

Drivers Newsletter Issue #4

A really busy and very pleasing time in August and September for Startrax some excellent meetings with great car turnouts and awesome racing. The big meetings are still coming with the 1600cc Bangers World Final at Stoke on October 29th with already over 50 cars booked in. During September 25 Joe Parsons 180 Mark Foster and 382 Jack Foster have represented Startrax at the major Banger meetings, thank you.

We are now well into planning the 2017 season and all dates will be available soon, we are putting the emphasis on quality meetings that you want to race at, we are planning full season racing for National Bangers 1600cc Bangers Hot Rods Lady and Junior Bangers for Belle Vue Coventry and Stoke.

On the subject of 2017 we are pleased to confirm the Hot Rod World Series will again be sponsored by G&M Banger Bits, the 6 WQ Final winners each getting a free Kingpin tyre and tyres for the top 3 in the World Final. G&M Banger Bits are also sponsoring the Demon of Destruction for Micro Bangers at Stoke on March 5th with the Final winner trophy and other assorted prizes. If you are interested in sponsoring any of the points championships for National Bangers, 1600cc Bangers, Lady Bangers, Hot Rods, or Junior Bangers please call the office on 01253 713754 for details of the deals available.

We have spent a few minutes asking the standout drivers, new comers and those who race meeting after meeting without always getting recognition, for their thoughts on the season so far.

5 Minutes with... Unsung Heroes

Name: Jade Challender (381)

Age: 17

Hometown: Birmingham

Number of years racing: 6

SB: what formulas have you raced?

JC: Mini-Stox, Lady Bangers, Back to Basics Bangers and 1600cc Bangers.

SB: What's your favourite formula?

JC: Any Banger

SB: What's your favourite venue and why?

JC: Stoke because that's where most of our racing is and I love the track.

SB: What were your hopes at start of year?

JC: To just enjoy myself and I am!!

SB: Your hopes for next year?

JC: To race at Coventry with the ladies again.

SB: Anyone you would like to thank?

JC: Mum Cara, Dad Andy and Brother Brad for everything they do.

Name: Kimberley Rebecca Smith (584)

Age: 29

Hometown: Taunton

SB: How long have you been racing?

KRS: This is my first full season

SB: Any other experience?

KRS: I raced a 1300 saloon a couple of times.

SB: Your favourite formula?

KRS: To watch F1,s you gotta love a V8!

SB: Your favourite venue and why?

KRS Love racing at Coventry, I don't care what's on or who is racing it is always good.

SB: What were your hopes for this year?

KRS: No hopes for me this is just for fun. A hobby I can share and enjoy with my family while getting to meet new friends along the way. After being sidelined by injury I just wanted to get out there again and say I did it! It's not about points or winning I just want to be out there!

SB: What has been your best moment this year?

KRS: The racing has been better than I could of imagined, as a family we have had some great times trucking up to Stoke.

SB: Anyone you would like to thank?

KRS: Thanks Keiro Smith for building my cars, Big Russ and Mum for driving me up north, and keeping the team topped up with brew's! Also to Brad and Martin French and Mark Gilbert for their help advice and belt tightening services! To all the girls who race for helping me achieve my dream after years of being in my brothers racing shadows!

Name: Mikaela Teal (850)

Age: 20

Hometown: Barnoldswick, Lancashire

SB: How long have you been racing?

MT: I have been racing for nearly 6 years now.

SB: What formulas have you raced?

MT: Junior Bangers, Lady Bangers, National Bangers. My first race out of Juniors was a caravan race then I raced a Micro Banger and did my first DD!

SB: What were your hopes for this season?

MT: To go out and enjoy myself and have a better year than last year!

SB: How has this season gone for you?

MT: I have had a good year some good meetings and wins and some bad meetings, but just being out there is part of the fun weather I have a good meeting or bad coming home with a trophy or good places is just a bonus. Racing with my sister at the start of the season was also a highlight as I am normally out there on my own.

SB: Your favourite venue and why?

MT: Coventry is my favourite track. It was the first shale track I raced in my Junior days, it is a good fast track and after winning the Final in reverse in August I felt really good.

SB: Anyone you would like to thank?

