

Ridin' The Storm Out

You see, the hardest part about writing one of these End Of Season Reports is always the Introduction: You'll see as you go on through the Report I finished writing the report on Friday, but right now is Saturday as I'm needing to redo the Introduction for the fourth time to make it more "Politically Correct"

This probably sounds a little boring, but had you read the first three copies, you would see why.

I had planned on installing a "PC" Politically Correct filter and highlighting any PC corrected words in **red**, the issue here would be every time I do a little review on any driver in the Senior Championship 60% of the text would be in red and certain drivers (Max Papworth, Jack Coppola, Trent Macaroni, Liam O'Sullivan, Sam May, Jack Williamson, Jake Riches, Charlie Constable, Jacob Fells and Jack Williamson) would just be a sea of red text throughout with PC corrected wording to conform with today's caring philosophy.

Anywho...

To follow along the lines of being positive, caring and constructive about the Race League and its drivers, here's some positives.



The vast majority of the drivers in the Race League have the ability to keep themselves out of the barriers on the circuit:

We have some sessions here at Brentwood where the drivers resembles a bowling ball being thrown hard right down the ally with the barriers up, bouncing right to left off every barrier in dramatic style before coming to rest in the muddy puddle at the bottom of the circuit. See, positive!

We do need to educate a couple of the Cadet Championship drivers about what is race track and what is barriers and what is racing line and what is actually Kevo!

However, we are moving in the right direction: Positive.

Another positive is, The Race League and its “operation” along with all areas connected to the Race League such as the Advanced Sessions, Development Club ect ect is my main role, so while I look out the window at yet more fine British weather and see the odd marshal, Ben on this occasion, stagger into Reception looking like they’ve just been rescued from the Atlantic by a search and rescue ship I get to turn the radio off drowning out the consist calls from the circuit asking for “Yellow Flag” Turn the heater on, go onto YouTube and search

The Outfield, Your Love
and press play!

Positive.

*“Absolutely ma’am. I’d love to sign your baby.
You’re not gonna want to wash that forehead.”*

- Ricky Bobby

The End Of Season Report.



Cadets:

6:50am, aka too early, and after 6 minutes I realise the reason the office door won't open is because I'm using my house key, even managing to bend the key in the lock in the process. I start randomly stabbing at the keycode trying to remember one of the many pin numbers we have here to get in the office.

I'm in!

Greeted with the screams from the alarm giving me 5 seconds to remember a totally different pin number before it's safe to enter, by now I've dropped the keys and all efforts focus towards entering the correct pin number before the alarm starts throwing a panic attack, I'm rewarded with a single alarm tone:

Success!

Proud of myself I'm half expecting Richard O'Brien to give me a crystal and a round of applause before shouting "WILL YOU START THE FANS PLEASE" Instead of that I'm having to settle with the usual.

My phone going off "MCFLY"

My messaging ring tone is, of course, a sound bite from Back To The Future, Back To The Future 2 to be precise:

It's when Fujitsu-San fires 2015's Marty McFly: I'm sure you've all watched Back To The Future: Oh, and if you haven't watched The Musical, you should!

Anyway.

I look down to my phone, force a smile in an attempt to unlock it with its stupid facial recognition.

1 NEW WHATSAPP MESSAGE:

Brentwood Race League 2:

HEAT GROUPS? 7:01am

#Sundays



Cadets:

With 109 drivers taking part in the Cadet and Senior League this season mentioning all drivers is pretty much impossible, so I'll be aiming to do a small brief on the top 10's from each league.

Let's start with a quick word for the top 6 in the Cadet League:

The top 6 drivers in the Cadet Championship are 6 of the finest drivers in the country without a doubt! Every one of the top 6 have the ability to win the Championship, not just at Brentwood but any form of Championship karting:

However, for this season, there can be only one.

The Heavyweight Championship throughout the season saw two drivers battling for the title:

In the Blue Corner: Ethan Saunders:

In The Red Corner: Dziugas Pravilonis (He prefers the name Jesus)

I still have both Ethan and Dziugas' dads voices ringing in my ear even while I write this: Both believe I / we have a vendetta against their "precious little angels" or thinking I'm up at night planning how to sabotage their Championship Challenge: In case you thought my job was difficult because of the kids.... It isn't! 😊

Ethan "Rain Master" Saunders was ever-present in the podium positions throughout the course of the Championship and his quality performances especially in the wet conditions saw the Championship fight go down to the wire.

