



CHAMPIONSHIP RACE INFORMATION 2009



CLUB FORMULA FORD WEBCON UK NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

KNOCKHILL 19th JULY 2009

Words and Assembly Area / Podium Images by Ian Smith



Big Scotsman – in obligatory kilt - overlooking the track and crowded spectator banks

Formula Ford race content – and there was a lot of it - at this meeting consisted of:

- SMRC Scottish Championship
- 1 x Qualifying Session and 1 x Championship Race
- WEBCON UK National and Northern Ireland Championship
- 1 x Qualifying Session and 2 x Championship Races
- Jackie Stewart Trophy and Golden Helmet
- 2 x Qualifying Sessions and 2 x Race Heats and 1 x Race Final

Race Results can be downloaded from www.smart-timing.co.uk or www.mylaps.com
On Track Images can be found at www.fettimages.co.uk

RACEDAY REPORT

Rounds 8 and 9 of the Webcon UK Club Formula Ford National Championship took place north of the border at Knockhill on Sunday 19th July.

It was a very disappointing turnout by the Webcon UK National contenders of only four cars - reduced to three when Andrew Brennan's Swift SC92 suffered terminal problems in Saturday testing. This was more than compensated for though by seventeen Northern Irish contenders who showed that they have the commitment and desire to get on a ferry and travel to a different country for their racing thrills. This gave us two by twenty car grids.

But, as the old saying goes, it only takes two cars to make a motor race.

In the two National rounds, it was Rory Butcher in the OServ / Paramed uk Van Diemen RF92 who took lights to flag victories from Scott Malvern in his Cliff Dempsey Racing / Lamberhurst Corporation / ScanDoc / Baines of Ripon / Es Ray GSR08, but it wasn't for want of trying by Scott. John Ferguson took a pair of thirds in his AMG Ray GR07 by a second



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each time from Cormac O'Neill in the Cliff Dempsey Racing / Moston Building and Civil Engineering Contractors Ray GR08. The race results replicated the top four places in Qualifying.



66 Rory Butcher heads out for qualifying



22 Scott Malvern ponders how to beat the local hero.



Comac O'Neill prepares to qualify.

CORMAC O'NEILL

The ever improving Cormac O'Neill is proving to be one to watch in this his debut year. Cormac is one of the few leading lights in FF1600 without a karting background. In both races he was reeling in the vastly experienced John Ferguson, only for the chequered flag to halt his progress.

So there might have only been three National contenders in Scotland, but they contended themselves superbly into three of the top four places.



Race 4 The Webcon UK Podium. From L to R O'Neill, Butcher, Malvern



Race 6 The Overall Podium. Replace O'Neill with John Ferguson

The Race 6 Podiums were the same



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HOW TO PUT ON A RACE MEETING

The norm appears to be track owners rent the circuit to a motor club, they will put on some National, or Grass Roots races and then everybody goes home.

KNOCKHILL ARE DIFFERENT, THEY TRY VERY HARD AND – if last Sunday is anything to go by – PUT ON A SUPERB SHOW

This was certainly the best meeting this reporter has attended for many a year. Starting with communication, the commentary team go out on Radio 1602 Knockhill and do a great job. They had erstwhile Club Formula Ford driver Joe Tanner doing grid, podium, pit lane and startline interviews. His microphone was shoved inside helmets almost before the driver had come to a standstill. Via Joe, I now know that to do a quick time at Knockhill "you have to muller the apex kerbs, exit kerbs and just about any other kerb you can find."

As well as twelve races to watch, the spectators and competitors could take in a lot of additional activity to enhance their enjoyment of the day.

There was a massive CLASSIC CAR DISPLAY, with hundreds of very shiny cars exhibited by their proud owners.

100 years of MORGAN PARADE

Clyde Valley HARLEY DAVIDSON OWNERS GROUP PARADE

SINGLE SEATER LIBRE CARS DEMONSTRATION – two very rapid British Hillclimb Championship Cars

BIPLANE AEROBATIC DISPLAY

FERRARI OWNERS CLUB PARADE

CLASSIC SPEEDFAIR RALLY SHOOTOUT

CLASSIC MOTOR CYCLE PARADE

LOTUS EVORA DEMONSTRATION

Some HISTORIC F1 CARS on static display

CLASSIC SHOW CARS PARADE

50 YEARS OF THE MINI PARADE [with an Austin Healey 3000 element, as they are 50 years old as well]

An AUTOTEST going on in the top Paddock

And an impressive line up of the KNOCKHILL EXPERIENCE VEHICLES, Single Seaters to Supercars



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And all the hard work must pay off, as the spectator banks were full and the whole place was just buzzing with "atmosphere"

