

Newsletter 2017 Issue#1

“Why do I bother?”

“Why do I bother?” I’m sure it’s a question you have asked yourself on more than one occasion. On the cold Saturday night at the yard, when you are busy finishing the last few jobs on the car ready for the following day, knowing your mates are in the warm pub around the corner. Or the day spent trying to revive a car that took a big hit in heat 1, so you can do the DD, only for the clutch to go as you drive to the pit gate. Or the race spent looking at the fence, picking shale out of your teeth, when you have been put away on lap 2, after weeks of preparation. I am sure the list goes on.

I am guessing you bother because you love it, and the preparation, the hard work, the roulette wheel of how each race will go, all adds up to the magic of short oval racing (a magic that circuit racers struggle to understand!). Maybe you bother because you are searching for that perfect race, where you battle your way through the pack before making that last bend lunge in order to take the chequered flag. But if you ever do seriously question why you bother, let me tell you a little about the fans you didn’t even know you had.

Next time you are at a race meeting, keep an eye open for the youngsters. Not so much those that are there every week with racing families, but those who wander around the pits wide-eyed and enthralled by the spectacle of the occasion. It may be their first time at the racing, and there is an awful lot to take in, but these kids and their families are vital to the future of our sport.

Even after many years of racing & spectating, we still get a buzz out of seeing race cars on the road on the way to a meeting, and seeing the queue of transporters at Belle Vue or Stoke still gets the butterflies going. It means a lot to the kids when they are looking at a car in the pits and the driver says hello, it makes you real and human, not just a faceless crash helmet in the car on the track. I know the kids may have questions that seem daft, but answering them and chatting will win you a fan for the day and maybe for months to come. When you are queueing down pit lane and a youngster gives you a wave or a “thumbs up”, return it, because you have no idea how much it means to them.

So why do you bother? Well consider after all the effort on the good days and the bad, every one of you that drives onto the track becomes a hero for the youngsters that are dotted around the circuit. They watch you even when you are not aware, and the driver that chatted in the pits suddenly becomes their favourite racer.

Good luck to all the youngster’s heroes who entertain us, and I hope one day you all enjoy that perfect race.

AH Racepix

Hello and welcome to your Newsletter, this issue covers the meetings in January, February, March, and April for all our regular formulas. It has been an amazing start to the season in terms of driver numbers every formula experiencing large turnouts. There have been several changes to the published fixture list due to the 11th hour loss of Coventry, details for each formula will be in your own section of this newsletter. The first major National Banger Championship is at Cowdenbeath on Saturday April 8th and last season's top three 382 Jack Foster, 25 Joe Parsons, and 180 Mark Foster will represent Startrax in the main race along with 82 Tom Foster, and 14 Jo Persy, 171 Tommy West, 514 Paul Woods, and 797 George Plant will take part in the support races, thank you and good luck to all 8 of you. There have been plenty of talking points in the three meetings so far, and lots of really good action and racing. So let me get on with things formula by formula

Startrax Angels.

Startrax are very pleased to be adding to our growing band of Sponsor's joining G&M Banger Bits who already sponsor The Demons of Destruction and the Startrax Hot Rods World Series we have secured additional sponsorship for our drivers in 2017. All the prizes donated are racing related and go direct to the driver. 1600cc Bangers are now sponsored for the National Points by Gamble Motorsport with Trophies for the Top 3 at the end of November, EVERY meeting Final has a new Kingpin Tyre courtesy of CPR Services for the winner. Gamble Motorsport will also sponsor the All Cavalier National Banger meeting on Saturday May 20th with Race Wear prizes for the Heat winners Final top 3 Best Prepared and Best Entertainer. JB Welding & Fabrication have already provided prizes for the Lady Banger Micro meeting Final winner and will provide three prizes for the World Final. A.C. Race Fabrication will sponsor the Junior Banger English Championship at Stoke in October again with racing related prizes.

