



MSA BRITISH GEARBOX KART GRAND PRIX



The **2016 MSA Gearbox Short Circuit Grand Prix** meeting took place at the Fulbeck kart circuit with kind thanks to our friends at Lincolnshire Kart Racing Club. This 2-day meeting was going to be the 'days of thunder' in the Lincolnshire country side. On Saturday with Practice in the morning, supported by LKRC 250cc Nationals and IAME cadets.

After lunch saw the KZ's out for their 10min Official Warm Up, this is where the weather came into play as rain started to dampen the track but not the driver's courage. 2:30pm was the start of their 8min TQ session all taking the gamble to fit slick tyres as the track had started to dry out.

TQ Result:

Pole	No 3	Henry Easthope	6 th	No 4	Dan Kelly
2 nd	"E"	Scott Allen	7 th	No 33	Leon Hilleard
3 rd	No 2	Adam Glear	8 th	No 84	Anderson Chilcott
4 th	No 12	Lucas Vaus	9 th	No18	Ryan Turner
5 th	No 5	Ben Blick	10 th	No 54	Sarah Budby

Heat 1:

With Henry Easthope and Scott Allen on the front row, this was always going to be a battle to the first corner, but with the two young chargers of Adam Gear and Lucas Vaus on the second row, they had to try to drive away. Without incident and good hard clean racing, first to see the chequered flag was Henry Easthope who lead all 17 laps from lights out to the flag with Scott Allen in second, only 0.4 seconds behind.

Sunday saw 5 minute warm up on a damp track, but by the time the warm up had finished, the slick tyre was the correct choice.

Heat 2:

All entrants starting and like Heat 1, on Pole was Henry and Scott dominating the field for the first 2 laps but with more pressure from No 5 Ben Blick who was very close on their heels. On lap 2 disaster for Scott Allen, out of the race with mechanical problems, followed on lap 6 by Lucas Vaus and on lap 8 by Leon Hilleard who also had mechanical issues. 3rd place went to Adam Glear, 0.3 seconds behind Dan Kelly in second who was close behind the winner, Henry Easthope.

Pre Final:

This was going to be a hard fought 12 minutes. Disappointment for Leon Hilleard as he ended up with a cracked chassis in Heat 2 so was out of the running for the rest of the meeting. With two good fast starters on the front row, Henry Easthope and Dan Kelly, turn 1 was going to be interesting. Dan kept the lead for the first 9 laps with Henry closing him down every lap. By the end of lap 9 Scott Allen made his move and lead the field. By lap 13 Dan had slipped down to 3rd place with Henry finishing in 2nd. With the rest of the field within a couple of seconds. Ryan Turner and Sarah Budby were having their own battle keeping within inches of each other for the duration of this race, great close racing.

GP Final:

Started exactly at 2pm as the sun shone out, the GP driver's engines revving, green flag on the dummy grid. Blue smoke filled the air, as the grid of KZ's came out on circuit for their formation laps. Standing starts are the norm for these gladiators of karting. They approached their grid positions with caution, the starter slowly pointing to the lights, the timing clock showing 15 minutes. Lights out and away they headed down to the first corner. Yet again a clean start from all the drivers. No contact on the first corner as it had been all weekend. Henry Easthope and Scott Allen were in a class on their own, driving away for the first 7 minutes, but beware, Ben Blick and was hard on their heels closing every lap within seconds of the front pair. Lucas Vaus was battling in 5th place when disaster struck on lap 11 and this young charger retired with mechanical problems but a name to look out for in 2017. At the front, Scott Allen lead the field for 20 laps with Henry within 0.2 seconds behind. But on the last corner of lap 21, with less than 2 minutes to go, Henry made a move inside of Scott. Both karts ended up in the middle of the track mid corner, Ben Blick with nowhere to go and made impact with the side of Henry. Easthope managed to keep running and went on to win the GP Final with Dan Kelly in second followed Anderson Chilcott. But following the incident on lap 21, Easthope was excluded from the race, so that meant that after 15 minutes and 24 laps of Fulbeck, the winner of the 2016 MSA Gearbox Short Circuit Grand Prix was Dan Kelly. 2nd place went the way of Anderson Chilcott and in 3rd place, Ryan Turner.