

The 1st Round of the Winter Club Championships reflected the stature that the club and PFI have grown into – 237 entries. 64 of which were in IAME Cadet – stunning!

December weather can be unkind, and while very cool with showers, race day was pretty good for December. A race format of TQ Practice, Pre-Final & Final proved very popular and allowed some good clean starts and some excellent, incident free, racing.



IAME Cadet – As said, what a stunning sight, two TQ sessions and two Pre-Finals required to sort out the final grid. Dexter Patterson was in great form all day in all conditions – he set fastest lap in TQ and converted that into a Pre-Final win. Jonny Edgar looked strong after taking a win in the other Pre-Final. The Final however belonged to Patterson, with Edgar initially pushing him hard but dropping away and Dylan Hotchin having a brilliant race into 2nd Place at the flag. Finlay Bunce had a strong race but couldn't live with the two leaders and just managed to hold off Joseph Taylor to claim 3rd. Joshua Rattican had a storming race - up from the back of the 'B' Final, earning last place on the main grid and driving up to finish 9th – WOW! A big THANKS to all our IAME Cadet drivers for providing such a great spectacle and brilliant close racing.



HONDA Cadet – 30+ little hero's battled through some very difficult conditions but as always, provided stunning racing. Nicholas Reeve took Top Spot in TQ and made the most of it by winning the Pre-Final, Oliver Clarke got his act together though and pushed Reeve all the way to the flag. In the Final, Clarke got the better of Reeve but also had to contend with Harry Thompson. After an initial battle Clarke pulled out a 3 second lead which he held to the flag, Dragan Pinsent was another to get it together for the Final and made up 6 places to take a strong 2nd place, Reeve dropping to 3rd with Thompson 4th.

First Novice – Jack Nicholson

First Rookie – George Hoad



JUNIOR MAX – A strong grid of competitive drivers but one driver was head and shoulders above the rest – Josh Skelton. TQ fastest, Pre-Final winner, Final winner by 15 seconds....wow. Jack McCarthy was his closest rival but just didn't have that edge and ended up second. Tom Gamble had mechanical issues so he was out of the equation, leaving the way clear for Harrison Thomas to climb up the grid and have a great battle with Max Bird for the final spot on the podium, eventually taking 3rd.



MINI MAX - A full grid and plenty of action all day. Difficult conditions but well handled by these youngsters, many moving up recently from the Cadet classes. Sam McDonnell must have been delighted with his TQ fastest lap but had problems in the Pre-Final and dropped down the leader board. Zachary Robertson picked up the pieces in the Pre-Final and took a comfortable win, Alexander McDade pushed hard and claimed an excellent 2nd while Tom Wood stormed up the order from Grid 18 to finish 3rd. The Final however went the way of Fin Kenneally who drove with great composure (and with a bit of help from Robertson receiving a penalty despite taking the win on the track), this also promoted Connor McCarthy upto second and Kiern Jewiss into third.

First Novice – Ryan Elliot

First Rookie – Patrick Kibble



SENIOR MAX - A grid of quality drivers, headed in TQ by James Johnson. Kyle Fowlie looking strong in second but closely followed by Brett Ward, Jay Taylor and Matthew Hirst. The Pre-Final went the way of Taylor – making his move with a lap to go, just holding off Johnson with Ward 3rd and a fine drive by Sam Smelt into 4th. The Final looked a fairly open race but Jay Taylor soon dispelled those thoughts – lights to flag victory! Sam Smelt was now firing on all cylinders and chased hard to finish a creditable 2nd. Jac Constable getting it together and filling the final podium spot.

First Novice – Lewis Currithers



X30 JUNIOR - An almost full grid with some much improved driving. Lucas Vaus was on top form in TQ but it was going to be close with Ross Martin, Alfie Brown, Euan Wilson, Elliot Harvey & Aaran Mills all in contention. The Pre-Final went the way of Harvey who eventually got the better of Martin, these two 1st & 2nd, Alfie Brown was a distant third but looked to be getting things 'hooked up', and so it proved in the Final as he pressured Harvey and took the lead with 5 laps to go, just holding on at the flag to take the win. Harvey was a creditable second while Mills drove a solid race into 3rd.

First Novice & Rookie – Jack Bingham



X30 SENIOR - 18 drivers made for an entertaining day. Ashley Jones made the most of TQ and the Pre-Final and looked in command, however as the day went on it became evident that Matt Davies was pushing further to the front of the pack and by Finals time he led when it mattered – at the chequered flag. Jones was a close second while Jamie Flynn after a torrid start drove well to claim 3rd.

All Results and current Winter Series standings can be found on the website.

Published 11 December 2014

Photographs courtesy of Chris Walker (Kartpix)