Mr Consistent, Dziugas was always going to be a tough nut to crack, a double champion and now looking for his hattrick Dziugas really started this season with his intentions set on another title. Both Ethan and Dziugas were the cream of the crop with the title looking set to go to one of these two miniature warriors from the half way point.



The Championship would be fought right up until the final round with Dziugas hugging a slim lead like it was his favourite granny, Dziugas kept his grip until the Championship chequered flag despite Ethan dominating the final round, it wasn't enough as Dziugas played the "Point Make Prizes" game and ended the Championship with 6 points more than Ethan: Just one 4th place heats finish being the difference between the front two.

An awesome performance from the Championships heavyweight contenders.

The Senior Championship awaits Dziugas now if he's brave enough!

If you thought it was close between the front two, you ain't seen nothing yet!

This season's Championship was very much like Noah's Ark with drivers racing two by two separated by the smallest of margins: If Jesus and Ethan were the heavyweights then these two must be in the Middleweight Division.

Everyone's favourite Hamilton: Ben Hamilton!

That's everyone's favourite Hamilton inside the top 10 😊

Ben had his forever shadow, Jack "*I'M SO GOOD AT RUNNING*" Stedman!

Ben started his campaign in the best way with maximum points in Round 1 which is where Jack had his worse result of the season, it didn't take long for Jack to bounce back in the best fashion: Maximum points in Round 2! This fight was going to go the distance Third placed swapped positions several times throughout the season and I'm sure it would have continued to do so should the Championship be longer, but after 12 rounds It was Ben who came out on top. Just! 2 points the difference for the final podium place with Ben being the cat with the cream. A great Championship from both drivers.

Pretty much every week I have Gorg Palmr-Mobsby's nan letting me know I keep adding an "E" into Gorg's name, it's been a year, but I've finally removed the unnecessary E's.

When I didn't have Gorg's nan correcting my spelling I had Gorg himself telling me how he could do my job so much better than me, we do love a Sunday!

Super Gorg's season was once again a strong one with Gorg scoring consistent podiums throughout the season keeping himself narrowly ahead of the trailing pack which was pretty much always headed by "*The Awesome Little Driver*" Ben Yiangou.



Like the top two positions, 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th also spent most the season entangled in their own battle with Gorg and Ben fighting for supremacy:

While the rest of the country's been trying to avoid the cold AKA Covid, Ben Yiangou has been sleeping in a grow-bag and watered twice daily! I'm certain he's a foot taller than he was in October! Two missed rounds from Ben pretty much ended his chances of a championship challenge and a third title.

Most Improved Driver? Well, that's easy: Leon Curtis!

Or 7ft Leon, Leon the Yeti, Mr 35 Years Old! Leon is pretty tall as you can imagine, and now banned from the Cadet League for a future in the Senior Championship.

This season Leon was awesome and a consistent A Final regular.

Leon spent some time this season practicing in a Senior kart in preparation for next season's challenges but that didn't stop a brilliant final season in the Cadet Championship. Three missed week from Jacob Hobbs stumped his progression up the table which is where I am sure he would find himself had he of been here.

Jacob's speed was rewarded with an A Final position for the majority of his racing weeks this season, but if you want close action then look no further than Jacob and 9th placed Reuben Mamelok, both drivers finished the Championship joint on 218 points with Jacob ahead on lap time only: A great season from Reuben who missed two rounds himself.

And finally squeezing into the top 10 is Mikey "*Bin Bag Boy*" Brisenden:

Mikey started eating Spinach or Shredded Wheat or perhaps started drinking Rocket Fuel or some of mum's "special" Vodka for breakfast as he out-performed Champion Jesus in the final rounds of the Championship and scored the same amount of points in the final 4 rounds of the Championship as he did in the first 7, throwing himself up the Championship table in the process and scored 3 fastest lap points in the final found rounds! **Ka Chow!**



Shouts Outs & Newbees!

11th Placed Sean Steel: Sean just missed the top 10 with an 11th place finish and the Clubman Championship title with a great, competitive season.

Alfie Slattery & Ronnie Chambers: Ronnie certainly found top gear in the final round of the Championship scoring as many points in the final round as his 9 previous rounds combined! Alfie improved throughout the season, target for next season is a top 15 finishing position.

Oscar Puffer-Fish and Ilya Velicko will soon be served with rental invoices or eviction notices as both new drivers appear to be at Brentwood Karting even more than myself!

Seniors

"No, no, he didn't slam you, he didn't bump you, he didn't nudge you...
he rubbed you. And rubbin, son, is racin'."

- Harry Hogge

Deep Breath:

It just ain't that bad! Jack Coppla's here... yeah it is.

