

THE 320 CHALLENGE

3 RACES > 10 ROUNDS > 2 CLASSES > 1 CHAMPIONSHIP

DATE 01.04.09 > TRACK BUCKMORE PARK > TRACK CONDITION DRY > DRIVERS 17
FASTEST LAPS STANDARD PAUL WEBBER – 49.733 – LIGHT HADYN BROWN – 49.444

Round 2 of the 320 Challenge 2009, a dry, light evening. This round we would be using the New RX7 Sport as many of the drivers had already tried them and the overall majority wanted to change. Easy!!

All drivers weighed and “frisked” for any extra weight that might change the class split on the night. The cut-off weight for this month was 84kg and we had two drivers on the “Cusp” Stuart Jones (who had already been tucking into the Easter Eggs and had gained half a kilo since last month) and #John Carter who had not. #Stuart’s dear “friends” who he has been racing with over the past few years re-named him after the weigh-in with deep affection as “The Bandit” as after being in the Lightweights last month, he was now the Lightest Heavy! This is the beauty of the two classes, one Championship.

This month the Lightweights would wear the Novice Bibs to determine class and that was good news for one driver “Luke Coleman” who had entered a novice 1* race at Buckmore Park the week before and won, even getting the fastest lap – now there’s a surprise!!

Qualifying went well with most drivers already having tried out the karts in the Sport Mode. 5 drivers in the 49s, 9 in the 50s and 2 in the 51s. Some of the grid positions were a little surprising but each heat would sort the “Men from the Boys!”.

(# denotes Standard Class)

Novice Boy Luke Coleman took pole position with a time of 49.411 (Luke you need more practice!!). Chris Goy who had joined us after completing a half hour practice prior to this event 2nd, (first of the standard weight and the only standard in the 49s for practice) #Paul Webber 3rd, Peter Sharp 4th, Brian Bellward 5th Matt Jones 6th, #Gerrard Hubbert 7th, #Stuart “The Bandit” Jones 8th, #Steve Hall 9th, Glenn Marrison 10th, Haydn Brown 11th – 11th!!, #John Carter 12th, #Norman Kenvyn 13th, Alok Iyengar 14th, #Richard Fossey 15th, Ashley Grant 16th and Gary Wenbourne 17th.

Heat one and the front of the grid get away well, still in formation, Luke, Chris, #Paul and Peter, with #Stuart making a great start taking him to 5th. All very tightly packed together and there would be someone surely that would not quite make it and that someone was #Norman Kenvyn. As the pack negotiated hairpin 2, #Ashley Grant did not and ended up somehow completely tucked in the tyres. After being rescued by pit-crew he was on his way to catch the pack. (he is made of very strong stuff is “our Ash”, as his new race-suit doesn’t fit him anymore across the chest and shoulders as he has been working out at the gym – blue race suit for sale!!)

ROUND 1 RACE RESULT STANDARD CLASS

- 1 Stuart Jones
- 2 Gerrard Hubbert
- 3 Paul Webber
- 4 Steve Hall
- 5 Norman Kenvyn
- 6 John Carter
- 7 Gary Wenbourne
- 8 Ashley Grant
- 9 Richard Fossey

ROUND 1 RACE RESULT LIGHTWEIGHT CLASS

- 1 Haydn Brown
- 2 Luke Coleman
- 3 Matt Jones
- 4 Peter Sharp
- 5 Glenn Marrison
- 6 Brian Bellward
- 7 Chris Goy
- 8 Alok Iyengar

CHAMPIONSHIP AFTER R2

1	Gerrard Hubbert	170
2	Luke Coleman	168
2	Matt Jones	168
4	Steve Hall	166
4	Stuart Jones	166
6	Paul Webber	165
7	Norman Kenvyn	158
8	Peter Sharp	153
9	John Carter	149
10	Richard Fossey	139
11	Alok Iyengar	135
12	Haydn Brown	88
13	Monkey Harris	86
14	Dave Austen	81
14	Joe Flay	81
14	Max Bridger	81
17	Glenn Marrison	79
18	Andrew Calder	77
19	Chris Goy	75
20	Brian Bellward	74
21	Tim Pryce-Davies	73
21	Julian Silver	73
23	Gary Wenbourne	70
24	Ashley Grant	69
25	Adam Jenner	64



