

## Newsletter 2017 Issue #2

It has been a very good few months at Startrax lots of action and the first championships of the season have been held, we talk to the winners and run through the meetings and what is coming up over the next couple of months. Paul Dutton won the Hot Rod National Championship and then three new British Champions have been crowned and we spend 5 minutes with the winning driver's. Also back due to no demand is the Ten Questions feature with once again several drivers across the formula's taking part. The Points Championships are now taking shape with more people challenging for the coveted Silver Roof than ever before. The first head to head with Trent Raceway saw Trent take the win in the 1600cc Bangers while Startrax came out on top in the Lady Bangers event. It is great to see so many new faces among our driver's with car turn outs up on last year across most of the formula's as we go into the second half of the season the meetings get better and better. The Junior Banger World Final is coming up in September and the three Startrax qualifiers are 90 Joey Holmes Jnr, 29 David Mawdsley, and 619 Brad Tomlinson, well done and good luck to all three at Northampton, Startrax National Banger driver 382 Jack Foster won the Shamwreck in April over in Ireland to add to the many titles he has now won, well done Chubby.

### 5 Minutes with...The Champions.

Hot Rod National Champion

Name: Paul Dutton (282)

Age: 38

Hometown: Crewe

Occupation: Paint Sprayer

Number of years racing: Lots!

Formula's raced: 1600cc Bangers Hot Fords Startrax Hot Rods

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

PD: It meant I had done something right for a change! All the hours in the workshop paying off.

Q2. Tell us about your season so far.

PD: Work, Work, Race, repeat lol

Q3. What were your hopes at the start of 2017.

PD: My plan was just to enjoy coming back to racing, but as soon as I got out there I could tell the car was right and it gave me the confidence to try and win something.

Q4. What are your plans for the rest of the season.

PD: To push myself and the car as far as we can.

Q5. What is your favourite venue and why.

PD: Stoke for racing

Q6. What is your favourite formula to watch.

PD: F1,s it's the noise and the action! You have to hand it to the driver's at the top, they must spend hours and hours in their workshop's.

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

PD: Not a clue what to say on that...

Q8. Anyone you would like to thank.

PD: I would like to thank Elite tyre & Auto for their support this season. Lornford Construction for the tyres, and Butler, Gaylord,Stu, Derek, Cro, and anyone else that helps out.

Junior Banger British Champion

Name: Bradley Tomlinson (619)

Age: 15

Hometown: Sheffield

Number of year's racing: 2

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

BT: The British win means a lot to me it is the first time I have won a big race.

Q2. Tell us about your season so far.

BT: The season has started really well for me and winning the British at Kings Lynn is definitely the high point so far.

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

BT: It is my last year in Junior Bangers so the aim was to win a major championship so happy days!!

Q4. What are your plans for the rest of 2017.

BT: To hopefully finish the season as good as it has started.

Q5. What is your favourite venue and why.

BT: Sheffield my home track and the racing is close and fast.

Q6. What is your favourite formula to watch.

BT: These days the 1600cc Bangers as they crash more than National Bangers

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

BT: Stop watering the track before Junior Bangers!

Q8. Anyone you would like to thank.

BT: My Dad and brother for all their help with cars, and you Spike and the Startrax team, always friendly always there to help with any questions, and sorting out all the bookings for us

1600cc Banger British Champion

Name: Elvis Hopkins (195)

Age: Guess lol

Hometown: Leicester

Occupation: Boxing Gym/Coach

Number of year's racing: 26

Formula's raced: Bangers only

Q1. What did it mean to win the British.

EH: Brilliant made all the effort this season worth it.

Q2. Tell us about your season so far:

EH: Brilliant! I wanted to have a serious go at the championships this year so to win one and be leading the points is great.

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

EH: To win one of the big titles.

Q4. What are your plans for the rest of the season.

EH: Top the World Qualifying Points and win the World!

Q5. What is your favourite venue and why.

EH: Stoke always a good track and I always get the luck you need to win at Stoke.

