



# 1 year unbeaten for MS

By Jim White

**It's a long way to Clay Pigeon for most people but NKT came from Portugal! The Isle of Man teams had a similar journey.**

**T**he weather was a scorcher and sun tan cream began to run out in this corner of England in April!

In Practice the times were forced inexorably downward to 39.3s and the excitement of a high 38s lap in race trim was contemplated.

But in Qualifying the 38s lap did not materialise, because of the changed weather conditions and in fact the pace appeared to have slowed from the Saturday.

## Race start

Extending the fuel window was again being trialled by the contenders and this time Alpha had a long push back to the pits. Baron did not have their "star" driver Jeremy Gumbley and had to make do with Lewis Walters. Lewis did such a good job that he unlapped Baron before a snapped chassis put paid to any further improvement.

The first lap was a torrid affair as 38 karts barrelled into Billy's, but unexpectedly 38 karts came out and went on to complete the first lap, amazing. MS So Co 1 gained a tenth or so from MS So Co 2 and a couple of tenths from Alpha.

Since Clay is such a slipstreamer's delight the order only changed when a kart got out of line and then the penalties in terms of lost places were severe. The teams from the Isle of Man are used to open, fast corners and so the circuit proved challenging, relegating them to the back third of the peloton.

## 1 Hour

MS So Co 1 were still leading from MS So Co 2 with Alpha, Baron and Stretton handily placed to benefit from any mistakes. The fuel stop at around 90 minutes beckoned and the brief changes of leadership saw Alpha and AJB take a turn at the front.

The race lead was re-established by MS So Co 1 and the 2nd place taken by Alpha then Baron and AJB. Autotec had begun to

develop terminal brake problems and had dropped to 34th.

Portsdown Racing suffered a "racing incident" which necessitated a lift over the fence and the consequent loss of places as it was repaired. Black Fleas had to change their driver line-up because of

quiet races for these previous front runners. Last year LG had put their kart on pole and finished 3rd overall while competing in the Clubman class and this year were running

**MS So Co 1 followed by NKT**  
Jim White



absentees but found that they were in an uncharacteristically top Clubman place and they were doing well not to panic.

## After 2nd fuel stop

The leaders were still Ms So Co 1 but 2nd was AJB followed by Balljoint, MS SoCo 2, Maxed Out, LG and Alpha. However, what was exciting was that although they were separated by two laps they were circulating in a bunch on the track. A master class of driving then took place as they navigated the busy track while trying to either lose their slipstreamer or tag on to the one in front. This was where Baron got in "front" of the leaders but then suffered catastrophic chassis failure.

## 3rd fuel stop to the finish

The MS So Co 1 kart of Stephen White was still leading but beginning to develop problems and the pit board signs were to go easy but still keep a winning pace! AJB were in hot pursuit and MS So Co 2 was also catching AJB.

The Clubman class was ferociously contested with six contenders for the three podium positions. With an hour to go Grassroots were 10s ahead of NKT-Transitex. LG Racing and McDonalds had

a respectable 6th, five laps down on the leaders. At the close MS SoCo 1 had kept their lead to win by 34s from AJB, and MS So Co 2 and Balljoint had a fight to get to the line first.

Teesside Karting can provide season committed entrants with a new MS (or any other manufacturer who joins the scheme) hire kart fitted with new chains and clutches, and the proof of their competitiveness can be seen from the performance of NKT-Transitex who beat two Pro teams and finished top Clubman! Howard Lucas's winning streak has now extended to a full year now that his bogey track has been laid to rest. Will complacency now start to seep into their consciousness? The winning margin was 34s over 533 laps or 0.06s per lap. ●

## Results

|                 |      |
|-----------------|------|
| 1 MS SoCo 1     | Pro  |
| 2 AJB           | Pro  |
| 3 MS SoCo 2     | Pro  |
| 4 Balljoint     | Pro  |
| 5 Alpha         | Pro  |
| 6 LG            | Pro  |
| 7 NKT-Transitex | Club |