

2022 European Championship

22nd - 23rd January

Dentona Raceway

'European title number three for Toe'

"BOOM!! 2022 BRCA F1 European Champion ... And not 2nd for a change!

Cheers to everyone at Dentona RC Speedway for putting on a great oval meeting. The hard work pays off and for a new club I think it's agreed we all had a good laugh and seen some great racing".

Anthony Wyper .. Your new 2022 European champion.



On Saturday the 22nd of January, 49 drivers headed north in pursuit of the European championship title for 2022. There could only be one winner though! Current holder of the title Robert Teuke 14 from Rugby was only available for the Sunday qualifying therefore making it an extremely difficult task to qualify from the word go!

The format, over the course of the weekend was 6 qualifying rounds. 3 on the Saturday, 3 on the Sunday. Your best 3 lap scores counted towards the cut off point in which the top 16 drivers qualified for 1 of the 2 semi finals. The top 4 from each semi final would qualify for the European final, along with the winner of the last chance race. This gave us a 9 car grid for the big one!

60 heats were jammed packed into the weekend's racing alongside the F2 stockcars who were also competing in there European championship for 2022. A fantastic number of cars from all over the country made for a brilliant weekend.

Prior to the meeting, a practice time slot was available for drivers to get their wheels in motion and try to get used to the track. A bumpy service made racing a challenge for many drivers, with springs jumping around in the pit area left right and centre to try and get the best set up for the track.

Racing got underway just before 6pm on the Saturday evening with the F1's kicking things off with their first round of heats. The racing was electric from the start with bumpers flying in from the first buzzer .. No surprises there!

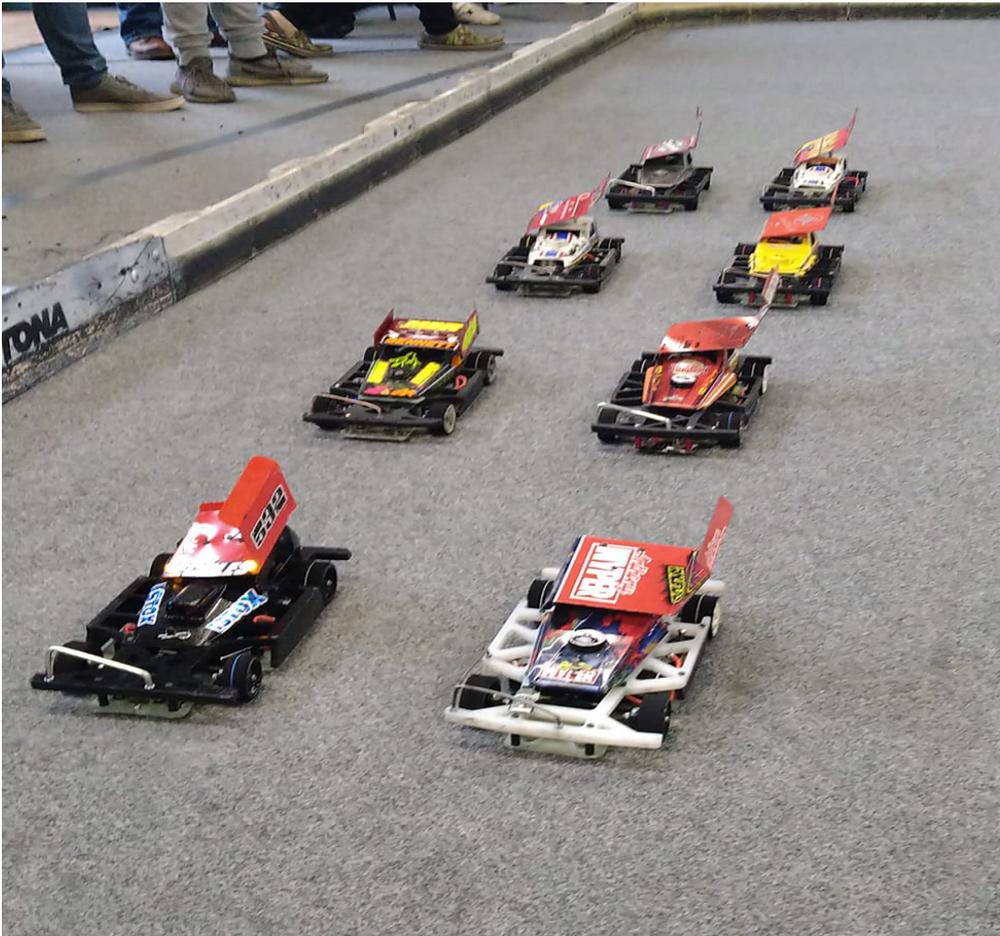
Not too many real shocks during the opening night of racing. Rugby's Ben Harding 471 and Alfie Jones 629 along with Hathern's Noah Bailey 117 were all down the order after 3 sets of heats. All top drivers on there day, knowing full well that they all needed to try and step it up for the morning. The overall night leader after 3 rounds was current world champion Brandon Eccles 531, followed closely behind by Anthony Wyper 30 and David Smith 54. It was an Urmston lockout overnight as 1st to 6th place was all covered by Urmston drivers while Rugby's Matthew Bennett 413 and Richard Harding 291 were sneaking up the rear.

