The fourth round of the PAX Insurance assisted RAFMSA Championship was held in September at Warden Law near Sunderland. This was the first time the Championship or RAF Karters had been here and they were pleasantly surprised to find they would be challenged by a twisty and technical circuit.

Due to rain, practice on both Friday and Saturday was a hit or miss affair, although most competitors were able to squeeze in a few good laps by the end of the two days.

The four-hour Endurance event team race was held on Saturday night beginning at 1730. For the first hour of the race, the track was dry and both visiting Welsh teams took full advantage of this, stretching out a good lead. Unfortunately, as darkness fell, the heavens opened and most of the karts instantly pirouetted around the track corners. Wet tyres were a must for all the teams, apart from one, Team 22, who stayed out on the wet track and stretched out a five-lap lead. The rain refused to let up and the wet tyres on the karts were eventually aquaplaning just as bad as the dry tyres. The race was now on between wets and dry tyres in the pouring rain, with many teams slowing right down. DCAE 1 found their kart was superior in the wet, but had only three hours to make up five laps if there was any hope of catching Team 22. Spinning with alarmingly regularity, the karts and drivers paddled their way through the heavy rain. Team 22 stuck with the dry tyres allowing the DCAE 1 team to close fast and, with just two minutes to go, they finally overtook Team 22, finishing only eleven seconds ahead after four hours of wet racing. Despite not winning, credit must go to Team 22 for staying out for the duration on dry tyres in soaking conditions.

With the sun shining, Sunday’s weather was in complete contrast to the previous days, and the rising track temperature began to gradually dry out the circuit – it was looking good for three dry heats and the final. The first heat got underway with Phil Hill (Associate) and Marcus Ramsden (Associate), a local of the circuit, powering away in front, leaving the rest of the field to battle for third place. This was the way the day progressed - these two battling it out for the top place. Phil eventually won the initial duel, with Marcus winning the second heat and Phil the third.

Final Grid:
Pole   Phil Hill (Associate)
2nd   Marcus Ramsden (Associate)
3rd   Luke Bourne (Associate)
4th   SAC Neil Iceton (RAF Leuchars)
5th   Sgt Dean Maratty (RAF Aldergrove)

The final was an eventful one. Local boy Marcus Ramsden, and Phil Hill were in the front row, followed by Luke Bourne, with his borrowed Rotax max engine, and Neil Iceton in his newly rebuilt 100cc Parilla. The warm up lap saw a hapless Neil Iceton stall just after leaving the grid, only to be bumped down the main straight by Dean Maratty’s kart before his airbox came off. From then on Neil struggled to keep up, losing out to both Luke and Dean at the first corner and eventually having to retire. The two high-flyers of the day were going at it hammer and tongs, but Marcus revealed a track secret on the last lap which surprised even Phil, giving the local boy his first RAFMSA win of the season.

Final positions:  1st   Marcus Ramsden  (Associate)
                2nd  Phil Hill   (Associate)
                3rd  Sgt Dean Maratty  (RAF Aldergrove)

The series now goes on to the final round with Dean leading from Si Rich and Luke Bourne. Phil Hill, in 4th place, is now the only driver capable of overhauling the lead due to the fact that he has already dropped a round this season.

The Honda Senior’s race was won yet again by SAC Louise Dixon (RAF Leuchars), followed closely by David Lollis. This win assured Louise of the Honda Senior Championship, an achievement made all the more impressive as she achieved this on karts that were begged, borrowed or prised out of the owner’s hands. Well done Louise from all of the RAFMSA membership.

The drivers would like to extend their thanks to the staff of Warden Law Kart Club for all the help and excellent support during the weekend.
Championship 2005

Marcus Ramsden

Phil Hill

Luke Bourne

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