

October 2012

Dear Friends,

This is a special edition of our Newsletter produced in response to the success of Nicci Noo's Stoxkarts Ladies' Race at Birmingham Wheels last Saturday.

### **Success - behind the scenes**

Cut to the chase - the total raised was **£4132.42**, a figure we would never have thought possible. The ladies themselves produced £4039.82, the rest being collected on the night - Dee Dickinson took pole with a staggering £905.40, the ladies earning their grid position by amount raised as encouragement to raise more than the minimum £60. Many brought friends and family keen to show their support on the night, and we hope if those people were new to oval racing that they enjoyed the evening and will come again!

### **The race itself** (thanks to Dave Goddard)

The first attempt was stopped on the opening lap when 002 Christina Kelly Smith rolled after collecting the spun 008 Hannah Drawbridge but all 14 competitors were ready for the full restart which saw 81 Ethne Tooby take the lead from polesitter 35 Denise Dickinson. Tooby led until she spun exiting turn two with 100 Natalie Mann and Dickinson taking over with 26 Lauren Makin chasing them down, Wood also keeping pace and a fine battle developed. Further back 352 Kerris Barclay enjoyed a couple of spins while Smith spun across turn two and was collected by Drawbridge who dropped out with damage, while up front a good scrap had developed with the recovered Dickinson retaking the lead but starting the final lap she and Makin banged wheels and slid wide into the wall allowing Mann to dive through and win an incredible race, Makin recovering for second and an overjoyed Wood in third while Smith came through for fourth as the unlucky Dickinson dropped out, nine karts going the distance.

### **Looking forward**

We intend to keep the annual Stoxkarts Ladies' Race strictly novice for as long as we can get 15-20 willing ladies each year. It's important to provide a level playing field, which means the title will never be defended. We hope to work with another formula to offer a ladies' race for semi-novice, ie ladies who may have raced before but are not regular racers, that ladies from Stoxkarts can also 'step up' into, with a cap on the number of years they may compete. In terms of fundraising and format, we feel this event was very successful and probably won't want to make any major changes, although we are open to looking at other tracks which means of course some adjustment to suit.

This first experience has shown us, however, the crucial importance of Charity registration and the Gift Aid scheme. Had all sponsors ticked the box, the extra raised from this event alone would be £826.48 from HMRC, a figure we would gladly put to good use. Next year we may offer an incentive for sponsors to tick the Gift Aid boxes, and to the competitors to make sure it happens. Right now Charity registration is at the top of our priority list.

**Thank You to everyone who made Nicci Noo's First Stoxkarts Novice Ladies' Race for FORDS 2012 such a resounding success.**