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Already by lap 2 there is a change in position, Luke "Novice" Coleman still leads, but #Paul Webber takes Chris Goy for 2nd, with #Stuart "Bandit" Jones on a charge closing in for 2nd but #Paul holding his nerve. Both experience driver's #Paul and #Stuart would be playing "swappseys" – anyone remember that game? for most of the heat.

Half way through the first heat and the "Old Buck" shows how his 10+ years in retirement (but racing every month??), makes him the "Legend" that he is. (Not to be confused with a Leg End which is a FOOT or 12 inches so I'm told!). 9th on the grid on lap one, upto 2nd by lap 13! Between 1st and 7th there was a gap of only 11.3 seconds.

A battle further down the grid for 12th #John Carter, 13th #Norman Kenvyn and 14th Gary Wenbourne went on for most of the heat, each driver evenly matched all three drivers in the 50s, #Steve Hall just ahead on 11th with his best lap of 49.990.

After 20 minutes and 24 laps Pole sitter and leader throughout this heat Luke "Novice" Coleman takes the chequered flag with the Old Buck 2nd, Matt Jones 3rd, a great drive from #Paul Webber 4th who kept #Stuart "The Bandit" Jones behind him in 5th, Peter Sharp 6th, #Gerrard Hubbert 7th, Chris Goy 8th, Brian Bellward 9th, A steady drive from Alok Iyengar who qualified 14th taking 10th, #Steve Hall 11th, #Norman Kenvyn 12th, #John Carter 13th, #Gary Wenbourne 14th, #Richard Fossey 15th, Glenn Marrison who never recovered from an incident on lap 4 16th and #Ashley "Popeye" Grant 17th.

The Race Directors nightmare heat! The reverse grid from the result of heat 1. Both #Ash & Glenn who had a bad first round found themselves on the front row of the grid. Glenn Marrison a very experienced driver knew that pressure would be on from the start as the fastest drivers would be making their way from the back of the grid wishing they were at the front.

This was not one of the cleanest starts especially from those who should know better! but everyone except #Richard Fossey who started 3rd made it round. Quite quickly Haydn, #Steve and #Norman made their way to the front of the pack, although this did not faze Glenn and he kept them behind him.

Half way though the heat and for seven laps #John Carter 10th & #Paul Webber 11th are racing for position, finally #Paul takes the place and heads for Alok 9th and then to #Stuart in the same class for 8th. Haven't mentioned much about (younger by 1 minute) brother Matt Jones, but from 13th on the grid has been slowly reeling them first #Stuart then #John, then #Norman and Luke. Again the experience of "Elite" Driver #Steve Hall sees the orange of a lightweight and lets them past, not knowing that it was Haydn trying to catch Glenn for 1st position. The "Old Buck" definitely on a charge and does the fastest lap of the event with a 49.444.

As the final lap in heat 2 is called Haydn is tucked up behind Glenn going down the hill, this was "racing", would Glenn hold his nerve, would it end in tears or would Haydn take the win? With noses pressed to the window in Race Control who would come up the hill, past café first.....by 0.29 Glenn Marrison takes the win, Haydn Brown 2nd, #Steve Hall 3rd, Matt Jones 4th, Luke "Novice" Coleman 5th, #Norman Kenvyn 6th, #Gerrard Hubbert 7th, #Stuart "Bandit" Jones 8th, Peter Sharp 9th, #John Carter 10th #Ashley "Popeye" Grant 11th, Chris Goy 12th, Brian Bellward 13th, #Paul Webber 14th, Alok Iyengar 15th, #Gary Wenbourne 16th and #Richard Fossey 17th.

