



Kart trouble puts brakes on for Jack

MOTOR SPORT

YOUNG Sutton karting star Jack Brookes enjoyed another successful weekend in Wales. The 11-year-old claimed a first place finish at the GYG circuit in North Wales.

It was a particularly impressive display from the youngster as he had to deal with mechanical issues as he defended from the front.

The victory qualified Brookes, pictured above, for the A final but he was unable to finish that race due to more problems with the kart.



Eleanor Holder in her Great Britain outfit. Picture: Caroline Strange

Holder stakes claim against world's best

SWIMMING

TEENAGE synchronised swimming star Eleanor Holder made her international debut for Great Britain under-15s at the Mediterranean Cup in Chania, Crete recently.

The squad finished 9th in the combination team and 12th in the free team events, competing against the world's top swimmers, including athletes from Russia and Spain.

Individually the Walsall Synchro Swimming Club ace finished 127th in the figure section.

Holder, of Streetly, aged 14, is one of four athletes selected as part of a talent scheme to train with senior swimmers through the year.

She will try out for the 2011 junior and senior squads later this year.

Coach Amy Baker said: "As her coach for a number of years, I am incredibly proud of her achievements so far this year after a couple of tough years with injury."

"She has gained so much, getting to train and compete alongside the best nations in the world."

"She has worked hard and is getting closer to realising her dream of representing her country at the Olympics."

"This is only the beginning of her international sporting career."

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Engine failure stalls race-ace Andrew Jordan's weekend of top-ten finishes

MOTOR SPORT

SUTTON race-ace Andrew Jordan endured a weekend of mixed emotions in the latest round of the British Touring Car Championship at Snetterton.

Jordan claimed two top-ten finishes in the opening two races on Sunday but was forced out of race three by an engine failure on the way to the grid.

Having mastered wet conditions in qualifying, Jordan lined up sixth on the grid but slipped to ninth by the chequered flag, partially due to a tangle with championship leader Matt Neal.

He recovered to claim sixth place with a solid ride in race two but could not participate in race three – mechanics pushing his car off the track after an engine failure prior to the start.

Jason Plato won the first two races to establish a 20-point lead at the top of the overall championship standings on 151 points, ahead of Neal in second.

Gordon Shedden, who won race three, is third with 127. Jordan lies tenth overall on 58 points – he will hope to boost that tally in the next round at Silverstone next weekend (August 21-22).



Andrew Jordan in action in Norfolk, above, picture by Keith Huddleday, and signing autographs at Snetterton, Picture by Chris Enion.

Christo targets top-five finishes after returning to Formula Renault racing

MOTOR SPORT

By MATT PANTER
Sports reporter

SUTTON Coldfield's Riki Christodoulou is adopting a realistic approach to his return to the 2010 Michelin Formula Renault UK Championship.

'Christo' placed ninth in the latest race at Snetterton last weekend after mechanical issues sidelined the racer in the



Riki Christodoulou was hit by mechanical problems at Snetterton.

opening competition at the Norfolk venue.

Now he is preparing for Silverstone on August 22 and said: "I'll be targeting top-five finishes in two weeks' time."

"Obviously I want to go out and get podium finishes, but I

must be realistic in that I haven't raced regularly since last October and, more importantly, not in this type of car for 18 months.

"Having learned a huge amount in terms of driving an F3 car last year, a car which develops well over twice the amount of aero downforce as a Formula Renault, I must now forget almost everything from last season and go back to how I drove in 2008."

Lining up in 11th place on the 16-car grid for both 18-lap

races, the Sutton driver encountered clutch issues at the start of the first race and then a mechanical problem needing a pit-stop four laps from the finish.

In the second race, Alpine-stars supported Riki finished ninth, 16.8secs behind the winner in the 35-mile race.

Christodoulou, who was thwarted from moving up the motor racing ladder this year due to finance, added: "The last time I raced at Snetterton was 13 months ago when I

scored my maiden F3 race victory.

"Fortec gradually improved my car from testing on Friday, in qualifying on Saturday and into Sunday's races."

"I'll be spending the next two weeks studying data and watching videos to remind myself how to drive a Formula Renault car again."

"It's just a case of turning the clock back in terms of my driving style and so long as the car is competitive, I'll be on the pace."

Club comes home from championships with new records and personal bests

SWIMMING

BOLDMERE Swimming Club's Holly Lynch surged to a superb silver medal at the British Gas National Youth Championships in Sheffield last weekend.

Competing for the final time in the event, due to her age, Lynch went home with a big smile wearing her 100m backstroke (16-17 years) silver after also claiming fifth in the 200m race.

After qualifying easily from the heats, wearing the colours of City of Birmingham, she then beat her personal best by 0.70 seconds – in a Boldmere club record of 1:03.36 – to post the fastest semi-final time.

In a nail-biting final, Lynch lowered her personal best yet again to 1:02.85 – breaking the Warwickshire record that has stood since 1998 – but missed out on gold by just 0.17 seconds.

Freestyle specialist Joey Stanger met the qualifying entry times for both the 50m and 100m 15-16 year events.



Joey Stanger, Jenny Fowler, Holly Lynch, Katrina Holmes and Phil Hewitt all did Boldmere proud at the National Youth Championships.

Picture: Steve Harlow

In the shorter sprint, he set a new personal best and club record of 25.51 and did the same in his 100m heat with 54.47 to qualify for the semis where he placed 20th.

In the same age group, Phil Hewitt set a 50m butterfly club

record with his split time in the 100m event, where he finished 31st, while in the 50m freestyle he set another personal best and club record to progress to the semis where he finished in 20th best in the country.

Jenny Fowler competed in both 200m and 400m 16-17 year individual medleys, finishing with two top-40 places and setting a personal best and club record with her starting 50m fly split during the shorter of the two events.

Kristie Hackett (14-15 year 400m IM), Alix Swinhoe (14-15 year 100m and 200m breaststroke) and Katrina Holmes (16-17 year 50m freestyle) also proudly represented Boldmere after securing the national qualifying times.