

## Drivers Newsletter Issue#5

The end of another season is upon us and all the championships are now settled the winners declared and all that remains is the winter meetings to get us through the next two months. It has truly been an amazing success story this year and you have all played your part, the number of licensed drivers in every domestic formula is up on last year as we continue our aim of happy drivers=happy promoter! The racing at times this year has been exceptional if a little hair raising (and greying!) at times as the race for championship places and in particular the race for point's titles went down to the last meeting in some formula's. It really is a fantastic achievement by so many drivers this season to keep up the effort meeting after meeting and give us all such a great finish to the season. We take the time to speak to the majority of the Champions in this issue those who aimed high and came away with Gold and Silver in 2016. There is always a lighter side to racing and we asked a random selection of driver's ten questions just for fun. We have all the usual features too so let's get on with the final issue of 2016.

### Startrax 2016 Season Review.

Is it really November? It doesn't seem five minutes since the season began! A year that has seen many formulas race for big championships at all our venues but here we take a detailed look at the Startrax domestic formulas, National Bangers, 1600cc Bangers, Lady Bangers, Junior Bangers, and Hot Rods that form the backbone of the majority of our meetings at Belle Vue, Coventry, and Stoke.

A record number of drivers have registered with us this year, in every formula the numbers have increased and this has delivered the best ever season of racing, the Points Championships have never been closer some even going all the way to the last race of the year to decide the winner. It truly has been a staggering season for Startrax and we have to say a massive Thank You for all the dedication shown by our drivers at home and representing us all around the UK with great honour from Scotland to the South East of England our drivers have travelled far and wide during 2016. The plans for 2017 are now in their advanced stages and Steve is hoping to have the first draft of the fixtures ready for today. There are some great events to look forward to, for National Bangers, 1600cc Bangers and Ladies there will be Inter Track Team Challenges home and away with Trent Raceway and Warton Stock Car Club the dates still to be confirmed for these two. Vans will play a part this year with the "Pass the Parcel" Small Van meeting and TransitMania 2. The Big V All Cavalier meeting is starting to attract attention with 20+ drivers now booked and over 90 cars already for Stan Woods add in the return of the summer Unlimited Banger meeting and 2017 looks to be bigger still at Startrax.

The season began with two big National Banger dates at Stoke in February, just under 30 Unlimited Bangers for the St. Valentines Massacre, 382 Jack Foster "Chubby" laying down a marker for the season to come. The Demons of Destruction for Micro Bangers drew over 90 cars for the Chris Keeling Memorial Trophy Final, after three good heats the all-in memorial final turned into a wreck fest with 25 Joe Parsons taking the victory. The same day we tried a novelty race for the Lads N

Lasses Challenge with 617 Danny and 627 Bekah Everett the winners. In to March and The King o'the North for 2ltr Bangers at Belle Vue saw 181 Grant Doe taking the win and a Champion of Champions place, more good wrecking on the day with 180 Mark Foster "Sparky" and 526 Jack Denikiewicz "Fat Kidd" standing out. Coventry opened it's season with Transitmania and the Micro Midlands Massacre. The Transit Vans were highly entertaining 211 Jordan Hall and 627 Terry Coke putting on a fine show as 290 Johnny Harrison claimed the Final win. Over 50 Micro Bangers saw some heavy wrecking but that man 25 Joe Parson was their again to take the final. April and the annual classic car bash The Stan Woods Celebration. Over 140 vintage cars arrived at Stoke for the fourth running of this meeting, the standard of car preparation outstanding as ever with drivers from all parts of the UK and Ireland and for the first time from mainland Europe. Indeed the car of the meeting coming with the impressive Dutch entry, 307 Linke Loe and the 1934 Studebaker. The sponsored awards on the night going to 127 Tom Blakemore for best rollover, 42 Gregg Brunt and 224 James Burrows best presented in Unders, 307 Linke Loe and 347 Red Nelson best presented in Overs, 801 Jack Foster Snr winning the Unders Final and 169 James Rushton the Overs Final and the Jack "Jaffa" Holt Memorial DD Trophies in Unders 269 Tom Morris and Overs 205 Dave Walsh. May and the 2ltr Battle of Britain saw 382 Chubby take another win before we moved to Belle Vue in July for the Terminator and over 30 Unlimited Bangers provided a great day of action 526 Fatkidd again putting in hit of the day. The racing side was turning into a two way battle as 25 Joe Parson fought back in the World Qualifier race by winning the final again and the second Champion of Champions place. Stoke held a special day in August to raise funds for FordsCare and MacMillan Nurses and celebrate the career of 999 Paul "Stormin" Norman. Over 100 Bangers split between Micro's and Unlimited. A day to crash is what Paul wanted and everyone came with that in mind as Stoke saw a contender for race of the year! The Micro Bangers had the larger numbers with over 60 cars and after some heavy heats and All-Comers, 171 Tommy West standing out with some hard shots and a big follow-in, 761 Nathan Rees took the final. The Unlimited had two half car heats that saw plenty of action, but tame compared with the third heat when 30 cars started and only 1 finished. In the thick of the action on the pit bend 999 Stormin had his huge Caddy Limo trashed in style mainly by 526 Fatkidd who put on a "mans" show of wrecking that left him with a seriously warped Volvo Estate. Other highlights of the wrecking had Blue & White taking on Grey & Black 9 Tom Jordan and 382 Chubby exchanging hits before 269 Mozzer turned round to meet 180 Sparky in a huge head-on with 382 Chubby then decimating Mozzer. The final was quiet after that amazing show but 267 Martin French drove in style to win. The hard hitting DD saw 382 Chubby take a full contact win. The World Final at Ipswich had an amazing 20 drivers represent Startrax the most we have ever sent, 382 Chubby and 25 Joe Parsons in the Big Race, and it was a first time podium finish for Startrax as 25 Joe Parsons raced to second place in his first World Final appearance. The first staging of the Startrax National Series Final was held at Coventry in late October with just over 40 2ltr Bangers present 382 Chubby claimed another pair of title's winning The National Series and being confirmed as the Points Champion securing his Champion of Champions place. The revamped Battle of Britain Team meeting saw a change to Micro Bangers and Teams of 3 at Stoke. Once again the drivers showed how much they love the new improvements we have made when over 90 drivers raced. Some massive hits for such small cars, 171 Westy attempting to relocate the track on to the A34 with yet another massive pit bend follow-in and a contender for the biggest wreck of all time for 195 Luke Wagstaff thanks to 180 Sparky and a train of cars behind, again 181 Grant Doe kept his head to win for the Scrapyard Screammers. Today we stage the Unlimited Banger Pride of the Potteries with currently 70+ booked in it really has been the biggest season ever for National Bangers at Startrax.