Q6. What is your favourite formula to watch.

EH: Unlimited Bangers

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

EH: Be more generous with Prize Money, racing costs a lot these days.

Q8. Anyone you would like to thank.

EH: Elton Hopkins for building all my cars.

Hot Rod British Champion

Name: Stuart "Bert" Bromley (43)

Age: 38

Hometown: Packmoor, Stoke

Occupation:

Number of year's racing: 15

Formula's raced: Hot Fords, Bangers, Incarods, Open Rods, and Startrax Hot Rods

Q1. What did it mean to win the British.

SB: It hasn't sunk in yet! Got to be happy after coming second last year on the last lap.

Q2. Tell us about your season so far.

SB: Problems! One after another even on Saturday I had a misfiring engine.

Q3. What were your aims at the start of the season.

SB: To finish in the top 5.

Q4. What are your plans for the rest of the season.

SB: To get the car running bang on and then go for top 3.

Q5. What is your favourite venue and why.

SB: Stoke, it is one of the best tracks around and you cannot fault Startrax for the effort and investment to make the track so good.

Q6. What is your favourite formula to watch.

SB: Hard to say really I enjoy all the racing.

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

SB: Try to promote more locally on Radio, Stoke deserves a bigger audience.

Q8. Anyone you would like to thank.

SB: My better half Louise Kelly, Bunty & Dave Swingewood, Matty Szackal and everyone who lends a hand or comes to watch.

## National Bangers

April and two meetings first up Belle Vue for a rare 2ltr RWD session which while low in numbers made up for it with some solid action, 382 Chubby taking a heat and final and 180 Sparky the other heat win and 580 Wilf the best entertainer after two solid shots on 136 Stumpy and 275 Rusty. The BIGGEST ever Stan Woods set a new World Record for classic cars with 174 in attendance 171 of them making the track at some point during the night. Amazing machinery some incredible names from the past and awesome racing it really doesn't get any better. Overs heat wins for 188 Victor, 112 Sean Gallagher, and 267 Tramp. The two all-comers had wins for 384 Liam Conway and 267 Tramp, with 160 Shayn Windsor taking the Final from 245 Jack France, and 112 Gallagher. Unders and heat one for the small cars won by 673 Darren Friendly, heat two and the North-West Legends A60 Shield going to 206 Kingy, heat three for the "newer" cars and a win for National Saloon driver 84 Carl Boswell, heat four and the Triumph's and bigger cars saw 141 Dan Steele take the win. 3 All-Comers went to 715 Andrew Denby, 673 Friendly, and 439 Danny Sutton. 267 Tramp took the final win from 439 Sutton and 800 Tom Hannah. 269 Popeye won the spin and roll dash, with 349 Finbarr taking the DD. The all Cavalier meeting in May attracted 30 cars and again saw plenty of action, 7 Jon Shillito won heat 1 that saw only 5 finisher's. Heat two and a win for 19 Joe Mullarkey with 410 Jake Calvert taking his very smart Mk2 to the Final win. 961 Kev Lording very happy with a win in the DD. The Unlimited Battle of Britain was a victim of the weather and had to be moved back a week but 23 still made the new date, heat wins for 25 Joe Parsons and 353 Dan Buckley, 266 Big Al taking the Final and 466 Dalton Steele the DD.

After a slow start to the year with the loss of Coventry dates the season really picks up over the next few weeks. August 5<sup>th</sup> at Stoke for the 1500cc British Team Championships, currently 7 Teams of 6 driver's each have booked in, The Demons, The Cheats, Sharks, Team STB (TSR), Bong Gang, Team Trent, and one other team tbc. The Bank Holiday weekend and Stoke on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> the Demons of Destruction Micro Bangers with £1000 in prize money and sponsorship from G&M Banger Bits, then Belle Vue on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> for Big Vans with 14 booked so far this look set to be a great weekend of National Bangers. September and Stoke on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> for the 2ltr Double Decker night, one 2ltr National Banger with a Micro Banger strapped to the roof complete with "driver"!