Day two and racing was back in full swing as early as 10am .. Maybe a little too early for some as quoted by Allan Inness 13 "I was the last out the bar last night!". Good to see some had a fun night either way! 30 more heats soon flown by mid-day with a 30 minute break in between to work out the semi final grids. It was Anthony Wyper 30 who set the bar high before the semi finals by qualifying pole overall after 6 sets of heats each.

Current holder of the European championship Robert Teuke 14 unfortunately just missed out on the qualification spot after a couple of difficult heats therefore meaning that there will be a new European champion for 2022. Who was going to grab themselves a trophy to take home for the cabinet? All to play for as we headed into the semi finals.



Semi final 1



Anthony Wyper 30 (right) and James Eccles 532 (left) share the front row for semi final 1.



From left to right - Max Harding 192, Richard Harding 291, James Eccles 532, Garry Riddell 600, Anthony Wyper 30, Ben Harding 471, Matt Bennett 413 and Seb Taylor 426.

Dentona Raceway 23 January 2022

Heat 1 (Stock Cars) Round 1 Results

Started 14:34 Finished 14:39

Pos	Car	Driver	Name	Nat	#	Result	FTQ	Av Lap	Best
1	1	Anthony Wyper	30	30	100/	301.255	FTQ	3.012	2.6
2	3	Matt Bennett	413	413	100/	302.774	FTQ	3.027	2.6
3	2	James Eccles	532	532	99/	301.343	FTQ	3.043	2.6
4	5	Rich Harding	291	291	95/	301.572	FTQ	3.174	2.7
5	8	Gary Riddell	600	600	95/	302.875	FTQ	3.188	2.7
6	7	Max Harding	192	192	93/	301.855	FTQ	3.245	2.7
7	6	Ben Harding	471	471	92/	301.965	FTQ	3.282	2.8
8	4	Sebastian Taylor	426	426	87/	300.379	FTQ	3.452	2.6

Printed at 14:39:33 on 23/01/2022.

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Semi final 1 was quite a tense affair with drivers trying to get the better of one another, with no real opportunity for mistakes to be made with so much up for stake. Ben Harding attempted to throw some early punches with a couple of hits to his nearest rivals, unfortunately for him not really paying off as planned. His brother Rich however managed to sneak through cleanly and was able to grab himself 4th spot ahead of Scotland's Gary Riddell crossing the line just a second behind Rich with the same number of laps.

James Eccles, Matt Bennett and eventual winner Anthony Wyper managed to pull clear early on and sustained their race pace throughout. Sadly, it was not to be for Seb, Ben, Max or Gary meaning that they will take their place in the last chance race.

Semi final 2



Father and son duo Graham Eccles 530 (left) and Brandon Eccles 1 (right) locked out an Eccles front row for semi final 2.



