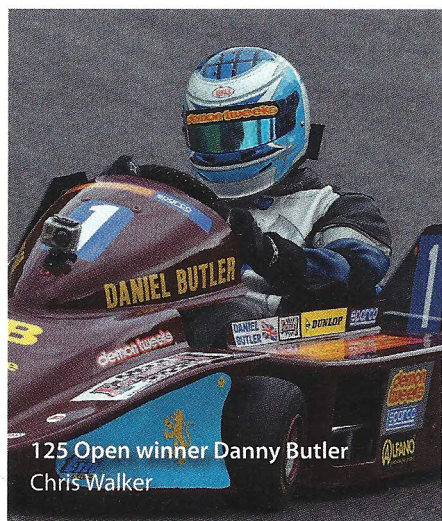




Hulme wins in dramatic twist

Gearbox



125 Open winner Danny Butler
Chris Walker



250 Division 1 winner Carl Hulme on top of the podium
Chris Walker

125 Open

By Mary-Ann Horley

Danny Butler dominated the proceedings in the 125cc long circuit class.

Danny Butler led at the start as Ian Reid nudged Ben Willshire, then Jason Kitchin took 2nd and Willshire started to recover. On lap 2 Willshire started to attack Kitchin and passed the IOM driver at the last corner. There was also a fight for 4th going on at Mansfield, but out front Butler had a 3s lead going onto lap 3.

Willshire pulled away in 2nd as the sky clouded over again, and by now the fight had moved up to encompass Kitchin who was having to fight with James Irvine, Damian Sleep and Danny Edwards, with Irvine going 3rd a lap later. Sleep took 4th then lost it again, then Irvine dropped out from 3rd, giving it back to Kitchin.

Last year's winner Edwards then took 3rd, with both of them slipstreaming up hill to Park. Halfway through they had spread out again but with Lee Smith and Paula Salonen battling for 6th. Butler now had a lead of 6.5s.

Edwards gradually pulled away from the rest, and Willshire's hopes were raised by Butler having a bit of a moment meaning he was just 1.2s behind. However, Butler soon widened the gap again.

Butler won after an uneventful last few laps, with Edwards explaining afterwards that his engine wasn't revving properly. ●

Division 1

By Mary-Ann Horley

Several drivers were in the frame in Division 1 earlier in the day but in the end Carl Hulme took the advantage.

The international class attracted several overseas entries, particularly from Holland, two of whom made it into the top six. As the fastest class of the day the Division 1 karts were flying up to a foot in the air at the mountain section of Lincolnshire's mini Nurburgring.

It was raining at the start of the Final and in the very slippery conditions Gavin Bennett took the lead as they slowly made their way round the opening laps.

Lee Harpham was 2nd and closed on Bennett and overtook, Bennett lost a few lengths, but Harpham slowed and pulled off a short while later, giving Bennett back the lead, followed by Marcel Maasmann, with Paul Kennings 3rd and Chris Needham 4th. Maasmann was fast closing on Bennett but with a soaked track the rain was judged to be severe enough for a red flag.

Jan Bakker had crashed heavily and was checked by the ambulance staff, seeming to be reasonably OK after careful attention from the paramedics. His kart wasn't however, with several chunks of bodywork strewn across the track and the grass run-off.

Almost as soon as they had stopped, the sun came out and they carefully restarted, using the original grid but with a shortened

race so they didn't run out of fuel. The drivers who weren't running at the red flag were missing from the grid but the others retained their original places without being moved up.

Bennett took the lead, pulling away from Maasmann, but it became evident he had a problem, identified afterwards as a failing fuel pump.

Hulme attacked Maasmann to take 2nd at Park then started pushing Bennett, running a second a lap faster.

After Coppice on lap 7 Hulme was in the lead, and Bennett dropped out three laps from the end. Needham was 3rd until the last lap when he missed a gear and dropped to 5th, leaving Charles Craven in 3rd. ●

Results

Division 1

1 Carl Hulme	Anderson/FPE
2 M. Maasmann (NL)	Anderson/FPE
3 Charles Craven	Anderson/FPE
4 Paul Kennings	Anderson/FPE
5 Chris Needham	Anderson/FPE
6 Priscilla Speelman (NL)	MS/VM

125 Open

1 Danny Butler	F1/TM
2 Ben Willshire	Anderson/SGM
3 Danny Edwards	F1/TM
4 Jason Kitchin	F1/TM
5 Lee Smith	Raider/Pavesi
6 Paula Salonen (FI)	Raider/SGM