A big THANK YOU to Gary Shaw & Martin Mullins of G&M Banger Bits, Simon Gamble of Gamble Motorsport, Carlos Perez of CPR Services, James Benn of JB Welding & Fabrication, and Joey Holmes & Ash Law of A.C. Race Fabrications. To join them contact Steve at the office or see me or Baz on race days.

National Bangers

The 2ltr January meeting had a respectable 20+ cars with The Gladiators making up a third of the field it was a lively meeting. A new war seems to be about to happen as 526 Fatkidd launched a strong attack on Blooz Boyz 05 Carlos Perez while Gone Gang duo 10 Liam Palin and 174 Aaron Smith took on the Glads in heat one both local lads giving and taking several big hits in a hard hitting race with just 3 cars finishing all Glads 548 Jamie Avery , 367 Tom Keep , and 549 Phil Smith. The same top 3 in heat two, 549 from 548 and 367. A destructive Final saw just 3 cars finish 548 Avery 549 Smith and 526 Fatkidd.

St. Valentines Massacre for Unlimited in February raised a great entry of 50+ cars with the notorious Brighton Bears making their track debut, heat one and half cars for another hectic action packed Stoke race 382 Chubby taking the flag after some heavy hits between Blooz Boyz 205 Fiveeyes and 171 Westy and 25 Joe Parsons and 526 Fatkidd. Heat two and 154 Willis showed he can still drive well on shale recording the win. The St Valentines Massacre Final saw 382 Chubby win for the second year running, 797 Little Willis and Ringwood visitor 362 John James second and third. Irish

visitor 388 Stevo McGrath won the all-comers with 67 Ricky Beasley just beating 382 Chubby for the DD. March 5th was rained off and a new date of Sunday August 27th has been set for the Demons of Destruction sponsored by G&M Banger Bits. March 19th and horrible conditions saw just 16 2ltr Bangers brave the day. 136 Stumpy won the King o'the North with 382 Chubby taking both all-comers.

The next meeting is the Phil Manning Memorial for 2ltr RWD cars at Belle Vue on Easter Monday April 17th with £30 Start Money and sponsored Trophies for Best Prepared and Best Entertainer and race winners. The annual Stan Woods Celebration for pre1975 cars on Saturday April 29th Stoke 4.30pm, and we have been amazed at the response once again, over 220 drivers have applied for bookings and Startrax have made this event all Banger again. The entry on the car front is set to top all previous years and when you consider we have had an Aston Martin Lagonda Triumph GT6 and last year's stunning 1934 Studebaker that is some boast. Into May and the All Cavalier meeting on Saturday May 20th at Stoke has attracted attention from mainland Europe with 3 drivers among the 65+ entry (and still booking-in) this meeting is being sponsored by Gamble Motorsport with Race Wear Prizes for Winners, Entertainers, and Best Presented thanks to Simon Gamble, then it will be Unlimited Battle of Britain 17 on Saturday June 10th at Stoke for individuals and already 35+ have booked. In July Sheffield has a special 2ltr meeting for non subframe cars, more details will be released soon, August has seen two changes from the original fixture list, on Saturday 5th we are launching The 1500cc British Team Championship, (Icebreaker car rules) even though bookings for this meeting will not open until June, 6 Teams have already asked for bookings! This will be restricted to the first 15 Teams of 6, and IF this meeting is successful Startrax will look at making it a 30 Team All Banger day in 2018. The late Bank Holiday weekend has two great meetings in two days, Sunday 27th at Stoke for Micro Bangers Demons of Destruction and Monday 28th at Belle Vue for Big Vans, 3.5tonne single axle limit, a lot to look forward to this season and thanks to all for a great start.

