

## Race report Assen 23/24/25 oktober 2009



The 2009 International Superkart Series ended on a high note at Assen with Robert Chilcott of the United Kingdom succeeding Germany's Peter Kruse to the ISS championship. The Englishman did sufficient to win the title in race 1 in which he finished 4<sup>th</sup>, and in which his closest rival, Dave Harvey failed to finish.

So much so that a major problem in race 2 that saw the new champion right at the back early on, and eventually finish a lap down by the end of the race, could not prevent him being crowned champion in a happy gathering in the paddock awning at the end of Sunday afternoon.



Once again we collaborated with our friends of the British Superkart Racing Club to promote an event that counted for both the International Superkart Series and the British Division One Superkart National Championship. Some drivers competed in just one of the series, but several were battling for points in both championships. For example, at the start of the event, Dave Harvey had an outside chance of becoming a double champion and winning both titles.



The Qualifying Practice in Friday afternoon's sunshine produced faster times than in the second qualifying session in cool damp conditions on Saturday morning. Consequently, Carl Hulme, who did not contest the Saturday session, took pole position and was joined on the front row by his British Championship rival, former world champion, Trevor Roberts from Northern Ireland. Neither of these drivers was competing in the ISS and so Peter Elkmann on the inside of row 2 was, in effect, the ISS pole man alongside ISS championship leader, Robert Chilcott.

Race One was an absorbing battle with plenty of changes of position up at the front early on. Hulme led from Pole but was quickly caught by, first, Elkmann, and then Roberts. Lee Harpham was also in the front running mix.

But then an error by Roberts let Hulme back in to 2<sup>nd</sup> place and Lee Harpham did well to survive a heavy collision with a backmarker when lying 3<sup>rd</sup>. He lost places but continued his high speed chase. Meanwhile Hulme was getting ever closer to race leader Elkmann, and eventually closed in and passed him at three quarter race distance. He built on that lead and was just over 200 meters from the chequered flag, when his motor seized. Quickly he dipped the clutch to coast over the finishing line but, of course, Elkmann went by for the race win. However, lady luck who dealt what could have been a mortal blow to Hulme's British title hopes, then smiled on him as he cruised over the line in 2<sup>nd</sup> place, ahead of Trevor Roberts. Those placings were enough for the Cheshire Wellness sponsored Carl Hulme to win the British Division One championship.



Meanwhile behind him, Robert Chilcott was driving a steady and solid race into 4<sup>th</sup> place, and by virtue of the healthy points lead that he had started with, he had won the 2009 ISS title irrespective of what happened in the afternoon race.

There were plenty of other good performances to catch the eye. Vesa Lehtinen from Finland (6<sup>th</sup>) is consolidating himself at the top level of European Superkart racing and Kim Skrotzki is entitled to feel very pleased with her 7<sup>th</sup> place.



was classified 17<sup>th</sup> one lap down.

The popular German driver Jörg Bernhard made the top ten just in front of the best placed Dutch racer, Barry de Boorder. The lady from Finland, Heta Lauslehto was 12<sup>th</sup> followed by Dutch drivers Marcel Gorissen and Marcel Maasmann. Maasmann can count himself unlucky for finding a problem when comfortably placed in the top ten. Esdert Kaldijk completed the full race distance in 16<sup>th</sup> place whilst Willie Meulman, very fast in Friday's Free Practice,

was classified 17<sup>th</sup> one lap down. Race Two could have been an anti climax with both championships now determined. In fact there was plenty of interest, not least because Rob Chilcott's first appearance on track as the 2009 champion was nearly a disaster. He was detached from the pack on the formation lap but nevertheless continued his forlorn chase and made up a lot of ground. So much so that although he was lapped by the front runners, he was still classified in 16<sup>th</sup> place just behind Dutchman Esdert Kaldijk, the last racer to complete the full race distance.

Elkmann again took an early lead and although Hulme threatened, he could not make a telling pass. Only late in the race, when the front runners were heavily involved with backmarkers, did Hulme look like a possible race winner. He closed strongly on Elkmann but when the chequered flag came, the German had taken his 2<sup>nd</sup> race win of the day by just 0.11 of a second, one kart length clear of the fast finishing 2009 British Champion.



Trevor Roberts again made the podium, a couple of seconds clear of Lee Harpham (4<sup>th</sup>) who had over 10 seconds to spare on Vesa Lehtinen. The Finn nevertheless improved on his morning's 6<sup>th</sup> place finish. Dave Harvey and Jurgen Reinke overcame their problems of race one, and finished 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>, and it was pleasing to see both the remaining girls, Heta Lauslehto (9<sup>th</sup>) and Kim Skrotzki (10<sup>th</sup>) so well placed.

Sadly, Priscilla Speelman had blown a motor early in the weekend and could not mount a Dutch challenge to the girls from Finland and Germany.

Barry de Boorder was again just outside the top ten in 11<sup>th</sup> place but can be satisfied with these results against some of Europe's best superkart racers.

There was a small entry of single cylinder class racers. Proclean driver, Mark Vaughan from the UK had a class winning double followed in each race by Anglo-Dutchman Eddie Kooiker. Germany's Jurgen Nehring was 3<sup>rd</sup> in race 1, but we had a Dutchman make the podium in race 2 in the shape of Theo Benniks.



The collaboration between the Dutch and British series organisers creates a win-win situation for both, and is to be commended. There was a happy atmosphere throughout the event, and most notably during Saturday night's Paddock Party. If John Bolk was somewhat off the pace on track, he was definitely a winner with the microphone in his hand at the party.

The ISS promoters, Jasper Blom, Henk Hali and Dasian Panman produced a lovely moment for recently retired Danish superkart racer, Ib Petersen after 44 years of racing. He was presented with a canvas backed picture of himself in action with insert portrait photos of both he and his mechanic and brother, Ole.

Indeed, those of us from outside Holland, and especially from within the British Isles would also want to put on record our appreciation of this enterprising series promoted by Jasper, Henk and Dasian. Roll on 2010.

Ken Walker