

Kimbolton Maxxis TKM Festival 2011– 13th/14th August 2011

After a wet start to timed qualifying, the track dried out and the clouds which had threatened to dump their contents relented leaving Sunday a dry day. The whole race programme was run following the increasingly popular timed format with the all important finals were run over 15 minutes plus 1 lap.

Junior Festival Cup: After a close pre-final, Ryan Gray had pole and made the most of it, leading from start to finish. Behind him, Mason Bates, Bradley Peck and Ryan Chells were scrapping over the remaining podium positions, in the process allowing Gray to break away. In the end Gray ran out a comfortable winner by over three seconds and Bates finished alone in the runner up spot some two and a half seconds ahead of Peck.

Senior Festival Cup: Daniel Graham was leading the pre-final when it was brought to a premature end by a red flag incident at Kimbolton corner and so lined up on pole. His lead only lasted four laps with Sophie Lanc coming through from grid 7 to take over on lap 5. A mistake at Kestrel a lap later gifted the lead back to Graham and Joe Forsdyke followed through. Lanc had a quick kart and was swiftly back into second. A lap later with 9 minutes to go she had caught Graham and the two were leaving Forsdyke behind. This time Lanc got it right at Kestrel, to re-take the lead, but Graham then had the better line under braking at Stow and he was back ahead. All this allowed Forsdyke back into the picture. On lap 13 Lanc made a move into Stow and Forsdyke followed through, demoting Graham to third. Lanc was just able to keep a kart length ahead from the TKM Straight through to Stow, but Forsdyke looked stronger on the run to the Bus Stop. On lap 17 Forsdyke was able to slip through at the Bus Stop and on the next lap Graham made a really late braking move to take second. Lanc re-took the place at the Bus Stop, but Forsdyke was able to pull a bit of a gap. Lanc again got into the lead with a great move at Kimbolton but she couldn't hold it down the straight and lost two places. Lanc again made it past Graham at Kestrel and they went onto the last lap with Lanc chasing Forsdyke. This time Forsdyke had everything covered and crossed the line three kart lengths ahead of Lanc with Graham just behind them. Unfortunately Lanc was excluded for a technical infringement in post-race scrutineering, so Graham was handed second and Ryan Bennett moved up to third.

Senior 4 Stroke: Jack Kilkenny had taken the pre-final pretty much unchallenged after Scott Mitchell fell back early on. It was Joel Saunders and Miles Murphy who muscled through from the second and third rows to lead Thomas McMurray, Kilkenny and Mitchell who moved forward to sit on Kilkenny's tail. After a few laps, Murphy drove round the outside of Saunders and that set off a chain reaction of karts bumping into each other, resulting in McMurray spinning off and Mitchell dropping to the back of the field. Murphy was able to pull away as the rest continued to trip over themselves and Saunders' race came to an end when he was shown the black flag. This let Kilkenny into second and he now began to pull away from Dave Sutcliffe. The question was could Kilkenny close the gap of 2.74 seconds in the remaining 7 minutes. The answer soon became obvious as Murphy posted several laps faster than Kilkenny. In fact as the race progressed, Kilkenny came under threat from Sutcliffe with Emyr Honeybun latched on to Sutcliffe's rear bumper. On Lap 17 Honeybun slipped past Sutcliffe for third and two laps later he made a move for second. Unfortunately for him, Kilkenny got the draught down Hines Straight and Sutcliffe went past Honeybun following Kilkenny through. On the last lap Honeybun managed to wrestle third place back, but Kilkenny held on to second.