Startrax 1600cc Bangers have once again had a big year. The Annual Stoke Team Championship at Christmas saw Coventry based Team Minted take a surprise win, but it was just the start of a big year for the Coventry based drivers. 3 venues all with higher car turnouts have given us some very hard racing at times and many great battles have developed throughout the year. The race for the Points Championship has seen the all conquering 260 Tim Crew come under a season long assault from 123 Paul Manning, the title not decided until the last race of the season when despite winning the last Final Paul just missed out on Silver. Track Champions for 2016 are Belle Vue 123 Paul Manning, Coventry 60 James French, and Stoke 160 Simon Crew. The British Championship at the traditional home of Coventry saw the Crew brothers keep the title 160 Simon the new holder. The 10v10 Team Challenge at Stoke saw the growing battle between Coventry and Stoke come to a head when Team Minted laid waste to the Stokey Boyz to claim a second Team Title. The experiment to move the World Final to Stoke was a huge success with 68 cars from all across England and Wales. The standard of car preparation was up there with any World Final some stunning looking cars. The main race was controversial and action packed, first 260 Tim Crew was taken out of the lead by a driver going the wrong way, then an unsighted 284 Craig Riches threw away second place by burying leader 69 Matt Randall as the reds come out to stop the race, the restart saw Ringwood qualifier 23 Barry Staples head home a visitor 1-2-3 as Kings Lynn's 319 Shaun Clarke came second from the back of the grid and Trent Raceway's 355 Martin Mullins in third. The last meeting of the season for points at Belle Vue and the Northern Drivers Championship saw the feud between Team Roof-Up and Matt Randall go up a notch with big hits exchanged throughout the meeting as 123 Paul Manning retained the championship, winning the last final of the season, a great year from the 1600s hard racing some new battles occurring and the closest points chase in the formulas history. The Junior Bangers continue to prove an excellent training ground for young drivers, one such driver is 132 Connor Dando the 16 year old from Manchester graduated to 1600cc Bangers in late May and has been in sensational form ever since. In his debut season he has already taken race wins and shown he can give and take the hits and I predict a bright future for this one. One driver made a big impression with a real purple patch in mid season, 69 Matty Randall taking wins at Belle Vue Coventry and Stoke before taking that form into the World Final only to be taken out when leading. Tim and Simon Crew have once again been the men to beat along with Paul Manning they have attended every meeting, the trio once again dominating the points race and most of the championships can anyone challenge them in 2017?

Startrax Hot Rods entered the fourth season with a new sponsor for the World Series as G&M Banger Bits joined forces with Startrax to add some prizes for the racing, a free Kingpin Control tyre for each WQ Final winner and Tyres for the top 3 in the World Final our Thanks to Gary Shaw and Martin Mullins of G&M for their support which will continue in 2017. The season has been the most exciting since the formula was introduced the race for the Points Championship with three meetings to go still had 10 drivers in contention and even on the last day it went all the way to the last race of the year to finally decide the title. At the start of the year several new faces made good impressions with 99 Danny Davies, 102 Ayrton Mitchell and 270 Kieran Collis all enjoying solid starts to the year but it was 184 Martin Smith who lead the points race at this early stage. The first Championship of the year saw Stoke stage the National Championship in May when 56 Mart Jones become the second holder of the Union Jack Roof. The meeting also seeing the only Hat-trick of the year as 270 Kieran Collis won all 3. The only Coventry date for a G&M WQ had a good win for 77 Jim Fletcher who then made Super Star for the first time. The first meeting at Belle Vue and we tried a different format for

the British Championship, with a points based grid and a reverse grid for the second heat. 43 Stuart "Bert" Bromley and 184 Smithy bagged pole position for the title race and after a race long dual Smithy found a way past Bert to win the Chequered Roof. Still leading the points race at this stage was Smithy from 85 Ben White. The G&M Banger Bits World Final at Stoke in August and the track was in superb condition resulting in a tremendous race which saw 56 Mart Jones come from row three to be the fourth different winner of the Gold Roof. The points race was becoming impossible to call, Smithy lost form and suffered three nil score meetings, this coincided with 19 Shane King and 81 Kris Millar hitting top form, Shane leading the chase with just three meetings to go, Ben White and Bert also still strongly in the hunt. The PRG Shootout an annual race for the top 10 in the points with a random drawn grid saw 99 Danny Davies become the first winner of this trophy. Smithy regained the lead in the points championship but going into the final day only 10 points split the top 5 and a further 8 points from 6th and 7th. After each heat on the last day the lead changed hands with Smithy then Bert but Ben White had been going well all day and a great drive in the final for third place thwarted Bert's hopes as Ben took the Championship and Silver Roof for the second time in 4 years. A great year of commitment from so many drivers, good support at all championship meetings not without controversial moments, a steady influx of new drivers throughout the year and several more new and returning names for 2017, the future is bright for our budget non contact racer's.