RACE FACTS

RACE TITLE	RORY BUTCHER	SCOTT MALVERN	CORMAC O'NEILL
SCOTTISH CHAMPIONSHIP	Pole by 0.555s Lights to flag win by 13.745s Fastest lap by 0.956s	Not entered	Not entered
WEBCON UK NATIONAL / NORTHERN IRELAND RACE 1	Pole by 0.274s Lights to flag win by 7.636s Fastest lap by 0.520s	Qualified P2 : 0.274s behind Rory. Second place throughout 5.046s clear of 3 rd place scrap	Qualified P4 : 0.005s behind Northern Ireland pacesetter John Ferguson Chased down John Ferguson throughout. 1.174s behind at flag
WEBCON UK NATIONAL / NORTHERN IRELAND RACE 2	Lights to flag win by 4.872s Fastest lap by 0.096s	Second place throughout 14.847s clear of 3 rd place scrap Now getting close enough to read the serial number on Rory's gearbox	4 th again behind Ferguson, closer gap of 0.859s whilst fending off the attacks of Ryan Campbell just 0.683s behind him in 5 th spot
SIR JACKIE STEWART TROPHY HEAT 1			Qualified P3 : 0.313s off pole Made a good start, but victim of a lunge by Jonathan McMullan into Duffus [Seat Curves just doesn't do it for me] and spun to tail of the field. Great fightback drive to finish 6 th with second fastest race lap.
SIR JACKIE STEWART TROPHY HEAT 2	2nd spot on grid 0.056s behind Scott Malvern Locked onto Scott's gearbox for the race distance and got by at the Hairpin on the last lap when five cars into one didn't work. P3,4,5 went to Scott McGarrity, Willie Hourie and John Ferguson. A superb race	Pole with a lap of 55.146s The fastest Formula Ford lap of the day. Thought he had managed to lead the Knockhill Meister, until John Ferguson tried a last lap move round the outside of the Hairpin and a delighted Rory nipped by. And this was only a heat.	

**SIR JACKIE STEWART TROPHY
THE FINAL**

A race of changeable weather that made it the classic it became. It rained lightly, it rained heavily, the wind dried the track. You weren't sure from one lap to the next what to expect. The commentators were reporting things like, "It's bone dry on the start finish straight", "Well it's absolutely throwing it down here at Carlube".



Carol Brown, Scott Malvern, Rory Butcher

28 cars took to the grid for "The Big Yin" and for nine laps it looked like it was going to be another Butcher / Malvern 1 – 2. Then cars started skating off, including John Ferguson at Butchers and Brendan Duggan at Leslies. The red flags came out and many thought Rory had taken his fifth win of the day. But from 2009 you need to have completed 75% race distance – not 50% - to declare a result. So the commentators went into overdrive about having "A 5 lap Dash for the Cash". It also gave them another chance to play The Chain on Radio 1602 Knockhill. "Dum, dum,dum, dum da dee dee dum, dum, dum" Fleetwood Mac were rising to a crescendo.

The reds went out and all 28 cars lined up to take the rerun. Rory and Scott were both well hyped up and midway round the first lap they tangled and completed the first lap in 4th, Scott and 7th Rory and only 4 laps to go. Carol Brown thought it was her birthday as she led the Final – the 2008 Scottish Legends Champion having taken her first ever single seater race win in the first heat.

The pair of them started to relentlessly pick off Andrew Chesher, Craig Brunton, Cormac O'Neill [12th on the original grid], Jonathan McMullan and Carol Brown. Scott got to the front first and Rory was 3rd or 4th gong onto the last lap, but looked like he was going for an overtake into the Hairpin from as far back as Dunfermline, but he wasn't quite close enough and anyway, I don't think Scott would have left the door open anyway. So after 5m.06.965s Scott took the chequer with Rory 0.217s adrift.

A superb end to a superb meeting.

Scott took the Sir Jackie Stewart Trophy, whilst Rory received the David Leslie Trophy for Driver of the Day and another trophy for Fastest Lap in the Final. Cormac O'Neill came home 5th to complete a splendid showing from the three Webcon UK National contenders present.

FORTHCOMING ROUNDS OF THE CLUB FORMULA FORD CHAMPIONSHIPS – A BUSY 3 WEEKS

Sunday 26th July Round 5 of the Club Formula Ford Midlands South Championship in association with Richard Egger Insurance is at Mallory Park

Sunday 26th July The 2009 Edwina Overend Trophy is at Mallory Park

Saturday 1st August Round 6 of the Club Formula Ford Midlands South Championship in association with Richard Egger Insurance is at Donington Park

Saturday 8th August Round 7 of the Creative LED Solutions Club Formula Ford North West Championship Post89 and Pre90 is at Anglesey International Circuit

Sunday 9th August Round 8 of the Creative LED Solutions Club Formula Ford North West Championship Post89 and Pre90 is at Anglesey Coastal Circuit

Sunday 9th August Round 10 of the Webcon UK Club Formula Ford National Championship is at Castle Combe

Saturday 15th August Round 9 of the Creative LED Solutions Club Formula Ford North West Championship Post89 including a non championship Pre90 race is at Oulton Park

Saturday 15th August The 2009 MOOSE TROPHY is at Oulton Park

Sunday 16th August Rounds 11 + 12 of the Webcon UK Club Formula Ford National Championship is at Brands Hatch Indy Circuit

Sunday 16th August Rounds 7 + 8 of the Club Formula Ford Midlands South Championship in association with Richard Egger Insurance is at Brands Hatch Indy Circuit
Keep checking here at www.clubformulaford.info for the Latest News in the Formula Ford world.

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