

# BKMS Racing

Superkart Racing Team

[www.bkmsracing.com](http://www.bkmsracing.com)



## Oulton Encourages!

### BKMS Racing Make Positive Start To British Superkart Campaign

BKMS Racing fielded only one driver at the first round of the British Superkart Series at Oulton Park on Bank Holiday Monday, following Paul Kennings' collar bone injury mid-week (see [www.bkmsracing.com](http://www.bkmsracing.com) for further details). This meant that Neil Bagley could benefit from the full focus of the team as he started his campaign with his new engine upgrades.

The team set up camp on the Friday night in preparation for Saturday Free-Practice. Neil and Bill had put in a lot of work in the off-season and the BKMS / Firestopit Superkart was looking stunning. His new FPE cylinders and PFP exhausts looked fast and much was expected.

Saturday's first free practice was intended as an installation session for bedding in new brakes, engine parts etc. but Neil looked like he was enjoying himself! He lacked no commitment on getting on the power through Old Hall and the engine sounded nice. The initial signs were good.

Neil's next session also went very well. Watching him through Druid's showed he had no fears through this difficult high speed corner and he was looking quite competitive. The chassis modifications that had been made were helping the stability and this showed in Neil's confidence.

There were some minor tweaks required for the qualifying session and these were carried-out on the Sunday as there was no on-track action owing to Oulton Park's planning restrictions for Sunday running. A track walk around the Oulton Park Island circuit gave Neil a few more ideas to improve his pace too.

So it was onto race day on Monday. Qualifying didn't go very well for Neil, managing only 3 full laps before an error at the Island hairpin saw him off the road with some minor bodywork damage. Amongst the front runners, Dave Harvey (Redspeed) had an engine problem which curtailed his session. Steve McAdam (Salad Fayre) posted a solid time for 3<sup>rd</sup> on the grid. Local hero Carl Hulme (Porcelanosa / Cheshire Wellness) took 2<sup>nd</sup> on the grid but quickest was Mark Owens (Shift / DEA). Both the front row drivers were fresh from good European Championship races at the Lausitzring DTM event the previous weekend, Owens almost beating Elkmann to win there. As both drivers were carrying good form, a close high quality battle was promised.

In qualifying for the mono-cylinder MSA Championship races, Jason Dredge (JPD Motorsport) took pole from Gavin Bennett (GB Racing / Bennett's Coaches) and James O'Reilly (Barker Racing).

Following minor repairs, Neil lined up for Race 1 hoping for a better outcome than in qualifying. The race started ½ a lap behind the MSA mono-cylinder race. Neil had a good start through Old Hall but then disaster struck – he attempted an ambitious move around the outside of Simon Holloway (Redspeed) at Cascades but just edged out too wide and landed in the kitty litter. It appeared that his race was over. However, a crash in the MSA race brought out the red flag, which meant that the race would be re-started over 8 laps. The fortunate Neil was able to take the re-start. Unfortunately, however, the red flag resulted in an injury to Lee Shepherd. He broke his leg in several places. BKMS hope to see Lee back in the kart as soon as possible, he's a great competitor and the scene will be poorer in his absence.

At the re-start it was clear that something was wrong with Neil's Superkart. He was almost last off the start but kept going. His lap times were 3 seconds of his normal pace so something was a-miss - it later emerged that he'd oiled a plug. At the head of the race Carl Hulme and Mark Owens were having a tight battle, each driver breaking the lap record in turn. We were robbed of a grandstand finish, however, when another red flag halted proceedings. This time it was Kevin Busby who crashed. Sadly, he too sustained injuries. A broken ankle and foot as a result of hitting the tyre wall exiting Cascades. Kevin had been involved in the start line pileup at the Lausitzring the previous week but only sustained minor bruising there. However, this time he was not so lucky. Again, BKMS Racing hope to see him recovered as soon as possible.

So, Race 1's result was declared at 6 laps from 8 and it was Carl Hulme (best lap 1m22.564sec) who took the win but 2<sup>nd</sup> placed Mark Owens took the lap record at 1m22.546sec. In the MSA mono-cylinder race, Jason Dredge maintained his 100% record by winning ahead of Don Kennedy (Kennedy Motors) and Gavin Bennett, the European Champion setting a new lap record of 1m24.567s.

Race 2 started well for Neil and he settled into a nice rhythm. Up front Carl Hulme lead Mark Owens by a very slight margin. Dave Harvey held 3<sup>rd</sup> from a very close Steve McAdam. Neil held 5<sup>th</sup> spot. Soon though, Owens and McAdam were out and Neil suddenly found himself in 3<sup>rd</sup>! However, towards the end of the race, his pace started to drop and he was demoted to 5<sup>th</sup> in quick succession by Simon Holloway and Carl Kinsey. Encouraging to find Neil has good pace but disappointing final result. That's racing though and he'll be back for a second bite of the cherry!

The race was won by Carl Hulme and he just nudged that lap record further out of reach – 1m 22.530s is the new benchmark. Gavin Bennett won the mono-cylinder race by some margin ahead of Don Kennedy and Dean Hawley (Team Viper Racing UK).

The team's next event will be the MSA British Superkart GP (19-20<sup>th</sup> July) where Paul hopes to return to the championship and Neil looks to implement the learning from an encouraging Oulton event.

31<sup>st</sup> May 2008.



A lesser spotted Kinsey! (20) – a rare sight in Superkart since 1999. The double British Champ is back!

BKMS Racing thank their sponsors



ThyssenKrupp Tallent Ltd  
A ThyssenKrupp Steel Company



CRABTREE  
CHADWICK  
SOLICITORS

Bob Kennings  
Motor Services