All points added together for both heats and this month a clear pole sitter Mr Retirement himself "The Old Buck", same points but fastest lap Luke "Novice" Coleman" 2nd and #Steve Hall 3rd. Three drivers on 56 points and 4th on the grid would go to #Gerrard Hubbert, Matt Jones 5th and #Stuart "Bandit" Jones 6th. #Norman Kenvyn 7th, #Paul Webber 8th, Peter Sharp 9th and Glenn Marrison 10th, Chris Goy 11th, #John Carter 12th, Brian Bellward 13th, Alok Iyengar 14th, #Ashley "Popeye" Grant 15th, #Gary Wenbourne 16th and #Richard Fossey 17th.



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What a wealth of experience on the grid tonight. The first 10 drivers had all raced with each other in different events over the past 5 – 10 years and this would show by the end of the heat with only 10 seconds separating 1st – 13th!

For the final time tonight the lights go to green and all off in a big loving huddle! Unfortunately someone left it a little too late to brake and #Ash was again for the second time tonight put into a spin, luckily this time not into the tyre wall but pit-crew couldn't get the kart started so gave him a spare, got him into the pits and then Race Director Phil Ling filtered him back in on the back of the pack but on the same lap.

A great start from Matt Jones 5th to 3rd. Not mentioned so far Brian Bellward (one half of team Grand Pre in Enduro) took a place on lap one and by lap 10 upto 9th. The same with Peter Sharp who lost a place on lap one but soon picked up the pace and upto 7th. #Steve Hall who was unceremoniously clipped on his rear bumper causing him to spin on the apex of hairpin 2 on lap 5 dropped from him from 3rd to 13th.

Just as we approached the final 10 minutes, a very quick change in leader for a milli-second. Matt Jones took on the "Old Buck" quite bravely one would think and for half a lap had the lead – this would not last. Age and experience soon outweighed youth and experience!!

Further down the grid positions were not yet finalised, as #Stuart "Bandit" Jones was not looking on settling into 4th place. Although he was first in class and did not need to gain any places, #Paul Webber was again banging on the door leaving #Stuart no choice but to keep the charge on. #Steve Hall was super-glued to #Norman Kenvyn's bumper. These two drivers have great trust in each other and this was a great battle to watch.

The chequered flag for the final time to "The Old Buck" Haydn Brown, #Stuart "Bandit" Jones 2nd, Matt Jones 3rd, Luke "Novice" Coleman 4th, #Paul Webber 5th, Peter Sharp 6th, Glenn Marrison 7th, Brian Bellward 8th, #Gerrard Hubbert 9th, Chris Goy 10th, #Norman Kenvyn 11th, #Steve Hall 12th, #John Carter 13th, #Richard Fossey 14th, #Gary Wenbourne 15th, #Ashley Grant 16th and Alok Iyengar 17th.

Our Driver of the Day goes to Matt Jones who didn't win a heat but made his way steadily through the pack and gained third in the Lightweight class.

All the points for all three rounds are added together for all three heats.

Lightweight Class – 1st Haydn Brown, 2nd Luke Coleman, 3rd Matt Jones, 4th Peter Sharp, 5th Glenn Marrison, 6th Brian Bellward, 7th Chris Goy, Alok Iyengar 8th.

Standard Weight – 1st Stuart Jones, 2nd Gerrard Hubbert, 3rd Paul Webber, 4th Steve Hall, 5th Norman Kenvyn, 6th John Carter, 7th Gary Wenbourne, 8th Ashley Grant and 9th Richard Fossey

Another round with NO black flags – well done boys!

The feeling from all the drivers this month is that they enjoyed using the RX7 Sport karts and this event would now run these karts for the rest of the year.

**WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU FOR ROUND 3 ON
WEDNESDAY 6TH MAY 2009 AT 7PM**

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Lightweight Class
Luke "Novice" Coleman, Haydn
"Old Buck" Brown and Matt
"Driver of the Dav" Jones



Driver of the Day
Matt Jones



Standard Weight Class
Paul "Gobo" Webber, Stuart
"Bandit" Jones and Gerrard
"Gee Force" Hubbert