



Ben Willshire celebrates his championship win
Nick Purdie



Visser on the podium at Assen
KSP

Willshire secures 125 Open title at Oulton

Ben Willshire rounded off his 2011 BSA National Superkart Championship in fine style at Oulton Park, taking victory in both races, and becoming the 2011 125cc Superkart Champion in the process.

Willshire headed to Oulton Park lying 2nd in the championship standings, with the other championship contender, Danny Butler, leading the points table.

However, championship rules mean that dropped scores apply with the best 9 of 12 races from the season contributing towards the final standings. With this in mind, Willshire was effectively leading the championship and Butler needed to win both races to prevent Willshire from being crowned champion. The race was on....

In Qualifying Butler had the upper edge and claimed pole by just 0.134s from Willshire. The 2009 National champion, Danny Edwards, qualified in 3rd position just over 1s behind Willshire.

At the start of Race 1 both Butler and Willshire had to navigate through a busy 250cc grid but both drivers got away well and eventually found some clear track to battle it out. With two laps remaining

Willshire was able to take the lead and retain a gap of around 1.5s, which was extended to almost 3s at the end of the race.

Willshire had won the championship in what was a spectacular wheel to wheel race. In fact, the commentary team at Oulton Park even commented that it was the best racing they'd seen at the circuit all year.

With the championship wrapped up, Willshire headed into Race 2 slightly more relaxed and with two laps remaining was able to make a move to take the lead. The trio crossed the line with Willshire taking a close victory, Matt Isherwood in a well earned 2nd place only 0.1s behind the leader and Edwards claiming 3rd.

Overall it has been a fantastic season for all of the team. Despite not competing at Oulton Park, Gary James had also retained his 7th place position in the championship standings, achieving his best ever national championship position.

RG Racing will be attending shows and karting events during the off season to promote the team's success. RG Racing would like to thank everyone involved in achieving their goal of becoming National champions. ●

Visser wins first car race

Dutch KZ1 driver Beitske Visser made her car racing debut at Assen in the Dutch Supercar Challenge at Assen at the start of August.

The 16-year-old won the hour-long race in an Attack Praga R4 GT1 on the first day of the event, but was hampered by a gearbox problem on the following day, in a fast adjustment from a 125cc kart weighing 175kg to a car with an 8-cylinder, 3.2 litre engine, developing 510HP, weighing 790kg.

"In karting I race for Praga, a new Czech make, so I was invited at a round of the Dutch Supercar Challenge, at the wheel of an Attack Praga R4S by Race4 Slovakia team. I had already driven a car, but only a formula car. Driving a GT1 was a completely new thing for me, but I thought it could be a fantastic experience. At first, I set myself the goal of entering the top 5. Then, after setting the fourth fastest time during timed qualifying, I began to think of a podium finish. And finally, I conquered a victory!" Visser said.

The Dutch Supercar Challenge round gathered as many as 62,000 spectators to an event that also included the European Superkart Championship. ●