Lady Bangers have had their biggest season to date at Startrax with improved turnouts and the opening of the Facebook page, combined with the extra efforts of Jon-Ross Hutchinson the formula has flourished in 2016. New faces and a determined double champion have seen the racing exceed all expectations at times this year. 232 Sammie Dugmore won the opening race of the year but a heat and final double from newcomer 203 Britney Walsh saw her as the early challenger to sister 205 Kayleigh's dominance in 2015. Two more heat wins for Britney followed as 205 Kayleigh won her first final. 81 Gemma Lord joined the ranks and started with a heat and final double with Britney also winning a race again. Gemma made it a second double and 850 Mikaela Teal won her first race of the year. Scottish visitor 244 Michelle Murdoch made the long trek to Stoke worthwhile with a heat win and Mikaela did the double. Back to winning ways for Britney but another long distance traveller made her presence felt as 584 Kimberly Rebecca Smith took a heat and final double. Heat wins for Mikaela and 411 Nikki Calvert at the next meeting with Britney winning the final. A rare outing at Coventry saw 44 Courtney Weston winning both heats before Mikaela grabbed the final in the most thrilling finish to a race at Startrax this year. Stoke again saw normal business resumed for Britney with a heat double and Mikaela won another final. 381 Jade Challender finally got the win her efforts have deserved while Mikaela and Britney won the other heat and final to continue the fine form both have shown. The World Final saw Britney and Kayleigh on the front row and it turned into a great race, Britney charged into the lead with Kayleigh behind in the early laps, 232 Sammie then got past Kayleigh for second and began to reel in Britney, as the laps counted down 232 kept closing in until a flat tyre slowed her down. 44 Courtney had charged through the field from the rear of the grid and passed first Kay then Sammie to go into second, Kay also passed the slowing 232 for third, and that's how they stayed. Britney emulating sister Kay taking Silver and Gold in 2016. Jon-Ross wishes to pass on his thanks for all the co-operation this season and he is looking forward to an even better year starting with the Micro Lady Bangers on January 2nd at Stoke.

Junior Bangers saw Startrax staging the World Final at Stoke in September and the race to qualify for Startrax kicked the season off. Opening day heat wins for 132 Connor Dando and 16 Jamie Hopkins

with 90 Joey Holmes taking the final. The second meeting and heat wins for 90 Spud and 246 Jake Wilson with 132 Connor Dando the final winner. Meeting three at Stoke and heats for 104 Ellis Hopkins and 450 Blake Platts with 14 Jo Persico taking the final. The first Coventry and heat wins went to 90 Spud and 144 Matthew Venables, 619 Brad Tomlinson winning the final. Meeting five and Stoke again heat wins for 104 Bird and 619 Tomo with 450 Blake Platts winning his first final. Coventry again and heat wins for 104 Bird and 204 Travis Dring and 450 Blake Platts taking the final again. Back to Stoke and a heat win for 32 Archie Cullum while 450 Blake Platts took a heat and final double. Into August and the last WQ at Stoke raised the best entry of 18 cars heat wins going to 95 Elton Hopkins and 619 Tomo with 450 taking his fourth final win. Coventry at the end of August and 450 Blake Platts becomes the only Junior to complete a hat-trick of victories. A fantastic entry of 40 cars from all over the UK assembled for the World Final in September, the Last Chance Qualifier had 514 Mitchell Webster taking a Startrax win. The World Final gridded all 30 starters and after an incident packed race 16 Jamie Hopkins took the flag with 619 Tomo second and 810 Mason Foster third. The last meeting in October saw heat wins for 244 AJ Weston his first at Startrax and 32 Archie Cullum while 21 Kyran Redshaw claimed his first win in the final. The last meeting today starts with 104 Bird defending the Startrax National Championship in race 1 a fitting way to end a really good season from the Junior ranks 90 Spud won the National title from 104 Bird and 95 Elton, Spud and Elton taking the all-comer wins. We have said goodbye to Connor Dando, Jo Persico, Travis Dring and Ellis Hopkins this season all going on to the adult banger classes good luck to all four.

Well that is it 2016 in words and we start to look forward to 2017. Will 171 Tommy West achieve his goal of relocating Stoke on to the A34? Will Shane King remember to check his fuel before heat 1 2017? Ellis Hopkins makes her senior debut in January can the Bird deliver the knockout blow to the boys? Will Team Yo-Yo continue to be up and down? Second in the National Banger World Final can one of our boys go one better next year?

There is only one way to find out! Join us again for season 2017 on February 12th Stoke @12noon as we try to answer these questions and more as we bring you another year of the race meetings you want to see at the tracks that everyone wants to race on. Happy Drivers, Happy Fans, Happy Promoter. Startrax racing with a smile!

Spike

## **Role of Honour World Champions:**

### **1600cc Bangers**

2016 Barry Staples (23) Stoke

2015 Simon Crew (160) Coventry

2014 Craig Riches (284) Coventry

2013 John Hindley (66) Coventry

2012 Johnny Harrison (290) Belle Vue

### **Hot Rods**

2016 Mart Jones (56) Stoke

2015 Lee Rudge (2) Stoke

2014 Ben White (85) Stoke

2013 Carl Firkins (40) Stoke

### **Lady Bangers**

2016 Britney Walsh (203) Stoke

2015 Kayleigh Walsh (205) Stoke

2014 Courtney Weston (44) Stoke

### **Points Champions**

#### **National Bangers**

2016 Jack Foster (382)

2015 Joe Morgan (275)

2014 Gavin Robinson (21)

#### **1600cc Bangers**

2012-2016 Tim Crew (260)

