship round giving each driver two heats and a final. The first heat saw Trevor and Scott on the front row with Richard and Jeremy on the second. This time Scott held onto the lead at the start from the fast starting Richard. Richard put enough pressure on Scott to overtake and take the lead on lap two. Scott tried in vain to hang on. Heat two saw another heat win for Paul Fidler after Phil Whaley making his debut had lead before running out of fuel !!

With the second heats in reverse order Scott made a brave move from the back of the grid. He managed to squeeze between Andrew Smith and Shelley to hit the lead by the first corner. Unfortunately he carried too much speed on a tighter line and hit the rumble strips flat out. This punctured both driver's side tyres and sent him spinning back onto the track in front of the pack. Everyone avoided the stricken blue Mini and Trevor took up the running. He was then black flagged for trailing bodywork and Jeremy took his second win of the day. Andrew Smith took an excellent second from Shelley. In the last heat it was another win for Paul ahead of Mark Griffin. Both men claiming front row starts in the 'A' final.

Trevor blasted away for pole in the'B' final to take the win from Jeremy and Shelley. This put Trevor on the back row of the 'A' final along with Scott, who had managed to borrow a couple of spare tyres.

Richard took an earlier lead from pole sitter Paul but on lap two a puncture coming off the loose pitched Paul into the pit wall and the race was stopped. With a couple of gaps on the grid due to Kevin Woods also non-starting due to a fuel pump fire, both Trevor and Scott were able to make good starts and slotted into second and fourth respectively. Contact between Trevor and Richard pitched Richard wide and both Mark Griffin and Scott dived through. With Trevor in the lead, he pulled away from the Mark. The best dice was between Scott, Richard and Ed Collett. A couple of times Richard pulled alongside Scott but this time there was no repeat of the earlier heat, as he piled on the pressure waiting for a mistake, Scott drove defensively and held on to his well deserved podium. Richard took fourth from Ed and a superb drive from Dan Smith.