



BRCA 1/12th Stockcar 2022 World Championship

6<sup>th</sup> November

**Venray Raceway** 

## <u>'Brandon Eccles makes it back to back</u> <u>world titles'</u>

"I had a great weekend over in Holland, as always the Dutch treated us well and the beer was flowing. The banter all weekend was what this hobby is all about. The big race itself did not disappoint, the Dutch did a huge build up and introduced each driver one by one with music. After a bad start getting caught up in turn 1, I realised I didn't quite have the pace to catch Maikel or my dad, as it was a fast race and everyone was so evenly matched. That's where I had to bring the front bumper into play, which made for a brilliant proper stockcar race. I managed to keep out of all the big crashes and go on to win. Absolutely over the moon to retain the gold roof for another year and I must give a huge thank you to Istox and my dad for all the hard work that goes into making this possible".

## Brandon Eccles - Your 2022 world champion.



On Sunday the 6<sup>th</sup> of November, drivers travelled over to Raceway Venray to contest the 2022 1/12th BRCA Stockcar World Final. 35 drivers, including 20 UK / Scottish participants had gold set in their sights with a number of drivers wanting to taste gold for the very first time!

A couple of the favourites for the event included current world champion Brandon Eccles, alongside brother James and father Graham. Former world champion Ben Harding was also a driver you certainly couldn't rule out. His form in recent years has been a little poor for his own standards, but his focus has very much turned to the younger generation of team Harding drivers which are coming through the ranks of the sport. His brother Richard was another you can't push to the side, he was searching for his first ever world championship title after finishing runner up to Ben back in 2009.

Alfie Jones, Sebastian Taylor and Max Harding were names that have certainly lit up the section in recent years and were the main competition for the older racers to keep an eye on during the event.

Scotland's Gary Riddell was often mentioned by drivers when asked who could cause an upset on the big stage. Gary is a very consistent racer and has definitely upped his game on the national level this year. The Dutch hopes very much relied on Maikel Rutten who was flying the flag for the Dutch this weekend. Unfortunately, only 15 Dutch drivers were in attendance this weekend, but nevertheless you can't rule anyone out in their home country.

On the Saturday, the track was open to drivers to come along and get their eye in with a morning / afternoon practice session for everyone to gather those all important set ups.

The format, 4 rounds of qualifying heats followed by quarter finals, semi finals and finally the all important world final. It was all to play for as drivers began preparations for the big day.





### **Qualifying heats**

Drivers were split into 7 separate heats per round in which they remained in up until the quarter finals. The top 24 drivers from the heats would be split into 4 quarter finals of 6 cars, with the top 3 of each progressing into the semi finals. The top 3 from the semi finals would form a 6 car grid for the world final.

After the opening round of heats, Graham Eccles set the benchmark for the day with 114 laps with Alfie Jones, Brandon Eccles and Maikel Rutten all close behind. Gary Riddell, flying the flag for Scotland also a strong starter as expected.

Rounds 2, 3 and 4 were very much a repetitive result with Maikel Rutten winning heat 1, Graham Eccles winning heat 2, Max Harding winning heat 3, Brandon Eccles winning heat 5 and Alfie Jones winning heat 7.

In heat 4, Seb Taylor and James Eccles shared 2 race wins each during the qualifying rounds and the same goes for Ben Harding and Gary Riddell in heat 6.

## Scores after round 1 of 4

<b>Kwalificatie ranglijst</b>		Serie: 1	-	WK/EK	[WK/EK]
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	Rijder	Rijder	Nat	Club	Rnd	Run 1.	
1	530	#Graham Eccles	GB	Urmston	114	114 5:02.640	U.S.
2	629	#Alfie Jones	GB	GB	112	112 5:00.640	
3	1.5	#Brandon Eccles	GB	Urmston	112	112 5:02.322	-
4	144	#Maikel Rutten	NL	Lobith	112	112 5:00.324	
5	600	#Gary Riddle	GB	GB	109	109 5:02.493	
6	532	#James Eccles	GB	GB	109	109 5:00.930	
7	45	#Brian Weijers	NL	Peeldrivers	108	108 5:01.519	-
8	426	#*Seb Taylor	GB	GB	107	107 5:01.960	
9	471	#Ben Harding	GB	Rugby	107	107 5:01.094	A LOSS
10	291	#Rich Harding	GB	GB	106	106 5:01.372	-
11	226	#Gordon Mutch	GB	GB	105	105 5:01.229	-
12	555	#Jasper Wijbenga	NL	Friesland	105	105 5:04.980	1
13	192	#Max Harding	GB	GB	105	105 5:01.722	
14	444	#Stijn Faber	NL	Friesland	104	104 5:02.605	
15	156	#Davy Steegs	NL	Peeldrivers	103	103 5:01.860	-
16	202	#Graeme Beckett	GB	GB	101	101 5:01.061	-
17	95	#Mike Steegs	NL	Peeldrivers	101	101 5:01.335	-
18	7	#Pete Riddle	GB	GB	101	101 5:02.009	-
19	26	#Adam Kirkwood	GB	GB	99	99 5:00.384	1111
20	737	#Sam Jacklin	GB	GB	98	98 5:00.140	-
21	13	#Alan Inness #*Chloe Mitchell	GB	GB	97 96	97 5:00.505	1000





