

**Croft Circuit 10<sup>th</sup>/11<sup>th</sup> September 2011 – “Rounds 18, 19 & 20”**

**Qualification .. Weather Clear - Track Dry, well it was for one session.**

By Hugh Hartley - (The much older Race day Coordinator)

For the first and only time this year there was a big difference in the track conditions between the two qualification sessions – so much so that the fastest man in the first slower session, Jordan Stilp, was right down in 18<sup>th</sup> place (out of 45) in the overall list. However with our normal method of working out of the grid positions we ended up with the pole positions for the 4 groups with the A being Wayne Le Montais (a great effort that being fastest overall in what may be his final Championship appearance – sponsors please note), B being Jordan Stilp, C being Tom Roche, and D being Ben Short. Behind these 4 it was basically business as usual, though there were some people perhaps further back than usual – with Iain Prescott being really slow, but who knows his problem could bring benefits in the best improver awards (it did and he got a couple of them!).



**Race 1**

In the first race, which took place on the Saturday, it was led away by the pole man Wayne Le Montais,



closely hounded by his fellow front row man, Tom Roche. After a couple of laps it was no surprise to see Tom get past into the lead, but there was no way he could draw away as both Monty then Alan Henderson hounded him all the way. On the last lap it was the local man, Alan, that took the lead and hence the chequered flag, leaving Tom to come a close second with Monty alongside Tom and just being beaten into third. However 2<sup>nd</sup> place was enough for Tom to make sure of the Championship so he wisely withdrew into his Team Manager role for the rest of the meeting .Behind these

three, James Bake Baldwin took fourth whilst fifth, though some way back, it was Andy Coombs after a steady drive. Next was Andrew Childs and then came Nick Gilfillan but in 8<sup>th</sup> place, after a sterling drive up from the back of the grid, it was Iain Cameron.

### Race 2

The second Championship race, and the last Ma5da race of the Saturday, saw Jordan Stilp, Adam Gore and Ben Short all having a real good go at taking the lead. The people who succeeded in leading were Jordan and Adam, though for the last lap Jordan held it all the way round the circuit. However Adam, possibly surprisingly, could not hold onto second place and was cleanly overtaken by Ben on that same vital last lap so as to settle for third. Fourth and close enough to watch what was happening but not close enough to take any part was Matt Davies whilst fifth went to Clive Bailye after coming up from 12th on the grid and overtaking Charlie Charman two laps from the end.



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### Race 3

The first race on the Sunday, once the pole man Ben Short had slipped back to fourth, saw a cracking race between Adam Gore, Alan Henderson and Wayne le Montais. Adam was always just able to hold sway, but Alan and Monty happily swapped places for second with Alan being in the right position come the chequered flag. After Ben in 4<sup>th</sup> it was Charlie Charman, then Andrew Childs and Rhys Jenkins – all of which had made up places during the race.



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### Race 4

If you just look at the lap chart for our second Championship race it looks as though Jordan Stilp had an easy run through to the finish, but all the way he was hounded, and occasionally passed by initially Matt Davies, then James Blake-Baldwin. In the last few laps Matt dropped back, but Jordan had to really use all the expertise he had gained from his karting days to keep James behind him – it was a masterclass of showing how to be on the right bit of the track in order not your opposition through. Such was the pace of these three that by the end they had pulled a full 20 seconds away from fourth place man Matt Lambert with Martin Tolley doing a good job of making his way up to fifth place.



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### Race 5

The next race, titled race 12A – they don't do 13s at Croft – saw a safety car and another great dice for the lead. This time it was Jordan and Monty doing the honours at the front of the field with Alan Henderson and Matt Davies so close behind that the slightest error would allow them through. Such is the high standard of driving now in the Championship that neither of the front runners were making any errors and the pass that Monty did on Jordan a couple of laps from the end was pure class (and a good slipstream). So in the end it was Monty's race with Jordan second and Alan trying to make it a blanket finish, whilst the fourth place man Matt Davies, looked on. Close behind again it was that man Martin Tolley then came another close race long battle between Clive Bailye and Andrew Childs for 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>.



### Race 6

The final race of the Championship was another Adam Gore benefit as he left Ben Short and James Blake Baldwin to scrap over second. These two, probably the two best non winners in the Championship, put on a great show and after a bit of place swapping finished in the order of Ben second and James third. Quite some way back was fourth place man Charlie Charman who had been having a similar race long place swapping dice with Matt Lambert which ended with Charlie in front of Matt. For the record (and to make sure that this gets published) I had better mention that in 6<sup>th</sup> place it was Jonathan Blake. In actual fact Blakey's race with 7<sup>th</sup> place man, local lad, Martin Stevinson mirrored the close racing of the pairs in front of them.



