

# BKMS Racing

Superkart Racing Team



## Battling Bagley Bags British Bronze In BKMS Bonanza!

Paul Also Takes 2<sup>nd</sup> place In Race 1 British Podium Lock-Out At Nürburgring

BKMS Racing had one main aim at the final round of the British Supercart Series at the Nürburgring – to keep Neil Bagley on the final podium of the British Division 1 Supercart Championship. Paul Kennings had already secured the British title at Cadwell 2 weeks earlier so was just racing for the experience. It was BKMS Racing's first visit so the free practice sessions were vital in gaining experience of the F1 circuit layout.

The event was also host to the final round of the British Division 2 Supercart Championship (mono-cylinder) for which the championship was close between 2007 European Supercart Champion Gavin Bennett (Bennetts Coaches / GB Racing) and Stuart Parker (Keith Parker Project Management Services / Redspeed Racing). The British Series races were run within the framework of the hugely popular European Superracekart Series (Dutch / German series).

For BKMS, Neil's weekend started with difficulty owing to ignition problems. These took all of Thursday and Friday's free practice sessions to identify and resolve, leaving Neil on the back foot in terms of his race setup and circuit knowledge. Neil's biggest problem was his carburation and the changeable conditions during Thursday and Friday, as well as his ignition problems, made it impossible to optimise it.

Paul was making better headway, however. He was able to try various setups and feed the information back to Neil. Paul was on his spare engine and the team had made some changes which resulted in some very credible pace from this unit. This gave the team more options as this engine could be used in the event of Neil's engine failing.

First Qualifying on Saturday morning was damp and very cold (around 1degC) but was run on slick tyres. Neil was only now able to complete his first full run on the F1 circuit (Thursday's free practice had been run on the much shorter DTM circuit). Neil put in some tentative laps in the tricky conditions putting him in 27<sup>th</sup> place. Paul, now on his fastest engine, was able to post a time good enough for 3<sup>rd</sup> place, which was encouraging as he was on very old tyres. However, conditions were set to improve during the day so the second session in the afternoon would be quicker. Neil had some work to do following the first session as his nearest Championship rival, Simon Holloway (GB//www.adultjoy.co.uk) was looking competitive in 10<sup>th</sup> place.

In the afternoon conditions were completely dry so the times were about 3 seconds faster. Neil posted a time 3.6 seconds faster than his morning effort but was still dogged by carburation problems. He fell down the timesheets and only managed 37<sup>th</sup> place. This was very disappointing, particularly as nearest series rival Simon Holloway remained in 10<sup>th</sup> place on the grid. Paul's time did not reflect his true pace as he was on old tyres again, saving his best for the races. However, this was good for 5<sup>th</sup> place on the grid.

Pole position was taken by Lee Harpham (GB//Barker Racing) in a time of 1m 59.151sec. This was just outside the Supercart lap record of 1m 59.094sec set by Martin

Knauder (D//Speedkart Racing) back in April. Malcolm Crowe (GB//CPC Motorsport / Anderson-CSK) claimed 2<sup>nd</sup> place with European Superracekart Series leader Stefan Malm (S//Stefan Malm Motorsport) 3<sup>rd</sup>. Dave Harvey (GB//Harvey Fabrication) continued his current good form with 4<sup>th</sup> place with Paul 5<sup>th</sup>, Rob Chilcott (GB//Redspeed Racing) 6<sup>th</sup>, Michael Warn (S//Malm-FPE Racing) 7<sup>th</sup>, Peter Elkmann (D// EWU-TEC Racing Team) 8<sup>th</sup>, Phil Featherstone (GB//PFP Services) 9<sup>th</sup> and Simon Holloway 10<sup>th</sup>.

On Saturday night, there was a party held in the BMW VIP suite with a free bar (thanks to Uli Sieker and his team for this). The Rugby World Cup Final was on the TV screens and everyone had a good time, despite the result of the match!

Sunday dawned quite cloudy and very cold. On-track conditions were damp and there was light drizzle so the race tyres were declared open. Most of the drivers chose slick tyres for the race. Neil had a great start and had gained 9 places on the opening lap. He went on to take 5 more places throughout the race but was still struggling with his carburation. Neil finished in 24<sup>th</sup> (7<sup>th</sup> in British Series). This was OK for the points as Simon Holloway finished in 16<sup>th</sup> place (4<sup>th</sup> in British Series). It was all to play for in the final race.

Paul was having a great race. He led as they crossed the stripe for the first time and swapped the lead with Malcolm Crowe and Stefan Malm several times until Rob Chilcott hit the front. Paul then slipped back to 5<sup>th</sup>. British Supercart GP winner Lee Harpham (who had started from the pit lane following a late engine change) was into a clear lead on the last lap when he had a spin leaving Rob Chilcott to take a deserved win. Paul had a very strong last lap passing Malm and then Harpham (last corner) to take 2<sup>nd</sup> place. Swedish Champion Michael Warn was a close 5<sup>th</sup> with Dave Harvey further back in 6<sup>th</sup> and UK Cup Winner Steve McAdam (GB//Dukes Transport/Salad Fayre) in a respectable 7<sup>th</sup> from grid 33.

Neil went into the final race knowing that he had to limit his losses to Simon Holloway if he was to remain in 3<sup>rd</sup> overall. The race was very wet with very poor visibility due to rolling fog. Neil's chances looked good as Simon pulled into the pits on lap 1. However, Simon rejoined the race as Neil crashed into an abandoned kart following a spin from one of the German drivers. Suddenly the tables were turned and it was Neil into the pits! He repaired his dislodged nosecone and re-joined the race and went as quickly as he could but with a severely deranged nosecone he was losing big time to Simon. Things didn't look good for Neil. But on lap 5 it was all over, Simon retired which left Neil with 3<sup>rd</sup> in the series, his highest ever position. Well done Neil!!

Pauls' race was looking promising. Followed a tentative start, Paul was soon up into 4<sup>th</sup> behind Stefan Malm. Unfortunately though, at the start of the 4<sup>th</sup> lap, the engine died and he was out of the race. The race was won by Elkmann followed by Harpham and Malm.

There will be another BKMS newsletter soon.



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