## 1600cc Bangers

May 1<sup>st</sup> and Belle Vue attracted 30+ for WQ4 and the annual Caravan Race, heat wins for Belle Vue occasional racer 258 Chris Hart and 002 Lee Hampson. It was good to see several midlands driver's make the trip north and one of them 195 Elvis Hopkins won the Final from 002 Hampson and 123 Paul Manning. 132 Connor Dando winning the Caravan Race. Belle Vue again on May 29<sup>th</sup> for WQ5 with another good turnout of 30 cars, heat wins for 69 Matt Randall and 619 Nathan Tominson, the

Final won by 619 Tomo from 195 Elvis and 69 Matty. An extra date at Stoke on June 18<sup>th</sup> with all three wins for 22 Elliot Dowds keeping 195 Elvis at bay in the Final. Sheffield on July 2<sup>nd</sup> and a first heat win of the year for 260 Tim Crew with 619 Tomo taking heat two and the Final. The first big title of the season and the British Championship at Stoke raised a superb entry of 65 cars. Just over 20 for the Last Chance Qualifier with the top 5 making the British, 55 Smiggy taking the win in an all-time appearance these days, with 03 Bryn Starr, 919 Liam Cooley, 08 Baggo, and 284 Craig Riches also qualifying. The British Championship saw 123 Mangler and 195 Elvis on pole and it was the Leicester man who made the front row start count, taking a good win despite lots of action all over the track, 22 Elliot Dowds with visitors 181 Grant Doe and 246 Ryan Sparks third and fourth. Two all-comers and some massive wrecks being dished out as the action continued hard and fast 138 Ant Timmins and 246 Sparks the victors. The next meeting is the final WQ and even though it is on a Tuesday night at Belle Vue (15<sup>th</sup>) over 30 cars are now booked in as drivers try to improve their grid position or the last chance to make the top 25 and race in the World Final on September 30<sup>th</sup> at Stoke. Despite a break in at Stoke which saw some of the tyres from our Sponsor CPR Services stolen, Carlos Perez is continuing his support for 1600cc Bangers in 2017.

## Hot Rods

The May meeting at Stoke attracted plenty of cars and the 2/3rds format was used with 142 Andrew Earl showing more consistency this season taking a heat, but the day belonged to 284 Ryan Latham who bagged a hat-trick of wins in the other races holding off 184 Martin Smith and 85 Ben White in the Final. The June meeting and WQ5 with heat wins for 19 Shane King and 99 Danny Davies, the final saw a first win for 413 Dave Brown from 99 Davies and 126 Alan Brown. July and the British Championship with 22 cars in the pits we ran two heats, heat one lined up White's to Super Star's as normal with heat a reverse grid. Heat one and another race win for 142 Andrew Earl with heat two going to 284 Ryan Latham. The Final was lined up in points order from the heats and had 43 Bert on pole, a really fast paced race saw 284 cross the line first but post race checks saw him taken out of the results leaving 43 Bert as the new Champion with 85 Ben White second and 19 Shane King third.

The race for the points looks as good as last year with 4 drivers at the top separated by only 12 points, Shane King leads the way by 4 points from 90 Ashy Tomkinson, defending champion Ben White is a further 4 points back with 282 Cracker in fourth a further 4 points behind, can it go all the way like last year when Ben bagged his third Points Championship in 4 years in the Final of the last meeting! As the season gets going there are some new names in the top 10 this year with 413 Dave Brown the highest placed novice so far this year in 7th earning him his first Red Roof for August so well done Dave.

The G&M Banger Bits WQ series is now over and the top 20 qualifiers now know their grid positions for the big race! Shane King starts on row 1 alongside 90 Ashy with 85 Ben and 282 Cracker on row 2, a really hard race to call with all four on the front two rows capable of winning.

An extra date has been added on August 5<sup>th</sup> at Stoke and Steve offered a £100 winner takes all Final, within 30 minutes of this being posted to the Hot Rod Facebook page, Lornford Construction had matched Steve's prize with another £100 split between second, third and fourth with £50-£30-20.