## Crumbs of info from Croft.

### New Format of reports

As this usually goes after the race reports you will find that they have been written in a completely different way – much shorter and a lot of people missed out. Well you can let me have your comments at Silverstone or Snetterton, but to be honest after writing on so many races throughout the year (I haven't counted them but I reckon there has to be about 80 Mark1 races and certainly 20 Mark3) I felt that it was getting very boring and tedious – hence the different style. So my apologies to all the people I have not mentioned but you were part of a darned good meeting!



### DDMC and Their party.

When the information was being talked about regarding the party I was asked "How Much is it?"

"£10 per ticket" I replied

"That's a bit steep" with a serious face

"Includes a drink in the price"

The face brightened and said "Oh that's better – By the way how much are the drinks"

"£1 a bottle" I informed him.

His face went into a wide grin and said "Brilliant – you can tell we have come up North – no ripping off"



### The wind

No not as a result of the excellent hog roast, but rather the result of the hurricane that hit New York and then travelled across the Atlantic and was certainly blowing hard over the old airfield. It had the result that there was some really good overtaking into Tower bend as people were able to use the enhanced slipstream into the headwind coming down the straight. However keeping that position – well that was another thing!



### Luke Herbert's Woes

Not the best weekend for Luke as his engine packed up in qualifying, but Paul Sheard was able to come to the rescue by lending him the spare car he had here. It was unfortunate that Luke and Tom were involved in an incident which saw Tom excluded especially as Tom was one of the signatories that allowed Luke to race?



### Tom's missing races

If you were wondering why Tom Roche did not come out for his last 2 races it was because by winning his 1<sup>st</sup> time out he had already wrapped up the Championship and he did not want to fall foul of any possible disqualification. It was the same in the Mark 3s where Rob Boston was missing. I can understand perfectly why they both did it, but feel sorry for the Croft crowd as 2 very talented drivers were not out there. Also a rap on the knuckles from the sponsor I guess so to make up for it...



### A "stranger" appears.

First let me say full marks to the Darlington and District club for hastily putting on an All-comers race in place of the class that withdrew – and what is more doing it for Charity as well. Well a certain family of well known racers from Sheffield were always intending to come up to the party and as Father-in-Law had a spare car there and there was the extra race – well you can guess the rest. Fortunately Luke brought the car back in one piece after his races, and his dad was persuaded to come up and bring his overalls, and so Jonathan Greensmith got out onto the track once again and had one of the biggest smiles of the weekend (the other being the "southerner" who heard the price of the beer) after his surprise outing.



### Jordan "comes of age", well Driving age?

All season long Jordan Stilp has stolidly put up with Blakey pointing out, when he has come up to collect his many trophies "**that he is only 16 years old**" it must have been a relief to get to the magical official driving age just before Croft. And yes in the 10 days before the meeting he had taken and passed his test and yes he had been told off by the police for doing "donuts" in a public place. Welcome to the Ma5da paddock Jordan, who is **still** only 17!.



### Thank you to our Sponsors

Thank you to our sponsors MX5Parts.co.uk, Rota, Gaz, Scalextric and Hankook without which we would not be able to provide so many benefits to you the Drivers. Also, Bob, Tracy, Mandy and Nicola thanks for a lot of hard work, roll on Snetterton.



## Results - Ma5da MX5 Championship 2011 (19 Rounds Completed inc 3 drop rounds)

Position	Number	Driver	Points
1	2	Tom Roche	1618
2	8	Adam Gore	1599
3	92	Jordan Stilp (Most wins)	1579
4	90	Alan Henderson	1579
5	30	Wayne Le-Montais	1539
6	73	Ben Short	1523

Fastest Lap (Croft Lap record) – 8 Adam Gore 1:43.054

[See the website for full results and time sheets.](#)



Kind regards

**Hugh Hartley**

Race Day Coordinator – Ma5da Racing. – (with a even more help than usual from Blakey-99)

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**Tom Roche**



**2011 Ma5da MX5 Champion.**

**Next Event:**

**Ma5da MX5 (mk1) Autumn Championship 1<sup>st</sup> October 2011**

See the website for further event details – [www.ma5daracing.com](http://www.ma5daracing.com)

