



KARTING for HEROES

www.kartingforheroes.com

IN SUPPORT OF
**HELP for
HEROES**

THANK YOU

A blistering Sunday afternoon with temperatures of 26 degrees greeted the teams for the inaugural Karting for Heroes at Buckmore Park this year (23rd May 2010). 18 teams made the starting line up with a mixture of 'enthusiastic' drivers, regulars, novices and those who had never sat in a kart EVER!

Phil from Buckmore was our race director for the day and had the unenviable task of ensuring all the drivers had a rough idea of what to expect and coped admirably with a front row of worried faces of the girls from the Miss London team, many of whom had no idea what to expect. However despite their apprehensions they were possibly one of the most improved team on the day and turned in some good laps.

With any mix of abilities comes the possibilities of 'mishaps' and with these pending incidents in the not too distant future Phil's wry smile vaguely hid the thought of multiple kart rebuilds in the workshop and numerous flagged warnings. However, and a credit to all the drivers, the race proved to be one of very few incidents and very few warnings. With a thirty minute practice session underway the bids for pole position were totalled up to decide who would be facing the first corner at the front of the grid with seventeen more drivers behind them all looking at the same racing line. A record breaking pole bid total of £4,038 was raised with the top three positions going to Gilbert Green Racing, Lizzys Wizzers and Miss London with their top bids. Huge thanks to all the teams and their supporters, who made this the best possible start to the event.

Three hours of close fought racing began with most teams making a clean start and navigating the hairpins successfully. As the drivers got accustomed to the track and karts, lap times dropped and corners became faster as a combination of adrenalin and belief took over. A relatively calm race (as far as the marshals were concerned) followed with a few spins, nudges – usually followed by smiles and waves, and kart changes as some teams took their machines to new limits, which often were a bit too far. A battle was brewing at the front with a handful of teams keeping within reach of each other and watching their opponents every move. At this point I would like to mention James from Rifle Range Farm who took a special interest in our driver changes, our team number board and was also 'misleading' about their new kart number! The final laps brought further excitement with Rifle Range passing the club house in what sounded like a sick Trabant hauling a Russian shot putter. This in itself brought a bit of life from the rest of the team members who frantically ran around in an effort to get it fixed, changed, ANYTHING. The view from the balcony at this point was needless to say 'interesting'. A quick change on top of their existing lead proved enough to give the team a deserved win, finishing ahead of HYDRAQUIP by a mere 3.37 seconds who were followed by Para Construction a close 49 seconds behind them. This close after 3 hours and 197 laps!!!



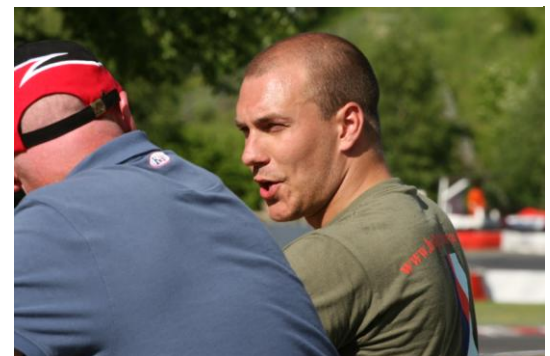
Happy, Scared & Bemused.



Six karts thru one corner, something has to give



On the edge and round the bend (successfully)



A true hero Matt Croucher GC



No 8 tries a new way of un-lapping himself

With the pole bids, raffle, auction and entry fees totalled together the event raised a superb £6438 for the Help for Heroes Charity.

This year's event being the first running brought the uncertainty of any new event but thanks to a brilliant bunch of teams, their supporters and all the companies that have given their support to us we have made a great start. Special thanks go to all the teams and especially those who helped set the pole bid record, Matt Croucher and Katrina Hodge who fitted us in their busy schedules, all of the generous people who stayed for the auction, Judy who ran the reception and kept me away from the admin ☺ and of course to all of the Buckmore crew for their excellent facilities and staff. My apologies to anyone I may have missed.

Next Year

The 2011 K4H has been provisionally booked for Saturday 21st May 2011 but will be confirmed 100% in October 2010 when the karting championships have announced their calendars. This year we wanted to get a feel on how the event would be received and set the foundations for future events and are aiming at filling the grid next year and beating the total raised. I can now confirm that we have retained the support of some of our key sponsors for next year's event and beyond. Matt Croucher GC has agreed to put his name to Karting for Heroes and will help to build on this amazing start. Joules clothing have agreed to support us again next year and the Bridgewood Manor Hotel has committed to the long term support of the event. We are now able to confirm that Montrose Media have adopted the K4H polo shirts as their uniform for the foreseeable future and will be wearing them at the prestigious events and key locations where they are filming.

Next years and future events will be based on this years format but we are looking at ways of expanding the Karting for Heroes experience and involving more people both on and off the track so if you have any ideas or thoughts please let me know.

Once again, a massive thank you to all that have supported us this year and please pass on the event details to anyone & everyone.

Geoff

PS

I would also like to wish the guys at Kart Force (www.kartforce.org) all the best in organising Karting events for injured service men & women. Below is an extract from a recent press release of theirs.

KartForce - Karting For Injured Troops, is a new and truly inspirational event with a goal of providing injured troops with memorable, adrenalin packed experiences.

Unlike other similar events, which have a primary aim of raising funds, KartForce focuses on providing the injured troops themselves with the opportunity of enjoying an action packed two days of racing and

socialising, something they never thought they could do again.

In parallel to this, KartForce also has an agenda to raise funds, for organisations that support injured British forces personnel; and provide a lasting legacy whereby the event concept and infrastructure carries forward to provide similar activities at kart circuits around the UK.



Fly past



Team tactics or confessions of a spinning driver?



Miss London team with Katrina Hodge (centre)



A jubilant and relieved 2010 winner
Rifle Range Farm



KARTING for HEROES organiser

Geoff Kelley

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