

BRCA National Round 5 – Slough

Track

Slough RC track is the oldest on the calendar for the BRCA national series and this year it was the finale! A few Drivers could still win the championship, but I was the one driver who had it in his own hands. Regardless of any result, if I finished 5th or higher, I would win the series in 2013.

The track was prepared in the weeks before the race and early on the track was dusty and loose, with contrasting smooth and bumpy sections. Due to the abnormally good summer weather that we had in the UK, it had caused the tracks surface to be very dry and it needed a lot of water. The track had a couple of new features and corners to make it a little different from normal.



Qualifying

The track was rewarding guys that were able to drive the track clean, and not many people had consistent clean runs. Darren Bloomfield was looking comfortable and fast around his local track, taking TQ after qualifying was finished. Team Mugen were working on different set ups and tyre options to maximise our changes on winning not just the overall championship, but also the juniors and clubmans titles! After qualifying the top 10 were as follows:

1. Darren Bloomfield – TLR, Aka
2. Elliot Boots – Kyosho, Novarossi, Proline
3. Lee Martin – Mugen, Beat, Proline
4. Neil Cragg – Associated, LRP, Proline
5. Graham Alsop – HB, Bullet, HB
6. Tony Truman – Agama, Bullet, Beta
7. Jack Embling – Mugen, Beat, Proline
8. Karl Jackson – TLR, Novarossi, Beta
9. Richard Barton – Agama, Bullet, Beta
10. Jon Hazlewood – Agama, Bullet, Beta

Finals

The lower finals had ran and it was time for the semi finals and then onto the main event. The weather was looking dangerously like rain was approaching. Both Semi finals ran in dry conditions with Elliot Boots winning semi A quite comfortably in front of Neil Cragg. Semi B would be where the drama unfolded. On the early laps of the final Darren Bloomfields car would come to a sharp stop while leading, collecting myself and multiple cars behind. Darren would be out of the race (clutch bearing failure) and myself and Jack Embling would be down in the pack, fighting for positions while Alsop got away clean and had a large gap to 2nd. As the race went on I pulled Alsop in, made the pass and was able to gap him to the finish, Jack would also fight back and secure his 5th National A main of the year. With Darren unfortunately now out of the running, I only had to finish 9th or above to claim the championship.

The Main final: 45 minutes was the duration of the final and everyone got away clean. After a few laps I would be up to 2nd about 10 seconds down on a fast running Boots. Mid race the rain started to fall and I start to play cat and mouse with Elliot, some laps he pulled away, others I pulled him back in a little. I played the race very safe as I knew what I needed to do in order to claim the championship and now was not the time for heroics. My car seemed to get better and better through the final as the track conditions changed. My pit crew of Jon and Alan Dell were also playing everything safe, actually pitting 2 times more than we needed too and making very cautious stops with no need for urgency. It was quite difficult trying to control the racer inside of you when you can smell the hint of victory in the race, but your brains telling you to relax and not to do anything stupid! The 45 minutes were up and I crossed the finish line in 2nd place to claim not only my first ever BRCA 1/8th national title, but also Mugen's first! First year with the ever improving MBX7 and first year being in control of my own brand and race team with LMR. Congrats to Elliot on his win on the day, he drove a very good race.

Top Ten:

1. Elliot Boots
2. Lee Martin
3. Neil Cragg
4. Graham Alsop
5. Tony Truman
6. Jack Embling
7. Richard Barton
8. Michael Lewis
9. Simon Reeves
10. Oliver Currie

Championship top 3:

1. Lee Martin – Mugen, Beat, Proline
2. Elliot Boots – Kyosho, Novarossi, Proline
3. Darren Bloomfield – TLR, -, Aka



So now Mugen had won the Buggy and Truggy BRCA national titles, could we win the clubmans and juniors? YES! Congrats to Jack Embling on wrapping on the junior title convincingly on his first year with the team and also to Ashley Owen who claimed the clubmans title and an entry to next year's EFRA euro A!



Conclusion:

It's been a fantastic year for team Mugen. Winning Almost all of the championships that there is to win. Only missing out of the Old dudes (over 40's) title which went to Mike Craddock and the Ebuggy championship. The team that we have built through LMR has bonded great and is full of support for each other. I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for the good times throughout the year!



Lewis Embling, Alan Dell, Jon Dell, Ricky Burnett, Jack Embling, Me and my son Scott Martin, Jack Willets, Oli O Connor, Simon Willets, Ashley Owen. (Drivers not pictured – Connor Cocker, Pete Wrigglesworth, Stu Mahon, Mark Dell, Andy Griffiths, Bryon Burrows)

I would also like to personally thank my Wife Liz, Son Scott, Mechanics Jon and Alan Dell and my sponsors for the support this year!

Mugen Seiki, Proline, Beat, Xpert RC, Protek RC, Amain Hobbies, Ultimate Racing, Nitrolux, Nibbo Designs, LMR, Stickit1 Racing, Answer RC, Sanwa, Muchmore, IB Prostart & LiveRC.com