From left to right – Stuart Clarke 150, Alfie Jones 629, Gordon Mutch 226, Brandon Eccles 1, Steve Curley 189, Graham Eccles 530, David Smith 54 and Paul Jenkinson 901.

Heat 2 (Stock Cars) Round 1 Results

Started 14:43 Finished 14:48

Pos	Car	Driver	Name	Nat	#	Result	FTQ	Av Lap	Best
1	2	Graham eccles	530	530	98/	303.402	FTQ	3.095	2.6
2	3	Steve Curley	890	890	96/	300.254	FTQ	3.127	2.6
3	1	Brandon Eccles	531	531	95/	302.193	FTQ	3.180	2.7
4	5	Alfie Jones	629	629	95/	302.696	FTQ	3.186	2.7
5	4	David Smith	54	54	93/	301.030	FTQ	3.236	2.6
6	6	Gordon Mutch	226	226	92/	300.718	FTQ	3.268	2.7
7	7	Paul Jenkinson	901	901	90/	301.664	FTQ	3.351	2.7
8	8	Stuart Clarke	150	150	84/	302.363	FTQ	3.599	2.8

Printed at 14:48:52 on 23/01/2022.

Semi final 2 was very much a different story to what semi final 1 was... And that might have well been due to myself doing what I do best .. Making my presence felt!

Knowing full well my car wasn't handling how I would have liked it to have been, I knew I had to do something to try and upset the flow.. From the first buzzer I made sure that everyone in that semi final knew I was in it. Bumpers flying in left, bumpers flying in right, some bumpers even flying straight out the track and into the crowd that was eagerly watching!

The fact that I got half way through the race and had seven drivers dare pass me, knowing full well what was heading their way .. I think my job was done! Safe to say, I certainly had good fun in that semi final .. Even though I ended up stone dead last. Respect to Brandon, Graham, Steve and Paul who came up after the race and had a laugh and a joke with me afterwards. That's what stockcar racing is all about, hard hitting, rivals on track, friends off it.

As for the rest of the results, it was Graham Eccles 530 who managed to pull away from the chasing pack, beating runner up Steve Curley 189 by two laps ahead of Brandon Eccles 1 and Alfie Jones 629 both one lap further behind.

David Smith 54, Gordon Mutch 226, Paul Jenkinson 901 and Stuart Clarke 150 all headed for the last chance race.

Last chance race



From left to right – Stuart Clarke 150 (attempting to be as tall as 16 year old Max Harding 192), Gordon Mutch 226, Gary Riddell 600, Seb Taylor 426, David Smith 54, Ben Harding 471 and Paul Jenkinson 901.

F1 and F2 Euro finals

Dentona Raceway 23 January 2022

B Final (Stock Cars) Results

Started 15:23 Finished 15:28

Pos	Car	Driver	Name	Nat	#	Result	Av Lap	Best Lap
1	7	Paul Jenkinson	901	901	91/	302.663	3.325	2.677 L
2	1	Gary Riddell	600	600	91/	303.448	3.334	2.788 L
3	5	David Smith	54	54	90/	302.217	3.357	2.672 L
4	2	Max Harding	192	192	89/	300.759	3.379	2.813 L
5	6	Gordon Mutch	226	226	89/	301.417	3.386	2.724 L
6	3	Ben Harding	471	471	87/	301.433	3.464	2.762 L
7	4	Sebastian Taylor	426	426	87/	302.620	3.478	2.682 L
8	8	Stuart Clarke	150	150	85/	300.514	3.535	2.768 L

Last chance saloon for these 8 drivers certainly made it a close call knowing full well only the winner would progress to the European final. Bumpers once again were flying in early on as you'd expect in these circumstances. The race began to settle down half way through once the initial nervous opening couple of minutes had cooled down a little.

It was however Paul Jenkinson 901 who managed to just about hold on for the win ahead of Scotland's Gary Riddell 600 and David Smith 54. A second was all that it was between 1st place .. And the end of the road! Stockcar racing at it's finest. Congratulations to Paul, who managed to complete the final line up and starts the main race at the back of the 9 car grid.