Talking Points:

Top spot since he joined Startrax in 2016 is where Chubby still finds himself with a commanding 40 point lead over 526 Fatkidd in second. Third after winning the King o'the North is 136 Stumpy with 310 Josh Brierley and 797 Little Willis making up the top 5. Attendance Points are scored for every Startrax National Banger Meeting except Stan Woods, for representing Startrax in Championship races those drivers will now score 20 Attendance Points and those who go to these meetings as Last Chance Qualifiers will score 10 Attendance Points. The next Championship events are Shamwreck and the 2ltr World Final at Brum on Saturday May13th, to attend either of these events and score Attendance Points you must book-in with me, when your booking is confirmed I will contact you.

1600cc Bangers

Cars! Cars! Cars! The story of 2017 so far and it is only 3 meetings in!! The annual Team Meeting in January raised 39 cars and included a visiting PRI team! Heat wins for The Manglers 123 and Green Team 59 Tom Greenstreet but a win in the Final for 355 Martin Mullins saw The Demons take the overall win. 49 Cars for WQ1 in February and two half car heats were needed to cope with the large entry, heat one went to 123 Paul Manning, heat two for 195 Elvis Hopkins and heat three for 205 Reece Moran. 821 Ryan Shuff became the first CPR Services Final winner. March and the first of our new Head2Head series with Trent Raceway produced another good field of 42 cars. The Teams both

managed the full 15 a side with a couple of last minute replacements. Trent took a 1-2-3 win 33 David Attrill, 138 Ant Timmins and 03 Bryn Starr Trent lead going into Leg 2 (Trent June 25th) 38 points to 16. Lots of new drivers coming to Startrax in 2017 and 314 Luke Rawlins took a first time heat win, with 821 Ryan Shuff heat two. The CPR Services Final saw 60 James French win from 138 Ant and 160 Simon Crew. WQ2 at Stoke in April and heat wins for 22 Eliot Dowds taking both while another newcomer to Startrax 292 Paul Davies won the CPR Services Final from 195 Fat Head and 22 Dowds. Next up is the first meeting at Belle Vue on Bank Holiday Monday May 1st for WQ3, then WQ4 at Stoke on Saturday May 13th and Belle Vue for WQ5 again on Bank Holiday Monday 29th. The British Championship will now be at Stoke on Saturday 15th July with the top 25 in the Startrax Points by May 29th will qualify to represent Startrax along with invited drivers from across the country. August has the annual Tuesday night at Belle Vue and also doubles as the last WQ before the big race on September 30th at Stoke.

Talking Points:

Three meetings in to the new season and he same two top the Charts, the seemingly unstoppable Crew Brothers, 160 Simon leads 260 Tim by 4 points. As ever 123 Paul Manning is close at hand in third place while 195 Elvis Hopkins has made a good start to the year currently 4th, 821 Ryan Shuff has made the switch to Startrax and holds 5th place with the last Coventry Track Champion 60 James French in 6th place. The WQ points after 2 rounds has 195 Fat Head leading from 123 Mangler with 260, 22 Eliot Dowds and 160 making up the top 5 so far, the top 25 after WQ6 at Belle Vue in August will qualify for the BIG ONE in September, already the Defending Champion 23 Barry Staples has indicated he will return to Stoke to defend the title.

Hot Rods

New Rules New Cars New Drivers this formula goes from strength to strength. G&M Banger Bits continue their support for the World Series sponsoring the Final Winner at each of the 6 WQ and the Top 3 in the World Final. February and WQ1 new driver 186 Alex Daniels won the opening race of the year with heat two for 45 Scott Meir. 90 Ash Tomkinson's new car came good in the final taking the flag from 93 Pikey and 45 Scott Meir. March 18th and WQ2 and enough cars to run 2/3rds format, heat wins for 144 Hayley Harvey, her first at Startrax, 199 Craig Davies his first in Hot Rods and 90 Tomo. 284 Ryan Latham drove superbly well to win the Final with 93 Pikey again second and 19 Shane King third. Stoke on Sunday April 2nd and the first Title of the season with WQ3 and The National Championship. Both heat wins went to 199 Craig Davies giving him inside pole position for the main race with 90 Tomo alongside. The 90 car lead for most of the race but the action was always just inches from his back bumper as 85 Ben White, 19 Shane King, 199 Davies and 282 Cracker had a great race between them. Tomo stuck to his inside line but Cracker powered round the outside to snatch the lead and take the flag and the Union Jack roof for 2017, 90 Tomo was runner up with 199 Craig Davies third. The next three meetings are all G&M Banger Bits WQ at Stoke with the July meeting also being for the British Championship.