Deeper Breath:

A few hours from now it'll all be done for another week:

I hastily put up the plastic Red and White barrier: that'll keep them out:

90 seconds pass: It's Hudson, he's using the plastic barrier as a skipping rope:

I Feel the first tear slowly running down my face:

Deepest Breath:

Sam May arrives: "DANLEEE" I turn away, looking towards the carpark, freedom!

What's that?

Smoke billows from the viewing area, Smoke signals! is someone in distress?

No, It's Lucy, she's on her 50th cigarette of the day, Lucy's brought a gift, her mum!

She's here to watch with that special flask which she keeps refilling from what looks to be a hipflask.

From afar I see Nathan Crowley walking over, we haven't started the Seniors yet, we're running late: Nathan walks over to the heat sheet, There's three groups A, B ,C

Nathan sees his name: **Nathan Crowley GROUP B:**



Nathan turns, I see him walking over.... *Please, don't ask me, please don't ask me, Pleaseee*

"Dan, what group is on first"

I ignore him and carry on, just in time to catch a glimpse of his dad, Tony Crowley stumbling across the viewing area like a bride to be after a successful Hen Do dragging Nathan's weighted seat dropping lumps of lead as he staggers.

I get distracted..... *HI DANNNNN!*

It's Max, he's not alone, I look up, towering over me, yet still crouching down as not to hit his head on the pitlane canopy... I take 2 steps back, it's Lewis Davis: Stop bloody growing.

"HAVE YOU DONE THE SODI POINTS"

"No Max, we haven't started racing yet"

Kieran Eve arrives, I look towards the viewing area again, Damn, his dad is here too! 😞

Kieran approaches "Can I swap Karts" I pause "Kieran, you haven't picked karts yet"

I Wipe the now dried tears from my face, just as Liam O'Sullivan walks towards the pitlane with that Liam O'Sullivan *"I have a question look....."*

Another Deep Breath.

Charlie Constable won a thing!!!

Charlie finally broke one's duck and secured his first ever win in the Senior Championship on round 5 of the season he also collected the fastest lap point in the process, a strong yet slightly inconsistency Championship from Charlie resulted in a 10th place finish at the end of his campaign. Charlie's clear ability and quality race craft sets his target for next season as a top 5 finish. Charlie spent a lot of his championship in close proximity with Liam O'Sullivan.

It's easy to forget just how fresh Liam is to the Senior competition, our Cadet Champion and Clubman Champion is already a regular in the A final in the Senior Championship and over the past 2 seasons Liam has found his feet on circuit with the "Big Boys."

Credit to Liam as many Cadet Drivers try their hardest to avoid the challenge the Senior Championship offers, however Liam has been rolling up his sleeves for 2 seasons now!

2 Points ahead of Liam's 9th place is Jack Coppola sitting in 8th!

I spent most my time calling Jack *"Mr B Final"* or running after him telling him to *"Hurry up as his about to miss the Jack Coppola D Final"* in reality Jack is a quality driver who especially this season really shone, 8th doesn't do Jack justice and hopefully he can prove this in the coming season.

Several heat wins for Jack in towards the end of the season resulted in a good finish to the



Championship and a narrow points lead over Liam.
Unfortunately for Jack, he has a sense of humour and can take a joke so he'll still be
"Mr C Final" or "Always at the back Jack" to me.

While we're talking about drivers in positions they shouldn't be in, Charlie Ratford finished 7th this season. Charlie started this season with a win and the Championship lead but soon found himself fighting for a top 5 position, a missed week in such a competitive Championship will put any one on the back foot.

Double Superstar Champion Of The World And The Universe in Green House Racing may be one title, or two that Charlie has but without a doubt Charlie is Championship winning material for Brentwood also with some of the best driving I have seen this season coming from Charlie which didn't always bring the wanted results and sometimes not due to Charlie himself.

It's great to see Charlie also coaching that to other "Wacky Racers" aka Green House Warriors as Brentwood has seen an influx of these outdoor haters in recent weeks.
Podium position for next season please Charlie.

The understated Jacob Fells was Championship material last season as he raised the roof by taking the Championship to the final races. This season wasn't as fantastic for Jacob but finishing 6th in such a competitive Championship is nothing to be sniffed at. Several great scores at the start of the season and the end kept Jacob in podium contention until the final few rounds of the championship, but a missed week and a not so strong score in rounds 4, 7 and 9 resulted in 6th place at the final bell. Hopefully we'll see Jacob for another crack next season, target: Championship title.