## Qualfying standings after round 4 of 4

ng	Rijder	Rijder	Nat	Club	Rnd	Run 1.	Run 2.	Run 3.	Run 4.
	144	#Maikel Rutten	NL	No. 1 Contraction		_11AN/(4:1		and the second	Run 4.
	530	#Graham Eccles	GB	Lobith	358	112 5:00.324	117 5:01.689	119 5:00.483	122 5:01.055
-	1	#Brandon Eccles	the second se	Urmston	353	114 5:02 640	118 5:04.116	118 5:01.822	
	532	#James Eccles	GB	Urmston	347	112 5:02.322	115 5:01.094	114 5:00.482	117 5:02.532
1.1	629	WAlfie Jones	GB	GB	346	109 5:00.930	118 5:01.684	119 5:01.289	118 5:02.054
	426	#*Seb Taylor	GB	GB	344	112 5:00.640	113 5:00.050	115 5:01.995	63 3:29.883
	291	#Rich Harding	GB	GB	343	107 5:01.960	118 5:01.616	117 5:01.533	116 5:00.359
	192	#Max Harding	GB	GB	340	106 5:01.372	111 5:02.097		108 5:02.071
-	26	#Adam Kirkwood	GB	GB	339	105 5:01.722	113 5:00.384	111 5:01.069	118 5:02.219
0	45	#Brian Weijers	GB	GB	333	99 5:00.384	113 5:00.962	114 5:00.569	112 5:01.116
1	226	#Gordon Mutch	NL	Peeldrivers	332	108 5:01 519	112 5:01.867	113 5:01.597	107 5:02.250
2	600	#Gary Riddle	GB	GB	332	105 5:01.229	116 5:01.900	108 5:00.336	112 5:02.097
13	471	#Ben Harding	GB	GB	326	109 5:02.493		111 5:00.524	102 5:00 938
14	444	#Stijn Faber	GB	Rugby	324	107 5:01.094	109 5:01.731 106 5:05.429	107 5:00.030	108 5:01.489
15	202	#Graeme Beckett	NL	Friesland	319	104 5:02.605		108 5:02.034	109 5:00.065
16	555	#Jasper Wijbenga	GB	GB	319	101 5:01.061	104 5:02 912 106 5:01.623	107 5:00.617	108 5:00.467
17	7	#Pete Riddle	NL	Friesland	317	105 5:04.980	106 5:02.443	107 5:02.422	106 5:06.361
18	13	#Alan Inness	GB	GB	316	101 5:02:009	104 5:01.645	106 5:03.140	101 5:01 139
19	156	#Davy Steegs	GB	Hathern	316	97 5:00 505	105 5:03.517	107 5:00.419	105 5:00.400
20	95	#Mike Steegs	NL	Peeldrivers	314	103 5:01 860	104 5:00.598	104 5:00.204	107 5:06.140
21	16	#Dennis van Asten	NL	Peeldrivers	311	101 5:01 335	105 5:02.661	106 5:01.215	104 5:00.704
22	217	#Roland Versteegen	NL	Peeldrivers	305	95 5:01.179	108 5:00.939	104 5:02.896	102 5:00.574
23	737	#Sam Jacklin	NL	Peeldrivers	304	95 5:00 196	96 5:00.256	88 5:00.174	102 5:02.491
24	78	#Davy Wilms	GB	GB	302	98 5:00.140	104 5:00.804	101 5:02.396	107 5:00.057
25	693	#Tjidsger Postma	NL	Peeldrivers	298	96 5:02.923	100 5:02.297	100 5:01.011	92 5:00.781
26	137	#*Chice Mitchell	NL	Friesland	298	95 5:02.520	99 5:02.038	94 5:02 433	102 5:01.771
27	153	#Chris Taylor	GB	GB	292	96 5:01.876	93 5:02 164	104 5:01.345	DNS
28	258	#Rob Harrard	GB	GB	276	80 5:05 596	89 5:02.712	97 5:02.419	99 5:00.152
29	43	#'Teun Jarisen	NL	GB	276	91 5:02.707	88 4:59.821	91 4:46.624	96 5:01.649
30	3	#Chris Wammes	NL	Peeldrivers	263	DNS	97 4:54.993	97 5:00.671	DNS
31	66	#Jan Steegs	NL	Peeldrivers	252	82 5:00.737	83 5:00.516	90 5:02.234	76 5:02.183
32	230	#Jan Stark	NL	Peeldrivers	250	81 5:00.074	81 5:02.768	78 5:01 170	87 5:03.593
33	278	#Tony Perry	GB	Lobith	225	69 5:01.664	68 5:02:375	79 5:00,693	88 5:01.979
34	25	#"Harry Dovie	GB	GB	220	79 5:01.862	66 5:04.144	74 5:05.222	82 5:02.576
30	124	#Rudie Jansen	NL	Peeldrivers	168	77 5:02 580	DNS	55 4 57 504	75 5:01.825
			111	1. SOUTHARIN	84	84 5:03.584	DNS	9 0:26.284 DNS	82 5:02.091 DNS