### **Hot Rods**

2016 Ben White (85)

2015 Lee Rudge (2)

2014 Ben White (85)

2013 Carl Firkins (40)

### **Lady Bangers**

2016 Britney Walsh (203)

2015 Kayleigh Walsh (205)

2014 Sharron Watts (911)

### **National Bangers**

We start with congratulations to 382 Jack Foster who won the first National Series Finale at Coventry and secured the Startrax Points Championship and 25 Joe Parsons who raced to a fabulous 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the World Final at Ipswich in October the highest ever finish for a Startrax driver, well done to both of you. Also thank you to every driver who attended the various end of year championships at Arena Essex, Birmingham, Ipswich, and Kings Lynn, Ipswich had 20 Startrax drivers attend the most

we have ever sent to the biggest night of the year, back to home turf and Stoke on October 16<sup>th</sup> for Micro Bangers when a lower than expected entry still raised over 20 cars. Heat wins for 797 George Plant with 252 Wibbs taking the other heat and the final from 14 Jo Persico and 55 Smiggy. Coventry for the National Series Finale for 2ltr Bangers which raised over 40 cars and 382 Chubby went on to win the title, All-Comer wins for 552 Blacknuts and 370 John Cobbold on a night that saw a few good hits to end the Startrax year at Brandon. The Battle of Britain team meeting revised to Micro Bangers and Teams of 3 saw a massive 90+ cars at Stoke on November 13<sup>th</sup>. Three heats had plenty of action and wins for Crewesader 13 Bobby Palin, Grey & Black 312 Brad White, and Blue & White 04 Mikey Croft. The top 5 teams in each heat went into the A Final the rest into the B Final. The latter was first up and a manic race with action and incident everywhere Gravedigger 112 Daz Prestage taking the flag. The A Final was first past the post wins for their team and despite some massive wrecking going on Scrapyard Screammers A 181 Grant Doe claimed the Battle of Britain Team Title. More awesome wrecking in the All-Comers and DD saw the race end early for a driver trapped with 312 Brad White taking the All-Comers. The Pride of the Potteries drew 45 Unlimited Bangers to Stoke and the annual end of season wreckfest delighted everyone. 20 cars for heat one and 25 Joe Parsons lead home the day's biggest field of finishers. Heat two and 25 starters were reduced down to just 2 after some heavy hitting and a great wrecking train 884 Tom Filmer just about doing more laps than wrecking declared the winner. The all-in final was another mental Stoke affair the result had to be done on laps completed after everyone stopped racing to join the pit bend DD 25 Joe Parsons "winning" from 9 Tom Jordan and 884 Tom Filmer. The All-Comers into DD didn't last long again when all went wrecking one last time the heavy hitting saw the DD called with two drivers hurt, 04 Mikey Croft taking the race win.

## 10 Minutes with.... The Champions

Name: Jack Foster (382)

Age: 23

Hometown: Mansfield

Occupation: Mechanic

Number of years racing: 14

Formulas raced: Juniors, Ministox, and National Bangers

Q1. What did it mean to win the Points Championship.

JF: I didn't set out to win the points so it really does mean a lot to me, I didn't expect to win them and just wanted to do well.

Q2. Talk us through your season.

JF: I wanted to do well and qualify for Ipswich so that was good to achieve that aim. To win a couple of titles (2ltr Battle of Britain National Series Finale) and the points has been really good, and being able to represent Startrax at all the major championships has been the icing on the cake.

Q3. What were your hopes at the start of 2016.

JF: I wanted to qualify for Ipswich and just do my best in everything else.

Q4. What are your plans for 2017.

JF: I am staying with Startrax so more of the same please.

Q5. What is your favourite Startrax venue and why.

JF: Stoke is good but for me there is just something about racing at Belle Vue, I just love the track.

Q6. What is your favourite formula to watch.

JF: It has to be Stock Cars F1 of F2.

Q7. If I were a promoter I would...

JF: That's a good question... I would look after my drivers just the way Startrax have done for me this year.

Q8. Anyone you would like to thank.

JF: My Dad, Barry, Robert, Greg, Tom, Mason, and Sparky for everything they do to help.

Name: Joe Parsons (25)

Age: 17

Hometown: Stockport

Occupation: Apprentice Mechanic

Number of years racing: 7

Formulas Raced: Junior Rods, Junior Bangers, Ministox, and National Bangers

Q1. What did it mean to win the Terminator title.

JP: I was happy to win the Terminator as it is a Champion of Champions qualifying race and that was one of my aims this season.

Q2. Talk us through the race.

JP: It was a good race I started at the back and was virtually the only car to finish, so I was happy with that performance.

Q3. What were your hopes for 2016.

JP: The first aim was to qualify for the World Final at Ipswich and the Champion of Champions., to do both has been amazing and second place at Ipswich was just unbelievable.

Q4. What are your hopes for 2017.

JP: To do the same again, just qualifying for the big races is hard enough but another finish or a win would be the icing on the cake.

Q5. Tell us what your favourite Startrax venue is and why.

JP: Coventry, it is just so fast and such a smooth track to race on.

Q6. Tell us your favourite formula to watch.

JP: Other than National Bangers I like F1,s.

Q7. If I were a promoter I would...

JP:

Q8. Anyone you would like to thank.

