

EVENT REPORT



WELCOME TO NOLA MOTORSPORTS PARK- GRAND FINAL DAY 4

New Orleans, Louisiana, November 13, 2013 – Hello and welcome to yet another competitive day at the 2013 Rotax MAX Challenge Grand Finals! Today we will be covering the two 10-minute non-qualifying practice sessions and the deciding round everyone has been waiting for: one 15-minute qualifying session.

Yesterday was a great day to evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of each competitor. Remember, every driver is only given 5 non-qualifying practice sessions before they are thrown into the official 15-minute qualifying round taking place today.

First, let us take a quick look at today's weather forecast: chilling. Today has been sunny, although high winds have been have caused a drastic drop in temperatures: a low of 46 °F and high of 54 °F is expected for the day.

We also want to update our guests with a peek behind the curtains; today the 72 Mini and Micro MAX drivers will be registered by the Rotax staff and will receive their karts and equipment following a raffle, similar to the one held on Monday.

Without any further hesitation, allow us to give you a full report of the action on the track.

Junior MAX- Non-Qualifying Practice 4

Although one might have expected the drivers from the United Kingdom to post the top three fastest lap times again today, the Spaniard, Jan de Valle, posted the top time of a 57.630. Great Britain's Tom Harvey ran the second fastest lap time of a 57.776.



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Senior MAX- Non-Qualifying Practice 4

Winds continued to cool down the track temperatures dramatically as the day went on. Rotax Senior's current World Champion, Charlie Eastwood, however, did not let the cold temperatures impair him. He was able to run a fastest time of 55.637, followed closely by France's Jules Cousin with a 55.771. The Czech Republic's Petr Bezel was able to make the final jump into the top three with a time of 55.794.

DD2 Masters MAX- Non-Qualifying Practice 4

Although everyone would think South Africa's prodigy, Cristiano Morgado would post the fastest lap time, France's Michael Dauphin proved otherwise, setting a best lap time of a 55.030. Morgado trailed Dauphin by just 0.01 of a second, posting a lap time of a 55.046. Although there is minimal difference between the two posted times, one can see how every hundredth, if not thousandth counts towards a potential pole position or even win.

DD2- Non-Qualifying Practice 4

The first few minutes of the DD2 odd numbered session, saw the South African, Luca Canderle, the Canadian, Pier-Luc Ouelette, and the American driver, Joey Wimsett, fight for the top three spots. With ease, however, Ferenc Kancsar of Hungary, jumped to the top of the time sheets with a magnificent 54.425. By the end of the session, Kancsar sealed first place, with Simas Juodvirsis of Lithuania trailing by just 0.001 and Great Britain's Sean Babington in third, with just 0.003 seconds off of Kancsar's best time.

As for the DD2 even numbered session, Ben Cooper captured the top spot early on, with a 54.480. However, a few laps later, American Daniel Formal captured the top spot with a 54.130, as well as the fastest first and second sector times. Just before the drop of the checkered flag, Cooper posted another personal best time of a 54.290, but was unable to beat Formal's best time.

Junior MAX- Non-Qualifying Practice 5

The fifth unofficial Junior odd numbered practice session saw Thomas Preining capture the top spot once again, with a 56.899. However, Team USA's Kyle Kirkwood jumped to the front of the time sheets with a 56.883, simultaneously posting the best second split.

A storm of even-numbered Energy Kart drivers raced through the field, as the green flag dropped. Three British drivers conquered the top 3 spots early throughout the practice session, with Josh Price driving a fastest lap time of 57.387. In the last lap, British driver Tom Harvey managed to pull off the fastest lap time of a 57.001. With

only 2 minutes remaining, the second junior group still was unable to break the 56 second barrier. Usually, due to added rubber and heat from the previous classes, the second groups are expected to post faster lap times.

Senior MAX- Non-Qualifying Practice 5

Early in the first Senior session, a trio of British drivers, Oliver Hodgson, Kyle Fowler and Harry Webb, respectively, claimed the top 3 spots; with the fastest time by Hodgson. At the close of the session, Hodgson managed to stay at the top of the time sheets, followed by Estonian, Aavo Talvar and Luke Herring of South Africa.

The first few laps of the second, Senior even numbered group saw a mix of countries and names in the top three positions. However, as the time began to wind down, close rivalry could be seen between times posted by Petr Bezel of the Czech Republic, with a 55.224 and Canadian, Zachary Claman-Demelo with a 55.235. The current Senior Rotax World Champion, Charlie Eastwood was unable to see the top steps of the podium, as he qualified in fifth position with a 55.407. Nevertheless, British driver, Edward Brand, was able to jump to the top of the time sheets with a 55.205.

DD2 Masters- Non-Qualifying Practice 5

The DD2 Masters charged at the opportunity of another non-qualifying session. Wind speeds, however, challenged drivers to find grip and speed on a slippery track. By the end of both odd and even numbered practice sessions, the American, Alan Rudolph posted the fastest lap time of a 54.750, followed by the Australian Daniel Richert with a time of 54.946 and Morgado, who posted a 55.000.

DD2- Non-Qualifying Practice 5

The odd numbered DD2 Senior group saw Kancsar at the top of the time sheets with a 54.352. However, early in the even numbered DD2 session, Swiss-native, Kevin Lüdi stormed out front. Ben Cooper, however, soon jumped to the top of the time sheets, posting a 54.420. Nevertheless, Formal pushed Cooper to P2, after running a record 54.202, and posting the best first and second split times. Nevertheless, by the end of the final practice session, Belgian, Xen de Ruwe jumped to the top of the time sheets with a 54.125.