The annual Belle Vue Tuesday night has 23 booked in so far then it's the Big One! August 27<sup>th</sup> at Stoke for the G&M Banger Bits World Final.

## Junior Bangers

May at Stoke and another good turnout of 14 cars that saw some very hard hitting that saw all drivers spoken to by the Steward. The heats saw 90 Joey Holmes Jnr claim both wins but 29 David Mawdsley won the final from 99 Shaydy Gough and 76 Chloe-Ann Price. June at Stoke and heat wins for 132 Archie Cullum and 619 Tomo, 90 Spud taking the final from 252 Lib James and 712 Alex "Stig Jnr" Hatcliffe. A rare visit to Sheffield in July and heat wins for 29 David Mawdsley and 90 Spud with visiting TSR driver 328 Ben Nicholls winning the final from 619 Tomo and 90 Spud.

The points race has 90 Spud top with 29 David and 619 Tomo joint second last year's champion 450 Blake Platts is fourth, still lots to play for with the A.C. Race Fabrication English Championship at Stoke to come in October with the top 12 drivers from Startrax and invited entries from across the U.K.let's hope we have a night of great racing with some excellent prizes up for grabs in the Championship race.

## Lady Bangers

May at Stoke and the rearranged Team Race against Trent saw the Startrax team take a narrow 29-26pt lead. The Ladies then went to Trent and won there too! A great result, and thank you to all the Ladies who took part over the two meetings. The Team race saw Startrax Guest 3 Danielle Ellis take the win and she went to complete a hat-trick with victories in heat two and the final, 44 Courtney Weston and 411 Nikki Calvert coming second and third. June at Stoke and the visiting TSR driver's again showing good form on their regular shale surface, 477 Amy Brown won heat one with 411 Nikki Calvert taking heat 2. The Final saw another win for 3 Danielle Ellis from 477 Amy and 411 Doris. The points chart has 411 Doris at the top place, her consistency coupled with a few wins, means this is well deserved and should see her on the front row of the J.B. Welding & Fabrication World Final in September. Two meetings in August with a domestic on August 5<sup>th</sup> and then the Unlimited session for Fords Care on August 27<sup>th</sup> with some 20+ names now on the list and at least one special car we know of it looks set to be the biggest Ladies meeting at Startrax yet.

## 1300cc Saloons

May at Stoke and only 7 cars but some good racing saw 2 Ellie Dawson take both the heats before 681 Dan Moore took the final from 444 Natasha Street and 422 Martin Taylor. June and into double figures with closed grids and 4 races there was plenty of action! First time visitors 704 Stuart Henderson and 702 Allan Cooper claimed all the wins, 704 a heat and the all-comers with 702 the

other heat and the final from 681 Dan Moore and 781 Scott Sparrow. The 1300s are back in August and September at Stoke before the World of Shale in October. The formula is starting to raise interest from our own drivers in various formulas and we hope to see some of you on track before the end of this year.

## Ten Questions

We asked a selection of drivers to answer the following questions.

1, Favourite Food. 2, Favourite drink. 3, Favourite biscuit. 4, Favourite film. 5, Favourite TV.

6, Favourite song. 7, Night In Night Out. 8, Home cooked or takeaway. 9, Race Car or road car. 10, Race Day or Holiday.

619 Nathan Tomlinson

1, Lasagne. 2, Rockstar. 3, Bourbon Creams. 4, Snatch. 5, Street Outlaws.

6, Galway Girl. 7, Night In. 8, Home cooked. 9, Race Car. 10, Holiday there stress free lol

413 Dave Brown

1, Sunday Roast. 2, Vimto. 3, Chocolate Hob Nobs. 4, Gone in 60 Seconds. 5, Top Gear.

6, Shape of You. 7, Night In. 8, Home Cooked. 9 Race car. 10, Race Day.

That's All Folks!

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