MT: I would like to thank Wilf Speak for sponsoring all my Micra's so I could start racing, John and Susan for letting me keep my cars at the farm, but most of all my Dad! All the effort time and money he puts into my racing. Without him I wouldn't be out there for as many meetings per year, so I try my hardest to make him proud! Startrax for all they do to promote the Ladies, let's hope next year is as good as this year and we get to race more tracks again.

Name: Shane King (19)

Age: 42

Hometown: Crewe

SB: How long have you been racing for?

SK: This is my second full season.

SB: Formulas raced?

SK: Hot Rods

SB: Your favourite formula?

SK: To race, Startrax Hot Rods and love to watch Classic Hot Rods but their out of my budget lol

SB: Your favourite venue and why?

SK: I love Coventry it is a big fast track and getting second in the British there last year was great. I love Stoke because it is my local track and I always feel relaxed when racing there.

SB: Best moment of this year?

SK: Last weekend, the car wasn't right in heat 1 but managed 4th then made a few changes and won my first race of the year in heat2, before limping home 2nd in the final when the back box fell off my exhaust.

SB: How has the season gone for you?

SK: To be honest there's no one more surprised than me to see I am top of the points, we will just have to see if the luck stays with me over the next few weeks. I used to love watching at Crewe and thanks to Startrax here I am living the dream!

SB: Your hopes for next year?

SK: I am hoping to build a new car over the winter and come back next year more competitive and possibly challenge for one of the Championships. It could not be worse than first meeting this year when I ran out of petrol after 2 laps of heat 1 lol got missed by lap scores in heat 2 and had to start the final from the back, never mind we now have Lucie (Wright) with the results board!

SB: Anyone you would like to thank?

SK: Pretty much just me usually but over the last couple of years I've had had help and advice from Garry Meir, Neil Hayes, Kris Millar, Scott Meir, Paul Dutton, and Lorne Pilip, special mention to Jim Worthington of Worthington Transport for transport in the first year and keeping the car at his yard.

Name: Jim Fletcher (77)

Age: 38

Hometown: Stafford

SB: How long have you been racing?

JF: 3 and ½ years

SB: Formula's raced?

JF: Startrax Hot Rods Buxton Open Rods and Incarods

SB: Favourite formula?

JF: Startrax Hot Rods obviously!

SB: Your favourite venue and why?

JF: It has to be Coventry. I've done well each time we race there coming home with a trophy.

SB: Best moment of the year so far?

JF: Has to be achieving Super Star for the first time and getting as high as fourth in the points even if I didn't stay there long lol.

SB: Your hopes at start of the season?

JF: After finishing 11th last year to make the top 10 this season and it looks achievable now, wouldn't you say Spike? Yes mate keep going!

SB: Your hopes for next year?

JF: See where I finish this time and aim higher!

SB: Anyone you would like to thank?

JF: I am a one man band build my own cars and mechanic for myself on race days, but I would like to thank all the Startrax staff and supporters for doing what they do so people like me can race.

Name: Kieran Collis (270)

Age: 22

Hometown: Heron Cross, Stoke

SB: How long have you been racing?

KC: Since I was 7 in Go-Karts when my Mum bought me one for Christmas.

SB: Formulas raced:

KC: Go-Karts, Bangers, Hot Rods.

SB: Favourite formula?

KC: It has to be Hot Rods, the close side by side racing is such an adrenaline rush the feeling is unbeatable. No matter how much I loved crashing in the Bangers, coming home with a trophy is much better.

SB: Favourite venue and why?

KC: It has to be Stoke. 5 minutes from home and my old Fiesta has done me really well there against the more modern cars lol.

SB: Best moment of the year so far?

KC: One of the first meetings of the year when I got to race with all my family at once, my Brother, my Dad, and my Granddad all on track together. Winning all three races at Stoke too was another highlight.

SB: Your hopes at the start of the year?

KC: My Uncle (my main mechanic) wanted us to be in the top 12 in the point's, I didn't think I would be able to do that in the Fiesta, so to be joint 6th in the points is amazing. Being the highest placed (in the points) in my family is something I didn't think would happen, after all, my Granddad has been racing at Stoke for 40 years!

SB: Anyone you would like to thank?