Classics, Heavies and Masters: It was the Classic karts firmly at the sharp end of the grid and Sam Grogan swept into the lead at the start. Callum Craw was nailed to his rear bumper and soon went past to take over at the front. Grogan had struggled in the pre-final, but kept pressing to stay ahead of Eddie Donald and Scott Craw. Scott looked quick though and having slipped past Donald at Hanger on lap 5, began to worry Grogan. Making a decisive move at the Bus Stop, Scott made second his own on lap 7 and now it was just brother

Callum ahead of him. Surprisingly though, the gap between the front two kept increased and Grogan came back into the picture retaking second on lap 10. A game of cat and mouse was developing as Scott Craw took second spot off Grogan on lap 14. Donald was still keeping a watching brief just behind Grogan, but the positions remained the same to the line. Russell Waller won the Masters and Martin Reader the Heavyweights.

Junior Elite: Jake Walker led Ryan Green, Matthew Davies and Oliver Basey-Fisher and Danny Keirle, the pack of 5 pulling away from the rest. Davies and Basey-Fisher progressed past Green and then their positions were reversed as Basey-Fisher posted fastest lap. Walker's lead was just over half a second at this point, but a lap later this was cut in two. Danny Kierle got past Green as Basey-Fisher assumed the lead. The pair of them swapped top spot again with Kierle slotting himself into second ahead of Green and then a lap later he was leading. Keirle, Basey-Fisher and Walker began to pull away from Green. Their positions were changing lap after lap and Basey-Fisher resumed top spot with Kierle back to third. Two laps later Kierle was back in front, Walker second and Basey-Fisher third! The kart in the lead was vulnerable to a pass by both karts following as they could both get by under braking into Stow. Next Walker was leading, Basey-Fisher second and Kierle third. With three minutes remaining, Kierle was back in front and the battle was so intense that Davies was able to rejoin the fray. Next lap, Kierle found himself in fourth behind Basey-Fisher, Walker and Davies. Now Basey-Fisher had a bit of a gap over Walker who in turn had some daylight between himself and Keirle. With two laps to go, Walker closed in again on the leader and taking an inside line at Hanger, clipped Basey-Fisher pushing him off onto the grass. This allowed Kierle to challenge for the lead and at the Willows he was back in front. In a frantic final lap, Walker missed part of the Bus Stop and emerged ahead to cross the line first, half a kart length ahead of Kierle and Davies with Toby Sowery coming through from 30th to 4th. Sowery was awarded the Bernie Turney Memorial Trophy as driver of the day and then found himself on the podium as Walker was excluded from the results.

TKM Extreme Elite: From the left side of the grid, Michael West and Randall Lynn got ahead of pole sitter Joe Porter, but Porter was soon back in second with David Eadon, Josh Waring and Tom Oliphant pushing Lynn back to sixth. Eadon grabbed second from Porter on lap 4 and he was quickly onto West's rear bumper. These three had a comfortable gap over Waring and James Bartlett. It only took two laps for Eadon to take the lead, but West's race came to an abrupt end with a spin at the exit of Kestrel. This mixed everything up with Porter taking the lead, Bartlett and Waring now in second and third and Eadon down to fourth. Eadon made a quick recovery to reclaim second, but Porter had pulled five kart lengths clear. Eadon was setting fastest laps and, dragging Bartlett, Waring and Lynn along behind him, closed in on Porter. Eadon's progress slowed allowing Bartlett to take over second spot. Lynn got past Eadon and Porter pulled away again. Bartlett had to relinquish second to Eadon on lap 16 and was now under pressure from Lynn. Bartlett had another brief foray into second, but Eadon took the place back a lap later and this was all gifting the race to Porter. With a lap to go Waring seized his chance to grab third and with a great determination, he caught and passed Eadon on the line!

Results round up	1 st	2 nd	3 rd
Junior Festival Cup	Ryan Gray	Mason Bates	Bradley Peck
Senior Festival Cup	Joe Forsdyke	Daniel Graham	Ryan Bennett
Senior 4 Stroke	Miles Murphy	Jack Kilkenny	Emyr Honeybun
Classics, Heavies and Masters	Callum Craw	Scott Craw	Sam Grogan
Junior Elite	Danny Kierle	Matthew Davies	Toby Sowery
Senior Elite	Joe Porter	Josh Waring	David Eadon