JP: I would like to thank my Dad and Dave for all the hours and effort they put into my cars

## 1600cc Bangers

Stoke on 16<sup>th</sup> October and heat wins for the main contenders for the point's title 123 Mangler in heat one and 260 TC in heat two, the final being won by 160 Simon Crew from 22 Eliot Dowds and 69 Matt Randall. The experiment to bring the World Final from Coventry to Stoke turned out to be a huge success when a record 68 cars arrived on the night with car presentation fitting for such a big meeting. Visitor's came from Spedeworth, Trackstar, Buxton, Trent Raceway, and Ringwood qualifier 23 Barry Staples. The Last Chance Qualifier had over 30 cars and was totally manic half the field disappearing in one pile up on the Loomer Road bend, the top 6 qualified with 134 Carl Timmins taking the win. The World Final saw all qualifiers make the grid and a fantastic and controversial race incident a plenty. 260 TC survived the early pushing and shoving to build up a lead only to be taken out illegally by a lurking 19 Boxer Joe. The flying 69 Matt Randall taking over the lead with 284 Craig Riches and 23 Barry Staples close by, as the red flags came out to halt the race an unsighted Riches followed Randall in on the pit bend ending both there chances. The restart saw Ringwood's Barry Staples race to the flag from Trackstar's 319 Shaun Clarke and Trent Raceway's 355 Martin Mullins completing the top three for a visitor clean sweep, Randall limped home 4<sup>th</sup>, 60 James French 5<sup>th</sup> and 394 Ian Rawlings coming home 6<sup>th</sup>.The two All-Comers races being won by 834 George Ocherton and 123 Mangler. The following Sunday at Belle Vue for the Northern Drivers Championship. There was some spill over from the World Final in heat one when 69 Matt Randall delivered a revenge follow-in to 284 Craig Riches only for 160 Simon Crew to decimate Randall with a stunning shot, 258 Chris Hart

the winner. Heat two and more of the same battling as Randall put 260 TC away early on as 77 Tom Hertzog won. 123 Mangler retained the title winning the last point's scoring race of the season from 258 Harty and 204 Travis Dring. The final win wasn't quite enough though as 260 TC held on for a 5<sup>th</sup> Points Championship by just 17 point's, a great effort from Paul this season. Stoke on November 27<sup>th</sup> and the National Championship won by 123 Mangler from 204 Travis Dring and 834 George Ocherton. All-Comer 1 for 138 Ant Timmins and All-Comer 2 for 205 Reece Moran with 953 taking an entertaining DD win.

## 10 minutes with... The Champions

Name: Tim Crew (260)

Age: 31

Hometown: Stoke-on-Trent

Occupation: Truck Driver

Number of years racing: 18

Formulas raced: Ministox, Hot Fords, Lightning Rods, and 1600cc Bangers.

Q1. What did it mean to defend the point's title again?

TC: It is great to win again, all those long hours spent on the cars is a lot of effort so to defend the title is a great reward.

Q2. Tell us about your season.

TC: It has been a really good season even if Paul Manning made it hard work by giving me such a battle all year for the point's!

Q3. What were your hopes at the start of 2016.

TC: I have the same thought each year to try and defend the title.

Q4. What are your plans for 2017.

TC: More of the same please.

Q5. Tell us what your favourite Startrax venue is and why.

TC: It has to be Stoke, my local track and the improvements that have been made so far have made the place even better.

Q6. Tell us your favourite formula to watch.

TC: Any Bangers, you,ve got to love watching all the crashing.

Q7. If I were a promoter i would...

TC: Try to grow the sport more and get more people involved in watching and racing.

Q8. Anyone you would like to thank.

TC: My brother Simon, Mum and Dad, Craig, John, Macker and anyone who helps out and Daz Leech.

Name: Simon Crew

Formula: 1600cc Bangers (160)

Age: 28

Hometown: Stoke-on-Trent

Occupation: Mechanic

Number of years racing: 16

Formulas raced: ORCi Ministox, Hot Fords, 1600cc Bangers, and Micro Bangers.

Q1: What did it mean to win the British Championship?

SC: Yes it's good to win another title it was a good day for me.

Q2: Talk us through the race:

SC: I started on the front row, I got away and then all the other cars were taking each other out, I just had to keep out of trouble and go on to take the win.

Q3: What were your hopes at the start of the season?

SC: I hope to retain the Gold roof and get a top 5 finish in the points.

Q4: What are your hopes for 2017?

SC: Stay in 1600cc Bangers but add more Micro meetings and visit some new tracks.

Q5: What is your favourite Startrax venue and why.

SC: Stoke my local track and always lots of action

Q6: Your favourite formula to watch?

SC: Bangers you've got to love the crashing.

Q7: If I were a promoter I would...?

SC: Promote oval racing to as many new people as possible.

Q8: Anyone you would like to thank?

SC: My Mum and Dad for letting me turn their drive into a car park, my brother Tim for all his help building the cars, and Big John for taking me everywhere. Craig, Macca, and everybody that helps out any time.

Name: Paul Manning (123)

Age: 39

Hometown: Manchester

Occupation: Mechanic

Number of years racing: 10

Formulas raced: National and 1600cc Bangers

Q1. What did it mean to win the National Championship?

PM: I hadn't realised it was a championship so bonus to win!

Q2. Talk us through your season.

PM: I had a rubbish first half of the season kept having carburettor problems, but the second half got better.

Q3. What were your hopes at the start of 2016.

PM: To beat the rest of them!

Q4. What are your plans for 2017.

PM: Not sure yet but you will see.

Q5. What is your favourite Startrax venue and why?

PM: There all good but Sheffield and the speed tops the list.

Q6. Tell us your favourite formula to watch.

PM: Any Bangers

Q7. If I were a promoter I would...

PM: Try to do things the way Startrax do them now.

Q8. Anyone you would like to thank.