KC: My Uncle for everything he does, I wouldn't be racing without him let alone have maintained Red roof all season, the hours we put in I don't think people realise the amount of time you spend on the car most nights after work and most weekend racing or preparing to race the effort my Uncle puts in at the yard really does make it possible for me to race. Also My Mum, Dad, and Granddad for giving me every support in any racing I have done. The better half for putting up with it all the time and all she does to help on race day.

Name: Jack Denikiewicz (526)

Age: 18

Hometown: Manchester

SB: How long have you been racing:

JD: 4 years now.

SB: Formulas raced:

JD: Junior Bangers and National Bangers

SB: Favourite formula

JD: Apart from Bangers I love watching the F2,s

SB: Best moment of the year?

JD: Breaking my wrist on lap one in a massive hit at the Terminator in July at Belle Vue lol

SB: Your hopes for next year?

JD: My hope for next year is to have a better go at the Points Championship.

SB: Favourite venue and why?

JD: It has to be Stoke, always a good turnout a good fast crashing track, but I would like to see more meetings at Belle Vue as it is only round the corner from home!

SB; At The Storm you put on a super show in heat 3, talk us through that race.

JD: I just went out to enjoy myself and take it easy as I had the cast taken off my arm the day before, that didn't last long! I got spun on the bend and looked up to see the limo (999 Stormin) across the track in front of me and it just had to be a few hits on that to kill the car I just wanted to wreck it, but

it would not die, absolutely loved that race cars everywhere, everyone getting stuck in just what Stoke is all about.

SB: Anyone you would like to thank?

JD: My Dad for everything he does to make it possible for me to race.

Name: Dan Gajewski (230)

Age: 23

Hometown: Newcastle-Under-Lyme

SB: How long have you been racing?

DG: 4 years

SB: Formula's raced?

DG: Just 1600c Bangers

SB: Favourite formula?

DG 1600cc Bangers

SB: Favourite venue and why?

DG: Stoke, it's my home track, the track I raced on first and the one I have my best results at.

SB: I hear you are taking a short break from racing, what does the future hold?

DG: Yes I am no more Bangers as we are saving for our own home, but I do hope to return to racing next year in a different formula.

SB: Anyone you would like to thank?

DG: Thanks to Startrax for the events they organise the staff who help out on race days and anyone that lent a hand to help in any way over the last 4 years.

National Bangers

The Storm on August 13th at Stoke raised a respectable 37 Unlimited and just under 50 Micro Bangers for the farewell to Paul Stormin Norman, the man himself in both classes. The Micro Bangers had heat wins for 13 Bobby Palin, 77 Tom Hertzog, and 797 George Plant, the Final going to 761 Nathan Rees from 160 Simon Crew and 82 Tom Foster. 04 Mikey Croft just beating 160 Crew for the DD win. The Unlimited heats went to 281 Brad Challender and 269 Tom Morris. The third heat a contender for race of the year with 30 cars on track and just one finisher. Highlights of the wrecking spree being 526 Fatkidd,s "mans" show on turn two destroying 999 Stormin in style along with

several others, Team's Grey & Black and Blue & White again at war, a monster head on between 269 Mozzer and 180 Sparky with 382 Chubby then decimating Mozzer, 925 Aaron Preece somehow getting his warped Volvo estate over the line as last car running. 267 The Tramp won the Final from 252 Blobby and 129 Jono Brook with 382 Chubby taking a good full contact DD win.

A hastily arranged Micro meeting on August 28th saw heat wins for 252 Wibbs and 181 Grant Doe. The final also won by 252 Wibbs from 797 Little Willis and 353 Sean Mullins, 526 Fatkidd, once again the day's entertainer.

The National Series Final for 2ltr National Bangers at Coventry on Saturday October 22nd has the following drivers eligible for the main race: 526-382-275-266-181-82-25-366-180-353-514-580-319-187-171-370-123-797-312-132-252JW-599-219-252GG-136-999-16-280-175-310.

Reserves:808-151-321-996-007-34-588-374-691-216-211.

Full Details: Prize Fund paid out so far £3500 so the Finale will carry £1500 in prize money.

30 @£25 (Qualifiers). 5 @£20 LCQ (subject to cars) Final £150, £100, £50 Best Entertainer £100 Best Wreck £100 A/C1 £50 £25 A/C2 £50 £25

Bookings open now on OvalChat.

