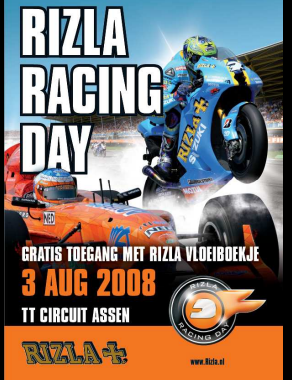


BKMS Racing

Superkart Racing Team

www.bkmsracing.com



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BKMS Racing End European Season With Respectable Result

BKMS Racing enjoyed the final round of the European Superkart Championship at Assen, Netherlands this weekend. The final race was part of the framework of the Rizla Racing Day event, host to German F3, Dutch Superbikes & Supersport, Benelux Racing League and Moto GP / A1 GP demonstration events. The event is becoming legendary for the Superkarting scene and was again oversubscribed as the cream of European Superkarting descended upon the Dutch temple of motorcycling.

The event would see a showdown for the European Championship between three drivers; Benjamin Mahé (TecSav//F), Damien Payart (FPE//F) and Peter Elkmann (EWUTEC Racing Team//D). There were many Championship placings to be decided with some top performers still yet to show their best pace. It was never going to be easy for the top three drivers and the competitiveness of this series really showed as some top drivers failed to excel.

Paul's meeting, like so many this season, started on the back foot – 38th in free practice and there was something wrong! The Superkart was understeering into all the right-hand corners and he was 7 seconds of the pace. When the team investigated, the chassis had been slightly misaligned during the crash on the last lap of the British GP at Cadwell Park. All of the geometry checks in the workshop had shown that everything was OK before the race but there was definitely a problem! Chassis measurements and re-adjustments were made and the balance restored.

FIA-CIK European Superkart Final Classification 2008		
Cl	Driver	Nat
1	ELKMANN Peter	D
2	MAHÉ Benjamin	F
3	PAYART Damien	F
4	RILEY John	GB
5	HULME Carl	GB
6	BENNETT Gavin	GB
7	KRUSE Peter	D
8	HARPHAM Lee	GB
9	OWENS Mark	GB
10	ROBERTS Trevor	GB
11	BARTAK Michal	CZ
12	SEBASTIA Alexandre	F
13	LACOSTE Antoine	F
14	MORGAN Lee	GB
15	KENNINGS Paul	GB
16	WHITE Steve	GB
17	HARVEY David	GB
18	FEATHERSTONE Phil	GB
19	CHILCOTT Robert	GB
20	MAASMANN Marcel	NL
21	VASZILY Lumir	CZ
22	VAYSSIE Cyril	F
23	LEON Marc	F
24	VALVERDE Morgan	F
25	VINUALES Emmanuel	F
26	BUSBY Kevin	GB
27	MALM Stefan	S
28	ROOSEMARK Tomas	S
29	CROME Malcolm	GB
30	DAU Olaf	D
31	REINKE Jürgen	D
32	PETERSEN POUL V.	DK
33	URHOFER Thomas	A

Paul proved out the modifications in the first Qualifying session by posting 6th fastest time – that was better! In second qualifying Paul could only post a time 0.1sec off his previous best so he slipped to 9th place. This was his best qualifying position at this event in 4 attempts however so the team were pleased with the performance.

On the Saturday night the Superkart organisation held a party with free food and drink for everyone. BKMS Racing would like to thank Dasian, Henk, Jasper and everyone else in the organising team for a great night.

Sunday was the big one – Rizla Racing Day 9. The crowds flooded in again and Superkart was displayed to the public at its best. For each race the grid formation was made on the circuit in front of the grandstands and TV cameras beamed close up shots of the machines, drivers and pit crews onto big screens for everyone to see. It was a real spectacle.

Paul started Race 1 badly and his lack of straight-line speed in this race soon saw him down out of the top 20. However, Paul was able to keep pushing and just get back into the points. 15th place was the final result following a relatively disappointing race for the BKMS team. The race was won by Peter Elkmann from Gavin Bennett (GB Racing//GB) and John Riley (Redspeed//GB) but not before the flying Lee Harpham (Barker Racing//GB) retired with mechanical problems yet again. Lee set a new lap record in this race however and had Elkmann beaten in the closing stages. Race 2 was eagerly anticipated. Championship challengers Damien Payart and Benjamin Mahé finished 7th and 12th respectively, handing the initiative to the in-form Elkmann.

Paul's start was much better in Race 2 and he was challenging Steve White for 5th place going into the Ossebroeken complex for the first time. This was at the expense of Peter Kruse (PK Racing Team//D), Damien Payart and John Riley so these top drivers didn't take long to recover. Towards the end of the race Paul was in a top ten position when he caught a backmarker with terrible timing. This gave a recovering Mark Owens the opportunity to dive down the inside at turn 1, compromising both drivers heavily and allowing Dave Harvey and Rob Chilcott (both of Redspeed//GB) to come past Paul. He eventually finished 12th. The race was won by Lee Harpham (who set another new lap record) from newly crowned European Champion Peter Elkmann and a resurgent Carl Hulme (Porcelanosa//GB). Steve White (Crescent Garage) scored a well deserved 4th. Congratulations to those guys. Paul finished 15th in the overall standings. The team will try to do better in British Superkart next weekend.

Next BKMS Racing event – British Superkart Series, Donington Park 09-10/08/08. 8th August 2008.



Race 1 winner and new European Champion Peter Elkmann

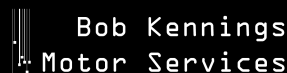


Race 2 winner and new lap record holder Lee Harpham



Images courtesy of mediasuperkart.com & CIK-FIA

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