PM: Yeah, Daz Leech for letting me win! Lol

## Hot Rods

Stoke on October 16<sup>th</sup> saw the lower graders clean up with heat wins for 919 Liam Cooley and 45 Scott Meir. The final being won by 284 Ryan Latham from 142 Andrew Earl and 91 Kyle Cooley. The race for the top ten in the points to qualify for the PRG Motorsport Shootout was now complete and the race for the Silver Roof was unbelievable close with 10 drivers separated by only 18 points. Stoke on October 29<sup>th</sup> and 99 Danny Davies drew pole for the PRG Shootout and went on to claim his first big win in Hot Rods from 43 Bert and 100 Andy Mitchell. The heat wins went to 45 Scott Meir and 284 Ryan Latham while a fast final saw the star men to the fore 99 Davies winning from 85 Ben White and 81 Kris Millar. The final meeting of the season still had seven driver's with just 10 points between them as the Points Championship was destined to go all the way to the last race to decide. Heat one saw 45 Scott Meir take another victory from 100 Granddad Mitchell 284 Ryan Latham and 85 Ben White in 4<sup>th</sup>. Heat two and the points lead changed again, 284 Ryan Latham won but second for 85 Ben White saw him take over at the top, with everything going down to the final. 284 Ryan drove away from the Yellow grade to take a comfortable win but all the action was going on behind him. The star men had battled their way through the field and 43 Bert came 2<sup>nd</sup> 85 Ben White 3<sup>rd</sup> 99 Danny Davies 4<sup>th</sup> 100 Granddad 5<sup>th</sup> and 93 Pikey 6<sup>th</sup>, Ben's third place enough to secure him his second Points Championship in 3 season's well done Ben! 43 Bert had his best ever finish with second and long time leader 184 Smithy in 3<sup>rd</sup>. The Final grading period of the season saw 99 Danny Davies and 100 Granddad both climb to Super Star reward for their efforts all season from a novice driver and one with over 40 years behind him on track. Next year looks set to be another year of growth with several new drivers coming in and a few returning to the fold, the fixture plans include the National Championship going to Coventry and the British Championship being staged at Stoke for the first time. G&M Banger Bits are to continue their support for the World Series sponsoring the 6 Qualifying Rounds and the World Final. Roll on 2017 and an even better year from the Hot Rods.

## 10 minutes with... The Champions

Name: Mart Jones (56)

Age: 31

Hometown: Stoke-on-Trent

Occupation: Painter

Number of years racing: 2

Formulas raced: Startrax Hot Rods

Q1. What did it mean to win the World Final.

MJ: I was really happy to win the Gold roof but all the drama on the day I could have done without.

Q2. Talk us through the race.

MJ: It was a good race for me starting 6<sup>th</sup> o the grid. I stayed out of trouble and got through to 4th early on, then went past Ben (85) for second a few laps later, 184 was ahead but I just kept the same line chasing him until I managed to get inside as he went wide and was able to open up a gap to the flag.

Q3. What were your hopes at the start of 2016.

MJ: I didn't think I would be racing much as we had our second daughter at the start of the year so didn't think I would have time, but managed to most of the Stoke meetings so it has been a good year.

Q4. What are your plans for 2017.

MJ: More family time away and less racing.

Q5. What is your favourite Startrax venue and why.

MJ: Stoke for me I go well there its a good fast track and its local

Q6. What is your favourite formula to watch.

MJ: National Hot Rods always good racing

Q7. If I were a promoter I would...

MJ: Just carry on with Stoke its so much better than when I started.

Q8. Anyone you would like to thank.

MJ: I,d like to thank Marc Gould he has helped a lot with the car, at the track and garage. Also my little mechanic Lucy!

Name: Ben White (85)

Age: 31

Hometown: Stoke-on-Trent

Occupation: Mechanic

Number of years racing: 4

Formulas raced: Hot Rods

Q1. What did it mean to win the points.

BW: I was over the moon to win especially with it being such a close finish to the year.

Q2. Talk us through your season.

BW: A pretty hectic season with plenty of ups and downs but a good one.

Q3. What were your hopes at the start of 2016.

BW: Just hoped to have a good season of close fast racing.

Q4. What are palns for 2017.

BW: I plan to have 2 cars built and race in two formulas next season.

Q5. What is your favourite Startrax venue and why.

BW: Enjoy them all in different ways but Coventry is the best.

Q6. What is your favourite formula to watch.

BW: UK Modifides

Q7. If I were a promoter I would...

BW: I would suggest Hot Rods at all stadiums because is demanding and different to drive.

Q8. Anyone you would like to thank.

BW: I would like to thank all my friends and family for supporting me, thanks all of you.

Name: Martin Smith (184)

Age: 43

Hometown: Leigh

Occupation: Diesel Fitter

Number of years racing: 25

Formulas raced: National Bangers, Hot Fords, Outlaws, V8 Hotstox, Super Bangers, Startrax Hot Rods.

SB: What did it mean to win the British Championship?

MS: It really meant a lot, all the hard work that goes into the car had paid off.

SB: Talk us through the race.

MS: I knew I had to have a plan to win because Bert (Stuart Bromley) who was alongside me on the front is fast. I knew I had enough pace to run with him and in the last couple of laps I put the pressure on and Bert made the mistake I was waiting for and I took advantage to get past and go on to win.

SB: What were your hopes at the start of the season?

MS: To do well in the points and to hopefully win a title, so it has been good this year.

SB: What are your hopes for 2017?

MS: The same again please! If I am enjoying my racing it helps you put the effort in.

SB: Your favourite Stratrax venue and why?

MS: For me it's Belle Vue. A tricky fast track, you have got to be 100% on it because those post have a nasty bite.

SB: Your favourite formula to watch?

MS: These days for me it's F1,s you can't beat the noise and speed.

SB: If you were a promoter you would....?

MS: Listen to my drivers, after all no drivers no promoter.

SB: Anyone you would like to thank?

MS: First and foremost my wife and kids for putting up with all my late nights at the garage and weekends racing. Gadbury Auto Salvage (01942 874144) for all their support and helping with parts.