Everyone's favourite African and still the least experienced driver in the top 10:
Trent "Miley Cyrus" Moroney, affectionately known as dried pasta tubes, Trent Macaroni or the only dance I can absolutely, comprehensively smash, Trent Macarena!



Like most, Trent wants to run a marathon before he can walk, which isn't a bad thing as this resulted in him winning last year's inaugural (big word there) "Driver Of The Year" and a 5th place finish this season.

We won't talk to much about the final race of the season, where Trent went full *Miley Cyrus Wrecking Ball*..... I'll let that simmer for a minute....

Chuckles To myself

Anywho, I am expecting Trent to be scoring at least a podium position next season, the talent is there and a few less mistakes will make a podium an achievable goal. I'm still a huge fan of Team Moroney..... Not Trent though, Trent's a little boring, Trent's Dad however, is still head and shoulders the winner of the Appreciation Award! Sundays consist of a "Hello" and a "Goodbye" while watching Trent doing pirouettes' from the heated seats in this truck, even Trent's mum is pretty cool, it's just Trent that a little "Mehhhh"

More Importantly, Jake Riches.

Jake's been ace this season and is the best choice of Most Improved Driver! I always try not to give the Most Improved Driver Award to 4th place as this basically gives awards to 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th which is something I try strongly to avoid but with the improvement Jake has shown on and off circuit I was stuck in a position where this was the best decision to make. Jake choses his wins well and only seems to pull his finger out and win when there's something on offer, Passenger Laps in the Fiesta or free space in the JSCC Scholarship Final, AND NOW THE ALLSTAR CUP

I'm starting to think that maybe Jake is like, really good, Championship winning good, but just doesn't really want to try unless he "has too!"

I still remember when Jake was really boring, this was when he was racing in the Cadet League and watching paint dry or watching Jake Riches "race" to finish in about 13th place was a tough personal choice with a painstaking result whatever the decision, I am pleased this has changed and now Jake is usually fighting fit at the front of the field, keep it up!

The Top 3!



The Top 3 drivers raised the bar even further this season and all three found themselves still in Championship contention in the final race of the season: Here we go!

Enigma: Noun

"A person or thing that is mysterious or difficult to understand"

Max Papworth!

Like a bad smell, Max, The Drama Queen, is always "There" and To be honest I'm a little disappointed: Max won The 2021 Best Dressed Award, as a result I personally spent £27 on a new dressing gown which is yet to make an appearance!

Max started his "karting career" at some of the local rookie training karting circuits, the circuits with the lack of competition and as a result he's already a triple champion at those locations. Like the rest of the drivers in the Senior Championship, it's an armbands off approach with none of the "soft play" competition found elsewhere.

Max is like the Pied Piper and a great "Bringer Of People" to the Race League, most however do have a strong affection towards the armbands

Brentwood likes to cut off on arrival.

Max was awesome this season and it wasn't until the final round or 2 that I even considered him as a championship threat when he simply threw himself into contention and found himself as a serious contender on the final round. Max was the only driver in the top 3 drivers to miss a round, putting him slightly on the back foot, his biggest improvement, not just this season but last season also is a much better mindset and focused approach to his racing, there's been a few wobbles, but on the whole Max's competitive attitude has greatly improved.

Max improving his mindset and approach also rattled a few other drivers with not one, not two, but three lap records! Records for being the slowest laps during a Race League 55.343, 56.77 and 58.321 (You need to break the minute barrier Max) these laps were all rolling start laps with Max on, you guessed it, Pole position! He won all three races!



Max's first Podium at Brentwood is a great one, 10 points from the runners up spot and 12 from the Championship. It's not a Championship title like Max has elsewhere, it's better!

The season didn't finish with another title for Jack Williamson as he and Sam May began yet another duel for supremacy!

Being a Champion isn't just about collecting a trophy at the end of a season, a drivers attitude and their ability to promote others within the sport goes further than a £12 trophy ever will. Jack's Championship was a brilliant one, always either leading the Championship and on the odd occasion he found himself 2nd, unfortunately for Jack one of those odd occasions was after the final race. Jack went into the final round with the points lead after losing the top spot-on round 10 before instantly retrieving it on Round 11.

The extra difficult format in the Senior League and the tough success penalties applied for drivers scoring results in the top three from each round results in a handicap for the following rounds racing, with Sam starting on pole for the final round Jack would have a lot of work to do for the final round of the Championship.

I guess no-one wants to finish runner up, but the good news for Jack is it all starts again next week 😊 Jack should be proud of his Championship challenge and biting at the bit to get back on track and do it all again.