Talking Points:

The New Grades effective from May have seen the usual early season winners and losers mix the grades up very drastically. 90 Tomo's fine start to 2017 has seen him build a good lead to sit at number 1 and move up to Super Star along with 85 Ben White, 184 Martin Smith and 282 Paul

Dutton. First time Reds include 199 Craig Davies from White and 93 Pikey from Blue while 45 Scott Meir and Shane King 43 Bert and 100 Grandad are all regular Red Grade drivers. Blue Grade has 73 Wrighty, 144 Hayley Harvey, and 80 Lorne Pilip retaining Blue, down from Red are 81 Kris Millar and 270 Kieran Collis and from Super Star 99 Danny Davies. First time Yellow for 33 Stephen Rose while several drivers fall from Blue, 40 Neil Hayes, 839 Darren Ibbs, 101 T-Bone, and from Red 77 Jim Fletcher who has not had the best start in his new car and will surely return to Blue or higher come the next Grading Period in July. 09 Kyle Cooley and 142 Andrew Earl both retain Yellow but the new comers are not far behind 413 Dave Brown and 213 Car Little both scoring points in their second meeting, 992 Tom Hill slips to White but regular appearances this season should see Tom climb the grades again.

May Grades

Super Star

90/282/85/184

Red

199/19/93/45/43/100

Blue

73/144/80/81/270/99

Yellow

33/40/839/101/77/187/09/142

White

22/213/413/992

Junior Bangers

Another formula with excellent numbers at the start of the season, lots of new drivers registered and they all want to race, we have DOUBLED our average attendance in 2016. January and the fun meeting raised a double figure entry with heat wins for 514 Mitchell Webster and 90 Spud with 95 Fat Head Jnr taking the Final. February and 20 cars for the start of the 2017 Points Championship, heat one was won 619 Tomo from 152 Jordan Webb and 95 Fat Head Jnr. Heat two went to 284 Liam Challenger from 90 Spud and 152 Webby. Final and there was no stopping 619 Tomo who drove well to win from 152 Webby and 528 Kieran Heathway. March 18th and 1st and 2nd in both heats for 90 Spud and 95 Fat Head Jnr 29 David Mawdslet 3rd in heat 1 and 704 Connor Siddals in heat 2. Silver Roof 450 Blake Platts made a mad dash back from Austria (school trip) picked up at Dover around 11am to be driven to Stoke to meet his car!! He made the effort worth while winning the Final from Novice 800 Jacob Rushton and 284 Liam C. March 18th had 17 cars and heat one went to 619 Tomo from 90 Spud and 29 David Mawdsley, heat two and a win for Spud from 003 Jake Hampson and 14 Will Walmsley. Spud also took the Final win from 619 Tomo and 95 fat Head Jnr.

The first Title of the year the British at Kings Lynn on Saturday 8th April has a massive 13 Startrax Junior's racing, absolutely fantastic response and good luck ALL bring the Black and White to Startrax for the first time. The second and most important title the World Final is at Northampton on 8th September and the top 3 in the Startrax Points after August 5th will qualify. Then the English Championship is at Stoke in October kindly sponsored by A.C. Race Fabrications where the top 12 Startrax Drivers from September's points Chart will qualify for the Main Race.