Ste at R Gearboxes Atherton (01942 870386) for the cracking job he does for me.

## Lady Bangers

October 16<sup>th</sup> and 203 Brit tightened her grip on the point's championship with both heat wins while 850 Mikaela Teal won yet another final, always saving the best until last, onto October 29<sup>th</sup> and heat wins for 381 Jade Challender and 850 Mikaela with 203 Brit taking the final. World Final time on November 13<sup>th</sup> and 16 cars with some very well turned out machines. The big race saw 203 Brit and 205 Kayleigh Walsh on pole and Brit set off into an early lead but 232 Sammie Dugmore and 44 Courtney Weston were the fastest cars on track, Sammie worked her way up to second and began to close in on Brit but disaster for Sammie with an outside front flat saw her slow, 203 now lead from 205 and 44. Courtney moved through into second but 203 Brit drove a faultless race from flag to flag with sister 205 Kayleigh in third, 100 Emma Mullins just getting past Sammie on the last bend for 4<sup>th</sup> place to complete the top 5. All-Comer wins for 100 Emma and 232 Sammie winning the last points race of the year to add to her win in the first race of the year. The fun day and DD on November 11<sup>th</sup> raised 11 cars with several southern visitors to challenge the locals. Heat wins saw the regulars on top with 232 Sammie and 584 Kimberley Smith the victors. The Final and DD was a rated affair with plenty of solid hits leaving some good wrecks, Arena Essex visitor 332 Kelly Wilson taking the win and a joint DD win with 112 Pippa Prestage. The out of season Micro Banger fixture on Monday January 2<sup>nd</sup> is already shaping up well with 11 names on the booking list already. The first points scoring meeting and new for 2017 World Qualifier 1 is on February 12<sup>th</sup> then March 5<sup>th</sup> the first leg of Startrax v Trent Raceway is scheduled for March 18<sup>th</sup> and the Startrax team of 8 will be selected from those drivers who do BOTH opening meetings.

A brilliant season from the Lady racers, thank you for all of your help and co-operation in 2016 and I am looking forward to an even better year with you all in 2017. Jon-Ross Hutchinson.

## 10 minutes with... The Champion

Name: Britney Walsh (203)

Age: 17

Hometown: Stoke-on-Trent

Occupation: Student

Number of years racing: 5

Formulas raced: Junior Rods, Junior Bangers, Lady Bangers.

Q1. What did it mean to win the Points.

BW: It felt great, I couldn't believe I had won them! I wasn't expecting it, especially as it was my first year in an adult formula, I'm chuffed to bits!

Q2. Talk us through your season.

BW: Starting as a white roof in my first ladies meeting, to winning Gold and Silver has been brilliant. Going from a Micra to a Civic has been a learning curve for me. As I moved further up the grades it obviously became more difficult to get to the front but I was determined to never give up. This season has been amazing as I didn't expect to do anywhere near as well as I have. We have had our ups and downs this year but it has been worthwhile.

Q3. What were your hopes at the start of 2016.

BW: My hopes were to go out on track and do my very best, to make my family proud and most important to enjoy myself.

Q4. What are your plans for 2017.

BW: The aim is to move up into Hot Rods and see if I can compete with the men.

Q5. What is your favourite Startrax venue and why.

BW: Stoke Stadium because it is closer to home than anywhere else.

Q6. What is your favourite formula to watch.

BW: Micro and Unlimited Bangers.

Q7. If i were a promoter I would...

BW: I would make sure everyone was treated the same with no favourites.

Q8. Anyone you would like to thank.

BW: My Dad for all the hard work he puts in to my cars, Mum for the late night cooking and waiting for us to get home. My boyfriend Basher Brad, Uncle Andy, and Firko for all their help this year.

Bunty "Hamdog" for all the help and support. Our sponsors, my sister Kay for working on my car when I cant and last but not least my Granddad for building my engine!

## Junior Bangers

The World Final meeting at Stoke saw the biggest field of Juniors ever at Startrax when 40 cars arrived from all across the UK. Along with the Startrax Qualifiers drivers from Spedeworth, Trackstar, Incarace, Buxton, Trent Raceway, and Crimond Raceway made up the grid of 29 World Finalist's. The Last Chance Qualifier race saw 514 Mitchell Webster and 999 Lewie Cottrill join the World Final. The big race saw all 31 qualifiers grid and was action packed and controversial, the early laps saw plenty of action and a brief stoppage on lap 2, from the restart 90 Spud broke away to open up a small lead but as the race calmed down 16 Jamie Hopkins, 801 Mason Foster, and 619 Tomo were coming through the field in a train, as they caught 90 Spud he was forced wide and blocked by a spun car with 16 leading from 801 and 619. The controversy came when Spud attempted to take out the leader on turn 2, but 16 survived the attack going on to win with 619 Tomo getting past 801 for second and a great drive from 244 AJ Weston for 4<sup>th</sup>. The All-Comers race saw a good win for 619 Tomo. Well done to Jamie Hopkins the new World Champion in Junior Bangers. The last meeting of the season on November 27<sup>th</sup> and the Startrax National Championship, 90 Spud won from defending champ 104 Bird with 95 Elton Hopkins third. The final two points races of the season saw wins for 90 Spud and 95 Elton, Spud also taking the Stoke Track Champion by just three points from 450 Blake Platts. A great year for our Junior Bangers once again several drivers have graduated in to adult formulas which is great to see.

## 10 minutes with... The Champions

Name: Blake Platts (450)

Age: 12

Hometown: Sheffield

Occupation: Full time education.

Number of year's racing: 1.

Formula Raced: Junior Bangers.

Q1. What does it mean to win the Point's Championship.

BP: This was my first year so I never expected to be close, so when I won I was really pleased.