After all 4 rounds were complete, it was the Dutch that was leading the way in the form of Maikel Rutten on 358 laps. Team Eccles were close behind occupying 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> followed closely by youngsters Alfie Jones and Seb Taylor. Rich and Max Harding made up the top 8 in the standings with Scotland's Adam Kirkwood with a fantastic qualifying position. Dutch driver Brian Weijers rounds off the top 10 ahead of Scotland's Gordon Mutch and Gary Riddell. Ben Harding qualified 13<sup>th</sup> with very consistent lap scores during the heats, but he knew he'd have to crank it up a gear if he was to progress into the semi finals.

Up next, the junior world final.

## Junior world final

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426 #*Seb Taylor			107	2.472	2.789	107.05-02	05:02:513	Transponde		Verschil Nr. 1	StdDivy: Auto	Auto
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2.3 IN Harry Doyle		+		2.793	3.034	85 05:02.0	2.05:02:443		3 \$62	-22/58/913	18.099 1	0
137 #*Chloe Mitche			58	2.634	I THE REAL	Contractory of the local division of the loc	5 04:19.669		3,567	-22/1:06.818	1 305 2	

The junior world final very much became a cruise for Seb Taylor as he dominated the race eventually winning by 22 laps ahead of Dutch driver Teun Jansen and Harry Doyle in 3<sup>rd</sup> place. Chloe Mitchell came 4<sup>th</sup> place due to some car troubles during the race.

Seb Taylor has very much been the rising star of the sport in the last year and has dominated the national series as well as many other titles in the junior section. He lines up in the quarter final next up on track alongside some tough competition. Can he be a dark horse and make the main event?

Up next, the quarter finals.



## Quarter final grids

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Nr	Nr	er Naam	Nat	Club	TX 1	тх
1.	144	#Maikel Rutten	NL	Lobith	4601188/0	387:
2.	192	#Max Harding	GB	GB	9436654/0	398
3.	26	#Adam Kirkwood	GB	GB	8474025/0	-Trans
4.	555	#Jasper Wijbenga	NL	Friesland	8887338/0	949
5.	7	#Pete Riddle	GB	GB	7678701/0	10115-22-1-1
6.	78	#Davy Wilms	NL	Peeldrivers	6449662/0	
	nale B					
NF	Nr	er Naam	Nat	Club	TX 1	тх
1.	530	#Graham Eccles	GB	Urmston	2874862/0	
2.	291	#Rich Harding	GB	GB	9805615/0	
3.	45	#Brian Weijers	NL	Peeldrivers	7359449/0	69
4.	202	#Graeme Beckett	GB	GB	7191551/0	
5.	13	#Alan Inness	GB	Hathern	4470108/0	
6.	737	#Sam Jacklin	GB	GB	7857766/0	a traine
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Nr	Nr	r Naam	Nat	Club	TX 1	E
-1 anti-	1	#Brandon Eccles	GB	Urmston	8072044/0	and a second
2.	426	#*Seb Taylor	GB	GB	3355034/0	200
3.	226	#Gordon Mutch	GB	GB	7621103/0	6:
4.	444	#Stijn Faber	NL	Friesland	9550463/0	
5.	156	#Davy Steegs	NL	Peeldrivers	6814423/0	the second
6.	217	#Roland Versteegen	NL	Peeldrivers	7121710/0	and all
1/4 Fina						
Nr		Naam	Nat	Club	TX 1	
	Nr	haan.				
1.	532	#James Eccles	GB	GB	9660627/0	The second second
2.	629	#Alfie Jones	GB	GB	7629188/0	
3.	600	#Gary Riddle	GB	GB	7641098/0	1240 122
	471	#Ben Harding	GB	Rugby	7304595/0	
			NL	Peeldrivers	7896955/0	And State
		#Mike Steegs	NL	Peeldrivers	3855658/0	5
6.	16	#Dennis van Asten	INL	1 Colditions	000000000	and a state of the second