The season long points race is looking like the Silver Roof for 382 Chubby nearly 100 points in the lead with just 3 points scoring meetings left. 25 Joe Parsons stays comfortably in second but the race for the third place trophy has just 10 points separating 526 Fatkidd, 269 Popeye, 180 Sparky, and 82 Big T.

Next up is a Micro meeting at Stoke on October 16th with over 30 cars already booked yet more to look forward to. In November we have the Micro Massacre Staffs Open at Stoke on Sunday November 13th followed by the end of season Unlimited Pride of the Potteries with over 60 bookings received this is definitely becoming THE end of season meeting.

Early fixture news and we start 2017 with the Unlimited St Valentines Massacre at Stoke on Sunday Feb 12th, The Demons of Destruction for Micro Bangers at Stoke on March 5th, The King o'the North for 2 Ltr Bangers at Belle Vue is on March 19th. Other dates include Stan Woods Celebration on April 29th and the All Cavalier meeting at Stoke on May 13th which has 20 drivers booked already. We are also in discussions with Warton for a 10v10 in Micro Bangers and for the Ladies to race 8v8 on the same day.

1600cc Bangers

The annual Tuesday Night session on August 16th at Belle Vue raised a healthy 24 cars, heat wins going to 19 Boxer Joe and 25 Joe Parsons the second heat featuring a sensational double hit from the Crew's ont Boxer Joe and 290 Hitman, with man of the month 69 Matty Randall taking the final from 123 Paul Manning and 25 Parsons. Coventry 4 days later produced another great turnout of 37 cars for the penultimate WQ. 569 John Appleton won both heats before 69 Fatty Matty again won

the final from 569 Appleton and 394 Harry Hill. The last WQ at Stoke on August 28th and continuing his fine form 69 Fatty Matty won heat one with 22 Elliott Dowds taking heat two and the final from 123 Mangler and 834 George Ocherton. Stoke on September 24th and heat wins for 193 Sean Whitehurst and 22 Elliott Dowds, before Whitehurst won the final from 205 Fiveeyes and 284 Craig Riches.

The race for the Silver Roof has never been closer at this stage of the season, 260 Tim Crew the four times champion is coming under serious threat this time from 123 Paul Manning just 32 points behind and with four meetings still to go! 160 Simon Crew is still third but could face a challenge from 284 Craig Riches 33 points behind in fourth. 69 Matt Randalls incredible form in July and August has propelled him up to fifth. Track Champion honours have 123 Mangler leading at Belle Vue and 160 Simon Crew leading at Stoke.

Next meetings in October are Sunday 16th at Stoke and then it's the big one, World Final Saturday 29th. Plans are well under way to make this the biggest 1600cc meeting at Startrax this year! Over 50 bookings have been received so far, 26 of the 28 Startrax qualifiers have confirmed along with two of the 20 invited drivers plus a further 25 cars for the LCQ race with places on the grid for at least the top 2. So the racing for 1600cc Bangers on 29th will be Last Chance Qualifier, World Final, All-Comers 1&2. The following weekend November 6th at Belle Vue the annual Northern Drivers Championship and the season ends at Stoke on November 25th for the Pride of the Potteries and DD.

Early news for next season the Team Championship 4 per Team will be during the season, the Head2Head Challenge will take place with a Team England v Team Wales plus other invited teams. The British Championship will be at Coventry in July with the World Final at Stoke in September.

Hot Rods

Belle Vue on a Tuesday night in August raised a very healthy 19 cars including a couple of first timers at Startrax. Heat one went to the returning 187 Lee Shovelton from fellow yellow roof 80 Lorne Pilip, heat two saw Shovy crash out with 80 Lorne winning from 919 Liam Cooley. The Final saw Lorne complete a double with 919 Liam second and 19 Shane King in third. The G&M Banger Bits World Final at Stoke on August 28th saw 56 Mart Jones take a well deserved victory after coming through from row three and racing away to a comfortable win 85 Ben White second and 99 Danny Davies third. The heats were won by 81 Kris Millar from 1 Dave Swingewood and 99 Danny Davies, his first win with 81 Kris second, the Final saw veteran 100 Andy Mitchell race to the win from 99 Davies and 40 Neil Hayes. Stoke again on September 24th the last meeting of the grading period, heat wins for 85 Ben White from 100 Andy Mitchell in heat 1 and 19 Shane King from 284 Ryan Latham in heat 2. The Final saw 81 Kris Millar take a close win from 19 Shane King with 27 James Watson third.

