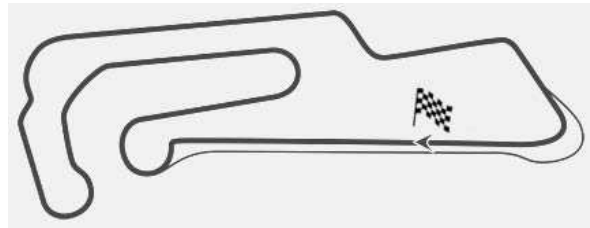




International Superkart Serie 2009

The start to the 2009 International Superracekart Series at the Motorsport Arena Oschersleben(D).

On May 15th - 17th the first two rounds of the International Superracekart Series took place at the Motorsport Arena at Oschersleben, running alongside the IDM German motorcycle championships. With there being another superkart race at Most, the venue for the next round of the CIK European Championship at the same time did mean that some drivers took the opportunity to race there in preparation for the CIK event; it was very pleasing to see that 33 still raced at Oschersleben. Most teams arrived on Thursday, but there was confusion from the IDM organisers and the superkart teams were scattered all around the paddock. The drivers were very pleased to be racing with motorcycles, as this meant the use of the fast flowing first corner rather than the DTM chicane. On Friday there was signing on for the free practice and the race, scruteneering and drivers briefing. The scruteneering was done by the series officials Tone Nachtegeller and Ren Kemminga in the team awnings. The free practice was actually free, a great signal to the drivers as the Superkart foundation had lowered the yearly entry fee to 300.00 euros per meeting also. Unfortunately the IDM officials did not publish any times from this session.



Noon on Saturday saw the first qualifying session begin in outstanding weather conditions as well as the arrival of Olaf Dau, who was unable to compete as he could not get parts for his BRC transmission in time, but still wanted to be at the event as a fan. Lee Harpham (GB) secured preliminary pole position with 1:27.453 an average of 151 km/h, next Robert Chilcott (GB) with a time of 1:27.818. Third was Vesa Lehtinen (Fin) with 1:28.306 ahead of Erik Martin Gjertsen (Nor), Jörg Bernhard (D) and the Netherlands new A



RISER Barry de Boorder. 5 nations were represented in the first 6 places proving this to be truly an international superkart series. Kim Skrotzki, the only woman in the field, came in from the first qualifying with a time of 1:32,604 a respectable 13th, amongst such drivers as Raymond Gorissen, Ulli Sieker and Roland Bischoff.



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On Saturday evening came the 2nd qualifying followed again with excellent weather conditions. Again Lee Harpham had the best time with 1:25.462, 2



seconds faster than in the first qualifying. Second again was Robert Chilcott 1:27.764 ahead of David Harvey (GB) 1:27.897. Forth was Barry de Boorder, who was also the best Rookie, then Vesa Lehtinen followed by Erik Martin Gjertsen and Thomas's Wagner (D), who could not participate in the first qualifying due to technical problems. Jörg Bernhard dropped back in the second qualifying

from 5th to 8th, because of transmission problems. Kim Skrotzki improved her time from the first qualifying by around 1 second 1:31.779 and landed on the 6th row (12th). On Saturday evening there was the IDM Race party, which was well attended by the teams.

15,000 spectators attended on the Sunday and were offered a mix of live music from Revolving Door, solo motorcycles, sidecars and Superkarts. The Superkarts formed at 9:30 in glorious sunshine and allowed the fans to talk to them, look at the karts and take photos.

Winner of the first round of the International Superracekart Series was Lee Harpham with a lead of 6 seconds over Robert Chilcott followed by Vesa Lehtinen, who took his first podium place in international competition. In 4th place rookie Barry de Boorder followed ahead



of Dave Harvey and Charles Craven (GB). Thomas's Wagner failed to finish due to engine problems as did Jörg Bernhard and Roland Bischoff. Kim Skrotzki improved again by 2 seconds, but had tyre damage with 3 laps to go.

Peter Elkmann, the FIA CIK European champion, who won the 2nd race in Most, called and asked whether he may participate in second race on his return home. After a vote between the series supervisors, Dasian Panman and Henk Hali as well as the IDM and the Superkart drivers Peter was allowed to start the race from the back row but race for no points.



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The start of race 2 was delayed as there were many unfortunate accidents during the motorcycle races. The weather conditions held, despite dark clouds on the horizon. The start of the race was yet again very disciplined and smooth and the Superkarts setting the fastest lap times of the day. Peter Elkmann showed his great driving ability coming from last to win the race, helped by Lee Harpham

getting tyre damage and having to make a pit stop from the lead. As with race 1 Robert Chilcott gained 2nd place ahead this time of Dave Harvey and Vesa Lehtinen. Charles Craven came in 5th followed by Barry de Boorder. Then came Jörg Bernhard followed by Kim Skrotzki for her first top 8 finish and ahead of experienced drivers such as Erik Martin Gjertsen, Daniel Preiß (D), Gary Parkes (GB) and Marcel Gorissen (NL).

The top three championship positions after the first two rounds are, Robert Chilcott with 45 points, Vesa Lehtinen (32 points) and then Dave Harvey (31 points). In an outstanding 8th place Kim Skrotzki lies with Daniel Preiß and Jörg Bernhard (each 10 points).

The next rounds of the International Superracekart Series takes place on 18th and 19th July 2009 together with that British Superkart Grand Prix at Cadwell Park (GB). Most teams, however, will be taking part in 2nd round (3rd and 4th races) the FIA CIK European championship in the Czech Republic at Most the 5th to 7th June 2009.

