

HKRC 2010 Championships Round 3 – 11th April 2010

Sunday dawned bright and breezy for HKRC's April meeting. Joining us for the third round of the club championships was the WTP Little Green Man Championship. With the change to British Summer Time, the race format was back to the usual three heats and a final. With the races run to a time plus one lap, finals were typically fifteen laps long.

Cadet Libre and Honda Cadet: In Cadet Libre Lewis Taylor led from start to finish, extending his winning margin to over four and a half seconds. Ellis Hanks did his best to fend off Connor Hall for second place, but Hall took the place on lap eight. Hanks held on and kept Hall on his toes to the end, but Hall just got to the line ahead by a whisker. Kathleen Sore won the Novice award. In Honda, Aaron Drury, Luke Knott and James Waite had an entertaining tussle for the top three places. Knott led Drury for the first lap, but Drury took the lead and looked to be quick enough to pull away. Waite began to apply pressure to Knott for second and between them they drew in Drury, passing him on lap seven. One lap later, Waite decided it was his turn to lead but then Drury came back into the picture with a double pass to re-take the lead. Drury now began to consolidate his position whilst Waite and Knott kept swapping places, Waite eventually coming out on top. Sore took the Novice award.

WTP Little Green Man: Cory Stephens got the better of teammate Sean Gee to lead the field round the first lap, followed by Eddie Hack and Max Stilp. It looked like the leading pair were going to pull away, but Sam Priest was picking up speed. Passing Stilp and Hack, he began to challenge for the lead. Slicing past both karts in quick succession Priest hit the front, but it didn't last long as Stephens and Gee got the draught down the straight to tow themselves back ahead of Priest. So Priest had to do it all again and this time made it stick. Stephens and Gee kept up the pressure though right to the end but Priest got everything right on the last lap to win by four hundredths of a second. Harry Whittaker was the first Novice over the line, finishing just outside the top ten.

Junior Rotax: Chad Shiner led away from pole and looked to have command of the race as the gap to second placed Sam Jackson widened lap after lap. Tom D'Arcy was the man following Jackson and by lap six he was through into second and starting to gain on the leader. Guy Perry was the next to pass Jackson but D'Arcy was away and homing in on Shiner. D'Arcy timed his passing move to perfection going through into the lead on lap thirteen. Shiner had now lost his early pace and was being reeled in quickly by Perry, who took second with two laps to go. Christopher Lee won the Novice trophy.

Mini Max: Luke Hughes slipped past Michael Houghton and James Webb in the first corner, into a lead he was to hold to the finish. Houghton and Webb continued to battle over second spot with Webb finally passing Houghton with three laps to go. Houghton fought back though and one lap later was back in second where he stayed to the end. Further back, Oliver Skingley and Terry Chadwick were happy to move up when Luke Pharoah and Harry Smith tripped over each other.

Junior TKM: With pole man Tom Seddon dropping to the back of the field, Richard Woolmer and Alex Nuttall were able to battle race long for the lead. Nuttall held sway initially, but Woolmer kept pressing and went ahead with four laps to go. Nuttall wasn't going to be denied the win though two laps later he was back in front. Liam Murray made steady progress from grid nine to snatch third from Jack Partridge with one lap to go. Ryan Grey took the Novice trophy.

Rotax 177 Masters: Wayne Smithers tenure of top spot was brief with Martin Reader passing him on lap two. Martin Gadd who had started fifth took three laps to get on terms with Reader, content to follow the leader lap after lap. On the penultimate lap, Gadd made his move and Reader had no answer. Smithers was able to stay third, well ahead of Mark Bartholomew and the recovering Steve Sawford. Brad Strahm won the Novice trophy.

Gearbox 125 and 250: With 125s going first, it was Ray Thomas who initially made the best start, but Chris Brunton stormed through into the lead. Richard Palmer had slipped up at the start, but was soon in the groove and past both Thomas and Brunton in three laps. Brunton stayed second, but Chris Thexton passed Thomas for third as Palmer pulled out a lead of nearly eight seconds. 250 class winner Ron Stamp spent most of the race passing the 125 karts to finish third on the road just behind Brunton. Martin Smith made a poor start, but was able to drive through to second with Jason Turner third.

Senior Rotax: Aaron Head had pole and led for the first two laps until Andrew Winter swept past. Winter wasn't able to relax though as Head kept in touch. These two were well ahead of the rest with James Corpe getting the better of Marc Dawson for third. Thomas Lamb took the Novice trophy.

Rotax 177 and TKM Extreme: In 177, Lee Torrie led from start to finish finishing some five seconds ahead of Andrew Gosling. Matt Barnes was third for much of the race, but dropped back a few places with two laps to go. Gordon Chenery was the man to benefit. Guy Bowden was around to take the Novice trophy. Once again the small TKM Extreme grid provided entertaining racing with Sam Grogan, Jamie Waite, Michael Cornell and Ashley Ruggles all participating fully. Grogan led Harris and Cornell, the latter looking the most likely to make progress. This he did passing Harris on lap four and Grogan two laps later. The next time round though it was all change with Cornell at the back, Grogan back in front chased by Harris and Ruggles. Harris took over the lead but Grogan was not finished and the pair battled furiously for the lead. Cornell saw the chance to catch the leading pair and going onto the last lap they crossed the line virtually as one. Grogan and Harris got tangled up coming out of the Willows allowing Cornell into the lead and Ruggles became the grateful recipient of second place. Harris managed to finish third, but Grogan struggled to get restarted and came in a distant fourth.

Results round up	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	Novice
Cadet Libre	Lewis Taylor	Connor Hall	Ellis Hanks	Kathleen Sore [15 th]
Honda Cadet	Aaron Drury	Luke Knott	James Waite	S Sore [7 th]
WTP Little Green Man	Sam Priest	Cory Stephens	Sean Gee	Harry Whittaker [11 th]
Junior Rotax	Tom D'Arcy	Guy Perry	Chad Shiner	Christopher Lee [18 th]
Mini Max	Luke Hughes	Michael Houghton	James Webb	-
Junior TKM	Alex Nuttall	Richard Woolmer	Liam Murray	Ryan Grey [19 th]
Rotax 177 Masters	Martin Gadd	Martin Reader	Wayne Smithers	Brad Strahm [15 th]
125	Richard Palmer	Andrew Brunton	Chris Thexton	-
250	Ron Stamp	Martin Smith	Jason Tucker	-
Senior Rotax	Andrew Winter	Aaron Head	James Corpe	Thomas Lamb [20 th]
Rotax 177	Lee Torrie	Andrew Gosling	Gordon Chenery	Guy Bowden [12 th]
TKM Extreme	Michael Cornell	Ashley Ruggles	James Harris	-