- **Q1** 1<sup>st</sup> Maikel Rutten
- $2^{nd}$  Max Harding
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Adam Kirkwood

## <u>Q2</u>

- $1^{st}$  Graham Eccles  $2^{nd}$  Richard Harding  $3^{rd}$  Brian Weijers

**Q3** 1<sup>st</sup> – Brandon Eccles 2<sup>nd</sup> – Seb Taylor 3<sup>rd</sup> – Gordon Mutch

## <u>Q4</u>

 $1^{st}$  – James Eccles  $2^{nd}$  – Gary Riddell  $3^{rd}$  – Alfie Jones

## Semi finals

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Datum:	W.K. Electro 06-1 06.11.2022			Nog te rijden Ra	etijd ] []:[] []		Verschil ten + 🗍	opzichte v/h Tijd	0
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426 #*Seb Taylo 532 #James Eccle 226 #Gordon Mut 26 #Adam Kirkw	ch <b>Example</b>	→   107   2.387     →   106   2.450     →   103   2.441	10	6 05:01. 05:02.361 3 05:01. 05:02.201	8474025	2.937 -1	2 / 36.334		

Semi final 1 was very much domination by Brandon and father Graham pulling away from the rest of the chasing pack and eventually finishing 8 and 6 laps ahead of 3<sup>rd</sup> place respectively. Junior sensation Seb Taylor continued his fine form and managed to sneak into the main event, beating James Eccles by a tenth of a second to seal his spot in the world final. Heartbreak for James Eccles who just misses out by such a small margin. I'm sure he will bounce back and has a world championship in his sights for the near future. Scotland's duo of Gordon Mutch and Adam Kirkwood sadly just ran out of steam at the vital stage narrowly missing out on a spot in the main event by a couple of laps. Nevertheless, a valid effort by both to make it as far as they did!!

D softied		te rijden Racetijd	Verschil ten opzic + 🛛 🔂	
# Rijd Rijder   I   Voortgan T     1   144 #Maikel Rutten   +     2   192 #Max Harding   +     3   600 #Gary Riddle   +     4   629 #Alfile Jones   +     5   201 #Rich Harding   +     6   45 #Brian Weijers   +	Finales     WK/EK / 1/2 Final       Rnd     Bestetijd     Rondetijd     Prognose       117     2.337     2.542     117 05:01       116     2.387     2.518     117 05:02	05:01.462     3873262     2.580       05:00.001     9436654     2.583       05:00,626     7641098     2.663       05:01.329     7629188     2.667       05:00.465     9805615     2.706	0     0     0     0.740       0     0     0.800     0.740       3     -1     3.979     0.286       3     -4     10.680     0.951       -4     10.633     0.444       -6     16.249     0.832	5 6 0   1 2 0   4 3 0   5 0

Semi final 2 was just as close (if not closer) than the result of semi final 1. Maikel Rutten shown his talent when it mattered as he sealed victory by a lap ahead of Max Harding in 2<sup>nd</sup>. A fantastic result for Max. Gary Riddell of Scotland proved his worth and managed to beat Alfie Jones by the slightest of margins. Again, similar to James Eccles in semi final 1 it was heartbreak for Alfie as he misses out on the main event by such a small gap. Both drivers exceptionally talented and I'm sure you'll be seeing plenty more of them as the years roll by. Rich Harding and Brian Weijers sadly fell at the final hurdle as both could not lay a hand on the front runners.

One more race to go! The 2022 1/12th Stockcar World Final. Gentleman, start your engines!

## World final



So here we go then, time for the main event on the calender .. The world final.

So many drivers out there have always wanted to be world champion however there could only be one winner.

**Maikel Rutten –** Maikel is a well known driver in both the 1/12th and 1/8th stockcars and has always been a face that you knew would give you a good run for your money in any given race. He's dominated the Dutch oval scene for years now as has very much been the driver in form in this event. He's a clean racer on his day, but he does love a good hit or two when the time is required.

**Max Harding –** Anyone who has a Harding as their last name, you know they are either going to be good with racing model cars, or good at making sure there is no grub left over at a chicken shop! Max has very much got the talent to be a future world champion, but I bet even himself wouldn't have expected to be making the world final with so much talent on display. Nevertheless, Max has very much earned his right to be in the race and we all know he isn't shy of getting stuck in either!