Hatrick Hero Sam May!

Sam, I keep trying to make it difficult and be horrible don't I, but still Sam finds a way through!

Chinese Sam was out scored on 5 of the first 7 rounds of the Championship and found himself trailing by 12 points as the Championship neared its end, Sam's ability to adapt to a rapidly changing circuit in challenging conditions saw that disadvantage swiftly reduce, then disappear!



Sam's world class Championship challenge resulted in a third title on the bounce, balaclava-ing up, breaking in and stealing it on the final race of the season by the narrowest of margins, 2 points!

Personally I don't care if Sam finished 1st, 2nd or even 5th this season his growth off circuit has resulted in him being a credit to himself, his family and to Brentwood! In recent Championship's Sam has been "*a bit of a Challenge*" and dealing with pressure or things not going his way would be a setback for Sam, this season Sam grabbed every opportunity with both hands and squeezed it until it's last breath, without the "*Old Sam May*" characteristics of throwing the toys out the pram along with the kitchen sink! This Championship is Sam's best Championship with a Champions attitude to boot! I'll stop being nice now and call Sam rubbish and I'll be sure to poke fun at him this coming Sunday, oh, and you can be sure, I'll give him the rubbish kart too!

Let's not forget:

Sam Masters!

Sam is the "newbee" to the Senior League and he royalty smashed it! Destroying the Clubman Championship with a round to go with a consistent performance each week. Let's see how Sam does next season once he's progressed into the Premiership League, his target, top 10!



While we're talking about the Clubman Championship Lewis Davis managed to drag is 8ft frame to a 2nd place finish with 2021 Cadet Driver of the year Hudson Hornet as awesome 3rd!

There's soooooo many drivers in the Senior League and with 4,002 words already I'm sure, if you're that one person who's actually still reading this, firstly thank you, I'm sure you understand I can't mention them all, so here's a few to keeps your eyes on for the coming season.

Barnsley's Dudley Ruddock! I'm not allowed "favourites" but if I was, "Northern Dudley" would have won the Championship, I have my fingers and toes crossed that he dominates every round next season!

Green House Warriors!

Of course, Charlie Ratford is basically the Princess Leia of all the Green House races Brentwood has recently inherited and yes, Kieran Eve I am adding you to the Green House Gang.

despite the confusion on the faces of drivers such as Alexander Grace and Josh Ball when they can't seem to find the safe familiarity of a roof over a karting track, it's great they've progressed from the birthing pool of the green house and have advanced to the big scary world of a karting circuit without the confines of four walls and a roof!

Jovarni Cansell-Joseph is another driver worth keeping an eye on, Jovarni found his speed in the final few weeks, lowered his lap time and found his competitive streak on the Thursday's Advanced Sessions, now we need to convert that to "Sunday Speed"

To End:

Thanks to all those who have taken part in this season's Race League:
I still believe the League here is by far the best and most competitive karting Championship in the UK. The League is designed to be difficult and leave you all frustrated much more than making you all happy.



So, what started on Tuesday ends on a Friday: Friday 18th February 4:01pm and I find myself sitting in the office once again, doing the finishing touches to this report, which is basically just 4500 words of me waffling on while now listening to REO Speedwagon's Greatest Hits:

Currently playing is *Time For Me To Fly*.

The good news is Storm Eunice has cancelled today's Funday, which means less incapable kids crashing into inanimate objects dotted around the circuit and that's just Nathan Crowley!

It's great watching the CCTV from the office computer, I just seen two wheelie bins attempt a new track lap record before colliding at Swimming Pool Bend, but that's more than enough about Trent.

I would however rather be listing to REO Speedwagon and giggling at the CCTV than be retrieving every Tom, Dick and Harry from the barriers, the problem with kids in a Funday is once released from the Pitlane their canny resemblance of a handful of marbles being dropped on the floor and scurrying away in all directions before being collected, you'll always find one under the sofa in 6 weeks' time, or a kid in the barrier usually right down the bottom of the circuit waving their hand flapping in the air like the last survivor of the Titanic waiting to be noticed, Good Luck!

One-point worth noticing however is while I think about the Funday that isn't, today's actually my day off and here I am still at Brentwood Karting, so, on that note, it's time to wrap this up, I'm looking forward to getting home, I'm eagerly awaiting the arrival of my second hand trampoline, I've even removed my garden fence as a way of encouraging and "Storm Freebees."

Well, that's it, if you've read this all, you have to much free time!
"Float like a Cadillac, sting like a Beemer"

- Lightning McQueen

Dan