Talking Points:

Three meetings and three different Final winners! Sitting at the top is 90 Spud with 3 heats and a Final win second is 619 Tomo who has 2 heats and a Final win and third is 152 Jordan Webb one of the many new names to Startrax in 2017. 95 Fat Head Jnr (Red) and another new signing 284 Liam Challenger (Blue) make up the top 5 to date. The Top 3 in the Points Chart after August 5th will represent Startrax at the World Final. Reigning Silver Roof 450 Blake Platts the other final winner is in 6th after missing the February meeting, 29 David Mawdsley holds Blue after jumping from Yellow with 20+ points haul in March. Only starting as a novice in February it's good to see new drivers doing well 800 Jacob Rushton makes Blue, 132 Archie Cullum and 704 Connor Siddals complete the Blue Grade. In to the Yellows and 712 Stig Jnr and 14 Will Walmsley both go up from White as do 003 Jake Hampson and 458 Billy Bradford.

May Grades

Super Star

90/450

Red

619/152/95

Blue

284/29/800/132/704

Yellow

712/14/76/003/458/112

Lady Bangers

A great start to the year with a cracking Micro Banger meeting in January, a new sponsor came to us and a deal has been struck to also sponsor the World Final in September, so Thank You to James Benn of JB Welding & Fabrication. The Micro's raised a very good 16 cars with TSR number 1 477 Amy Brown winning heat one, heat two and a win for 232 Sammy Dugmore. The Final carried the sponsored prize of various corner and door plates and a new foot plate with 850 Mikeala Teal winning from 115 Pippa Prestage and 477 Amy Brown. Points scoring meetings start with the February meeting and heat wins for TSR visitor 3 Danielle Ellis and 381 Jade Challenger. The final went to 3 Ellis with 282 Kirstayy Challenger and 04 Charlene Cornes second and third. The second meeting in March saw a low of just 7 cars heat wins for 04 Charlene and 112 Pippa. The Final saw another win for 112 Pippa with 232 Sammy and 381 Jade second and third. The early pace setters in

the points are 411 Nikki Calvert, 04 Charlene and 112 Pippawho all make Red for the first time, with 232 Sammy, 381 Jade, and 100 Emma Mullins. Blue Grade for 584 Kim Smith, 282 Kirstay and 166 Charlotte Houseman. The loss of Coventry has meant the proposed WQ rounds have been dropped with the top 15 in the points on August 5th will make the World Final on Saturday September 16th along with invited drivers from several venues to make a 20+ car World Final.

The next meeting is the first leg of the Trent Raceway Head2Head on Saturday May 13th at Stoke, Ladies WE NEED YOU... Trent have already filled their 8 places while we still need 3 more drivers to join 110 Mary Tyler, 381 Jade Challender, 411 Nikki Calvert, 627 Bekah Everett, and 850 Mikeala Teal in the Startrax Team, apply to me in the usual ways.

1300cc Saloons

A new venture in 2017 Startrax will be running meetings once a month from March to October at Stoke with the World of Shale Final the showpiece event. We will be running to SSCA rules and Points Scoring for 1300cc Saloons and all drivers are welcome to join this growing National Formula where as well as Startrax venues you can race at Lochgelly, Birmingham, Northampton, Kings Lynn and more. The first two meetings in March and April saw 422 Martin Taylor record the first 1300cc Saloon race win at Stoke with heat two won by 681 Dan Moore. Multi Champion 216 Dan Booth became the first Final winner beating 444 Natasha Street and 422 Martin Taylor. April and into double figures car wise and 681 Dan Moore won his second heat in two meetings but 450 Luke Jackson took a heat and Final double ahead of 681 Moore and 216 Booth in the Final, this leaves Dan as points leader after 2 meetings. Confirmed dates for 2017 are Saurday May 20th, Saturday June 10th, Saturday August 5th, Saturday September 16th and the World of Shale on Saturday October 21st all at Stoke.

That's all for this issue.

Spike

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