**Brandon Eccles –** The current champ! Can Brandon make it back to back world titles and cement his name in the history books of 1/12th stockcar racing. He's been here before, he knows what that winning feeling is like .. Can he handle the pressure and keep hold of his world title? He's already got his hands on the national points series, there's nothing stopping him from grabbing himself another title to add to his CV.

**Gary Riddell** – Scotland's hopes of a world title all comes down to Mr Riddell. Gary is known for his fair racing, you don't tend to see him get involved in too many battles and that could very much come into play in this world final if the bumpers start flying. Only problem is, with a 6 car line up you'd doubt there's going to be too many times during the race where someone is facing the wrong way. But this is stockcar racing and anything can happen.

**Graham Eccles –** Graham's name has been mentioned plenty of times in recent weeks with the majority in favour of him getting his hands on his son's world title. I'm pretty sure Brandon won't be giving it up without a fight though! Himself and Brandon have dominated the national series this year and are very much odds on favourites to be up there in contention for the title. Can Graham manage to find himself a small gap and make a break for it?

**Seb Taylor** – Last up we have junior driver Seb. He has continued his winning form in the juniors and has managed to put himself in contention for the main honour. We all know Seb has the talent to beat anyone on his day when he has the car working how he wants it, can he cause the biggest of upsets and spoil the party for everyone else?

The race itself was fast, it was furious and it was everything in between. Brandon Eccles didn't make the best of starts once the green dropped and realised quite early on that his main threat was through Holland's Maikel Rutten. Brandon made the most of his front bumper and quickly got stuck in with his hard shots on the Dutch driver causing him to lose his rhythme.

Max Harding was making things difficult for Brandon with a couple of shots to the body throughout the race as he tried to make his way up the order. Graham Eccles was another driver that was clearly on the pace and unfortunately kept getting into a couple of stationary track blockages which allowed his son Brandon to sneak through.

Maikel Rutten appeared to be the fastest on track judging by the video which was recorded by Graeme Beckett. He managed to catch Brandon a few times and overtake him, but unfortunately for Maikel he kept getting shoved wide and a couple of little mistakes opened up a gap for Team Eccles to capatilise.

Gary Riddell and Seb Taylor were both finding it difficult to keep on the same pace as the front runners, but nevertheless they were still in with a chance as the race reached halfway. The hits became harder and a lot more tactical between Brandon Eccles and Max Harding as the race reached it's climax, however Brandon's experience in such a big race proved pivotal as he went onto claim his second world title.

Brandon claimed victory with 119 laps, ahead of his father Graham on 118 .. Just the 1 lap separated the Eccles in the biggest of all races!! Bet theirs some big bragging rights in that family on the journey home! Maikel was a further 4 laps behind on 115 followed by Gary on 114, along with Max on the same laps. Seb found the race just a little too much as he began to run out of steam on 107. A fantastic achievement of making a world final nonethelss.

I'm sure plenty of relief, at the same time pure joy must have been running through Brandon's body after the realisation he's retained his title back to back. A proud moment it must have been for his father too, even though he just got pipped at the post by the smallest of margins. All drivers in the final should be proud of their achievement to make the world final. It's something I haven't managed to achieve yet and it's certainly something that a lot of oval drivers would like to have the opportunity to be a part of.

Ran	ng Rijde Nr	er Rijder	Nat	Club	Rnd
1	1	#Brandon Eccles	GB	Urmston	119
2	530	#Graham Eccles	GB	Urmston	118
3	144	#Maikel Rutten	NL	Lobith	115
4	600	#Gary Riddle	GB	GB	114
5	192	#Max Harding	GB	GB	114
6	426	#*Seb Taylor	GB	GB	107

## Finaleranglijst - WK/EK [WK/EK]



# 3<sup>rd</sup> place – 144 Maikel Rutten

# 2<sup>nd</sup> place – 530 Graham Eccles



## 1<sup>st</sup> place – 1 Brandon Eccles

So that's it! Another year of championships have come and gone and yet another title goes back home to Team Eccles. It's been a fantastic year of racing at both club and national level. Sam, Rob, Graeme and the team have been working extremely hard all year round to try and put on a show for everyone and I'd personally like to send my thanks to them. Without them, things would certainly be looking different. I hope you all have a brilliant Christmas and new year, I can't wait to see everyone again in the new year once we are back with the national series and championship events in the new year. Keep an eye out on Facebook for more upcoming info regarding events, gradings, promotional features and much much more.

Report by Stuart Clarke.





