

The second race meeting of the Barbados Karting Association Inc's 2008 Kart Championship was anticipated to be oversubscribed with 7 classes competing for top honors. A total of 35 karts came under starters orders and like the weather conditions the competition was hot and relentless.

Sponsored by Crane & Equipment, the day saw exciting and clean racing in all groups which is critical as karting is the foundation that creates world class drivers. In the Championship class Connor Roach set the early pace with a blistering qualifying time to take pole position from the always attacking Orry Hunte. Dane Skeete rounded out the top three on his return to karting as he has not competed since July 2007. As the green flag dropped the unmistakable revs of two stroke engines could be heard as all drivers tried to get to the first corner first as most circuit racers will argue that the start is the most critical component of the race. As the dust settled 5 of the front markers were licking their battle wounds and restarting their karts after the first racing incident for the day. This incident set the stage for a very exciting race as the 3 top qualifiers had to make up some ground to regain their positions. With tenacity and composure Connor Roach was able to win the first race with Dane Skeete second and Orry Hunte third. The second race – always the most interesting as the starting positions are the reverse of the first race's finishing positions, leaving the quicker drivers the task of coming through the field – saw Dane Skeete return to full form as he passed the 4 karts before the end of the first lap. Dane continued to comfortably win the second race with Orry finishing second and Connor third. The very talented Mark Kinch was by the end of the second race wondering when his bad luck for this day was going to change as he lost his chain in exact position as that in the first one. The third race was won quite comfortably by Orry Hunte who managed to evade a racing incident in the first corner and the engine did not fail him this time. Dane Skeete ended the day with a win in the last race closely followed by Orry Hunte after Connor Roach pulled out due to mechanical problems. Dane Skeete emerged the overall winner with Orry Hunte second and Connor Roach third. Creditable drives were recorded by the much improved Matthew Noel & Reggie Gill who, having not karded in the last five years showed that consistency is the main ingredient in the race for the championship. David Evelyn and Nick Gill suffered mechanical problems throughout the day but were still able to make a good showing in some of the races.

The 125cc gearbox class saw a few returning drivers challenge the Maloney brothers domination of this class. Stuart comfortably won 3 of the four races and finished second in one after coming together with Brett Judd on the penultimate lap. Brett Judd showed some good drives throughout the day and finished second ahead of Brett Clarke. Mark Jordan rounded of the top four with exciting drives during the day. Mark Maloney suffered mechanical problems along with big brother Sean and both of them finished low down the grid.

The junior sportsman heavy class saw a new winner emerge from behind the wheel of his KRT kart. Christian Hinds drove brilliantly to defeat the point's leader Alexander Gill and the two swapped positions throughout the day. The last race for the day was a nail biter and that was the one that sealed the deal for Christian in the end. Newcomer Cole Gill showed maturity in this class by finishing the day in third position under the team orders "to finish first you have to finish".

The highlight of the day was the action in the “baby 50 & 60cc classes”. The future of motorsport in Barbados is bright with the likes of Joshua Maloney and Zane Maloney. These two juniors not only show the true attributes of first class drivers but their desire for competition and clean racing is astounding. Watching these kids one can see the passion they possess and this class is expected to grow rapidly in the next few months. Joshua won the day with consistent drives while Zane suffered a minor problem after a minor racing incident. Newcomers Lance Bourne the son of Paul the Surfer Bourne and Noah White but in credible drives for their first showing.

The sportsman’s light class saw Samantha Gill dominate scoring a perfect 100 points to stamp her authority on the proceedings. Her closest rival was Dillan Gray who suffered some mechanical problems and was unable to get on the pace on the class leader.

The BKAI would like to thank its sponsor, Crane & Equipment for their continued support and looks forward to Race Day 3 - carded for April 06, 2008. Visit www.barbadoskarting.com for more information.