Q2. Tell us about your season.

BP: At the beginning of the season I was not really on the pace of the other drivers, but as the time went on my confidence grew and I felt more competitive. Then it turned into a battle for the point's with Spud (Joey Holmes 90) and that has kept me focused, that and staying out of trouble has made me really enjoy my first season.

Q3. What were your hopes at the start of 2016.

BP: I just wanted to do my best and try to finish races.

Q4. What are your plans for 2017.

BP: I want to race as much as i can, be competitive, get better, and be World Champion.

Q5. Tell us what your favourite Startrax venue is and why.

BP: Coventry, it is a fast smooth track, and I had a hat-trick of wins there this year.

Q6. Tell us what your favourite formula to watch is.

BP: National Bangers.

Q7. What will you go on to race when you finish Junior Bangers.

BP: National Bangers like my Dad.

Q8. Anyone you would like to thank.

BP: My Mum and Dad for all they do for my racing, my sponsors, Bullseye, RRK Car Sales, and CTS Tyres. Everyone who comes to support me Danny Blackwell, Rikki Finney, and all the others, there's too many to list, but thank you everyone.

Name: Joey Holmes (90)

Age: 12

Hometown: Birmingham

Occupation: Full time education

Number of year racing: 5

Formulas raced: Junior Rods and Junior Bangers

Q1. What did it mean to win the National Championship.

JH: It meant a lot! It was a great way to end the season especially at my first meeting at Stoke after my ban.

Q2. Talk us through your season.

JH: I have had a good season, this year I have won lots of races and several championships, East Anglian at Swaffham, World Cup at Barford, and then the National and Stoke Track Champion. I have visited many away tracks and made lots of new friends along the way.

Q3. What were your hopes at the start of 2016.

JH: I wanted to travel more this year and maybe win a championship so to win four has been great.

Q4. What are your plans for 2017.

JH: To do as much racing as possible, we are going over to Ireland for a weekend of racing and I would like to win one of the big ORCi titles.

Q5. What is your favourite Startrax venue and why.

JH: Stoke, its fast and I always go well there and have had some of my best meetings there.

Q6. What is your favourite formula to watch is.

JH: National Bangers

Q7. When I finish Junior Bangers I want to race...

JH: Rookie or National Bangers, but I might also get a 1300cc Saloon Stock Car.

Q8. Anyone you would like to thank.

JH: I want to thank my Dad for all the hours he puts into my racing and taking me everywhere, I am a lucky lad thanks Dad! Dom Davies who makes my cars look so smart. Ashley for helping my Dad and all my sponors.

### **10 Questions... we asked a random selection of our drivers the following:**

1. Favourite Food
2. Favourite Drink
3. Favourite Biscuit
4. Favourite Film
5. Favourite TV
6. Favourite Song
7. Night in or Night out
8. Takeaway or Home cooked
9. Road car or Race car
10. Holiday or Race Day

The following replies were given

Sammie Dugmore (232)

1. Spag Bol
2. Malibu and Pineapple
3. Malted Milk
4. Calamity Jane
5. Anything outdoors
6. Changes all the time, We No Speak Americano by Yolanda be Cool vrs Dcup
7. Night in
8. Home cooked
9. Difficult we have a few classics but the buzz of my race car
10. Holiday just! Lol

Danny Davies (99)

1. Chilli
2. Vimto
3. Rich Tea
4. Fast & The Furious
5. Walking Dead
6. Shooting Stars
7. Night out
8. Home cooked
9. Race car
10. Race day

Tom Jordan (9)

1. Pizza
2. Cider
3. Chocolate Hob Nob
4. Snatch
5. Fast and Loud
6. To many to choose from
7. Night out...at workshop haha!
8. Home cooked
9. Race car
10. Holiday obviously!

Brad French (268)

1. Sunday roast
2. Dr Pepper
3. Bourbon Creams
4. Gladiator
5. Don't watch it lol
6. No idea
7. Night out...up the yard!
8. Takeaway
9. Road car when Mk3 Cortina is finished
10. Holiday lol

Gary Shaw (164)

1. Ribs
2. Dr Pepper

3. Chocolate Digestive
4. Star Wars (all of them)
5. Game of Thrones
6. Green Day Time of our lives
7. Night in
8. Takeaway
9. Race car
10. Race day

Stuart "Bert" Bromley (43)

1. Steak
2. Alcoholic drink not me lol
3. Chocolate Hob Nob
4. Days of Thunder
5. Match of the Day
6. Ben E King Stand by me
7. Night in
8. Takeaway
9. Race car
10. Racing holiday?

Emma Mullins (100)

1. Steak
2. Koppersberg
3. Chocolate Digestive
4. Rocky 4 Days of Thunder
5. I,m a celebrity...get me outta here
6. Bon Jovi Always
7. Night in
8. Takeaway
9. Race car
10. Race day

Kayleigh Walsh (205)

1. Cheese Oatckes
2. Tea
3. Malted Milk

4. Any car movies
5. The Big Bang Theory
6. Darude-Sandstorm
7. Night in
8. Home cooked
9. Both haha!
10. I would say race car but we need a holiday lol

Mary Tyler (110)

1. Pork
2. Coke
3. Chocolate
4. Dirty Dancing
5. Eastenders
6. Save the last Dance for Me
7. Night out
8. Home cooked
9. Race car
10. Race days

Phill T-bone Mitchell (101)

1. Chinese
2. Tea
3. Rich Tea
4. DH Videos NiR 2008
5. Game of Thrones
6. Poison Alice Cooper
7. Night in
8. Home cooked
9. Race car
10. Race day

Thanks for reading these Newsletter's and for helping with the various interviews throughout the year.

Merry Christmas!

Happy New Year!

Spike

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