The race for the point's title is well and truly on this season, 25 points separate 1st from 7th after the last three meetings. 19 Shane King has come into some stunning form over the last three meetings bagging over 80 points from the 3 outings to knock 184 Smithy of top spot by 3 points 152-149. 81 Kris Millar's full time return has seen him climb to third on 143 pts with 85 Ben White on 141, these three making up the six Super Star grade along with the current Champions. 43 Bert drops down to

Red grade on 132 pts with 52 David Matthews and 270 Kieran Collis both on 127 pts. New World Champion 56 Mart Jones has 123 pts 99 Danny Davies makes Red for the first time on 116 pts and 100 Granddad also goes up to Red on 110 with Jim Fletcher on 104, the latter three in a battle for the top 10 places after Stoke on Sunday October 16th for the PRG Motorsport Shootout on October 29th. The final meeting of the 2016 points season is at Stoke on Sunday November 13th.

Plans for 2017 include the National Championship at Coventry while the British Championship will come to Stoke for the first time, the World Final will be at Stoke.

Junior Bangers

A great turnout of 18 cars for the last WQ and The Storm at Stoke on August 13th, wins for 95 Elton Hopkins from 284 Brad Challender and 104 Bird in heat 1. Heat 2 was won by 619 Tomo from 90 Spud and 204 Travis Dring. A great race in the final with the top two changing places for most of the race, 90 Spud and 450 Blake Platts brilliant stuff lads. Spud taking the win from Blake with 21 Kyran Redshaw grabbing third. A disappointing turnout at Coventry didn't stop the Junior's from putting on a show! 450 Blake won both of the heats but the lads saved the best until last, a thrilling final saw 90 Spud 99 Shaydy Gough and 450 Blake in a three-way battle for the lead that lasted the whole race, all three leading at different stages until flag fall, Spud just beating Blake with Shaydy third. Easily the best race of the season so far.

There will be a full report on the World Final in the next issue.

Glyn's Auto Repairs are also sponsoring the trophies for the top three in this year Points Championship and after the World Final meeting 450 Blake Platts has clinched the Silver Roof from defending champion 90 Joey Holmes Jnr. Well done Blake and team hope this helps you're recovery! Unlucky Spud just missing out on a second championship. A great effort from both Teams this year.

Lady Bangers

Two meetings in August, Stoke first and The Storm with again a good number of cars and another new face meant the racing was excellent all evening. Heat one went to 850 Mikaela Teal from Taunton based 584 Kim Smith and 203 Britney Walsh. Heat two saw 411 Nikki Calvert take the win in her very smart car, 203 Brit and 584 Kim 2nd and 3rd. A lively final saw 203 Brit take the flag from 411 Nikki and 100 Emma Mullins. A week later and a first outing at Coventry produced 13 cars including Kings Lynn visitors 127 Helen Roberts and 477 Amy Brown. Heat one saw 44 Courtney Weston win from 112 Misha Russell and 100 Emma Mullins. Heat two and victory for Courtney again from 477 Amy Brown and 112 Misha. The Final produced the best finish of the year, 100 Emma 850 Mikaela and 477 Amy had a race long battle for the lead going in to the last bend 850 lead 100 and 477 however coming up the home straight 477 dived up the inside tried to spin 850 with 100 collecting

them both all three hitting the fence, 850 was quickest to react crossing the line in reverse with 477 pushed by 100.

203 Brit still leads the points but 381 Jade Challender now moves into second ahead of 205 Kayleigh Walsh, 232 Sammie Dugmore down to fourth, 81 Gemma Lord up to fifth place and 850 Mikaela in sixth, 584 Kim moves up to seventh a remarkable effort from Somerset, 100 Emma now eighth with 282 Kirstay Challender and 110 Mary Tyler ninth and tenth.

Stoke for the next four meetings Sunday Oct 16th now has 12 cars booked, October 29th then the big one the Gold Roof on Sunday November 13th before the end of year DD meeting on November 27th.

Spike

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