Junior- Qualifying

In the Junior odd qualifying, American Kyle Kirkwood immediately ran the fastest lap time of a 56.589 with Canadian, Jeffery Kingley's best time of a 56.754 placing in second.

The first few minutes of the 15-minute Junior even-numbered session saw American Luke Sellikan take the top spot with a fastest lap time of a 56.806, followed by Britain's Tom Harvey with a 57.171. However, with about 5 minutes to go, Jamaican, Thomas Issa jumped to the top of the time sheets with a 56.796. Just before the end of qualifying, though, Josh Price, jumped to P1 with a lap time of 56.762.

As it stands, Kyle Kirkwood of America, holds the pole position, Jeffrey Kingsley of Canada came in second and Colombian Christian Munoz finished in the top three.

Senior- Qualifying

The first senior group did not charge the track. They waited for a long time before leaving pit lane. Just one kart dared to test the slippery conditions just short of the 5-minute marker. With 6 minutes to go, the majority of the 1st senior group left the pit lane. From early in the session, Spanish driver, Carlos Gil posted the fastest lap time of a 55.199. Estonian Aavo Talvar was able to finish in second position with just 0.002 seconds off of Gil's best time. Junior 2012 Rotax World Champion, Harry Webb did not see the stellar results he was used to, as he finished in 21st position with a time of 55.666.

Senior group 2 played the same game as their predecessors; the majority refused to start their qualifying session until the 7th minute. Numerous drivers exchanged best lap times. However, with just about 1.5 minutes to go, qualifying was cut short due to a red flag incident.

As it stands, Gil holds the pole position with a 55.199, Talvar came in second and the UK's Oliver Hodgson rounds out the top three with a 55.204.

DD2 Masters- Qualifying

A storm of Praga karts drove onto the track the second they were given the green flag. Morgado once again posted the fastest lap time of a 54.814 as well as the fastest first and second split times. Sealing the odd numbered qualifying, Morgado claimed the top position, followed closely by American Derek Wang and Swede Martin Victorsson.

At about 3:05 pm, local time, the Master DD2 even numbers received the green flag to drive on track. Early on, Thomas Schumacher of Germany posted the fastest lap time of a 55.312. However, American Alan Rudolph jumped to the top spot of the time sheets with a 54.892, only to back up his lap time with a 54.693- almost 2 tenths faster than Morgado's fastest time. As the end of the qualifying session neared, Rudolph ran the ultimate fastest time of a 54.693, followed by Michael Dauphin with a 54.735 and Ireland's Martin Pierce rounding out the top 3, with a 54.906.

As it stands, Rudolph holds the pole position with a 54.693, Michel Dauphin came in second with a 54.735 and Morgado qualified in third place with a 54.814.

DD2- Qualifying

The even-numbered DD2 drivers approached the track with caution, first warming up their engines and tires. In Pier-Luc Ouelette's 3rd lap, the Canadian was able to post the best time of a 54.528, closely followed by Babington, who ran a 54.537. However, UK driver Sean Babington jumped to the top of the time sheets, posting a 54.239 only to be bumped down to second by Ouelette, who set a new record lap time of a 54.059. Ouelette finished in first position, Babington in 2nd with a 54.117 and Lithuanian Juodvirsis in third, driving a 54.207.

With 10 minutes to go, all of the DD2 senior odd-numbered field were on track. The sun was already sinking and the track was not getting any warmer. Immediately, UK's Shaun Slavin posted the best time of a 54.609. However, Formal took the top spot from Slavin, with a 54.212, backing up his lap time with another fastest time of a 54.010. Lithuanian Vasiliasuskas followed closely with 0.008 of a second behind Formal. Cooper pushed Vasiliasuskas to third, with only 0.004 seconds off of Formal's fastest time.

As it stands, Formal holds the pole position 0.004 seconds in front of Cooper, and Ouelette rounds out the top three.

Don't think the day is wrapped up completely though; every driver must attend a mandatory meeting for the upcoming day. So, as the night settles in, every competitor will go to rest, and clean up their equipment, ready for a new day's worth of exiting work.

Remember to stay alert for our next few posts, keeping you up to date with the intense action of the 2013 Rotax MAX Challenge Grand Finals.

The Rotax MAX Challenge (RMC) is a professional kart racing series established, owned and organized by BRP and its Rotax kart engine distributors. Approved by and in compliance with CIK / FIA, the RMC is a "one-make-engine" formula: only Rotax kart engines that are checked and sealed (for equal performance) are allowed. The success in the competition is mainly up to the skills of the driver.

The Grand Finals is the annual event gathering qualifiers from each participating country. The event is open to the public; tickets can be purchased on-site or via the website of NOLA Motorsports Park: www.nolamotor.com. You can also watch the Rotax MAX Challenge Grand Finals live on the web starting with the qualifying rounds at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, November 13 right up to the finals on Saturday, November 16 by following this link: <http://rgf-2013.kart-data.com>.

About BRP

BRP is a global leader in the design, development, manufacturing, distribution and marketing of powersports vehicles. Distributed in 105 countries, its portfolio of brands and products includes Ski-Doo and Lynx snowmobiles, Sea-Doo watercraft, Can-Am all-terrain and side-by-side vehicles, Can-Am roadsters, Evinrude outboard engines, as well as Rotax propulsion systems. BRP employs approximately 6,800 people worldwide.

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