European final (juniors)

F1 Junior European

Dentona Raceway 23rd January 2022

Heat 1 (Stock Cars) Round 1 Results

Started 15:37 23/01/2022 Finished 15:42 23/01/2022

Pos	Car	Driver	Name	Nat	#	Result	Av Lap	Best Lap
1	3	Noah Bailey	117	117	85/	303.108	3.565	2.859 L
2	8	Sebastian Taylor	426	426	78/	308.558	3.955	2.795 L
3	6	Lennon Cuthill	71	71	75/	301.423	4.018	2.962 L
4	4	Leo Ashurst	20	20	66/	302.810	4.588	2.974 L
5	2	Chloe Mitchell	1371	1371	64/	303.988	4.749	3.278 L
6	5	Leo Harding	292	292	61/	303.452	4.974	2.848 L
7	7	Joshua Morton	220	220	61/	306.160	5.019	3.109 L
8	9	Harry Doyle	25	25	51/	301.223	5.906	2.988 L
9	1	Zella Harding	3901	3901	28/	302.459	10.802	4.016 L

9 eagerly young juniors took centre stage for their big race of the weekend, the Junior European final for 2022. I bet not too many of these names have even been racing long enough to compete in a European championship, yet alone winning one! So it was very much all to play for as the lights went green for the main race.

Carnage!!! That's all you could say to describe the opening couple of minutes with drivers crashing into each other as they tried to make their way through the pack and challenge for the lead. It was an early break for Noah Bailey 117 and Seb Taylor 426 who managed to sneak through the mess and gain those precious laps as the race began to take shape.

Noah began to extend his lead the longer the race went on, with Sebastian running into trouble every now and then which made the task a much trickier challenge now. Lennon Cuthill 71 was quietly making his way through the carnage and was within touching distance of the top two.

However, the talent of Noah Bailey very much began to show as the race reached it's conclusion. The buzzer goes off and the chequered flag comes out for the new Junior European champion for 2022. A fantastic achievement for a young star who certainly has a bright future ahead of him.

Second place went to Sebastian Taylor, with Lennon Cuthill rounding out the podium positions.

A big big well done to every single junior who raced over the weekend. I'm sure each and everyone of them went home with a smile on their faces after a long weekend of racing. These are the kids you've got to watch out for in the near future.. Maybe a future champion in the making?

European final

January 2022

Final (Stock Cars) Results

Started 16:01 23/01/2022 Finished 16:06 23/01/2022

Pos	Car	Driver	Name	Nat	#	Result	Avg Lap	Best Lap
1	1	Anthony Wyper	30	30	99/	302.362	3.054	2.689
2	5	Matt Bennett	413	413	98/	300.142	3.062	2.668
3	3	Graham eccles	530	530	95/	300.630	3.164	2.668
4	2	Brandon Eccles	531	531	95/	302.578	3.185	2.681
5	4	James Eccles	532	532	93/	301.654	3.243	2.698
6	6	Steve Curley	890	890	92/	302.717	3.290	2.739
7	8	Alfie Jones	629	629	91/	301.211	3.310	2.739
8	9	Paul Jenkinson	901	901	88/	300.242	3.411	2.696
9	7	Rich Harding	291	291	87/	300.477	3.453	2.447

2 days of racing, 60 heats, 2 semi finals, 1 last chance race ... Finally, it was time for the main event of the day .. The European Championship for 2022.

Gentleman, start your engines!!!

It was green, green, green and the handbrake was off as the cars roared into turn one all guns blazing as the front runners tried to make the break from the chasing pack that was hunting them down.

Matt Bennett 413 managed to make the early get away with a small lead over Anthony Wyper 30 and the Eccles family as the pace began to quicken lap by lap. Youngster Alfie Jones 629 was very much holding his own against an extremely tough line up, all with bags of experience in comparison to the early pace setters.

Rich Harding 291 and Paul Jenkinson 901 began to drop back slightly as the race reached it's half way point, with Matt Bennett still leading the way with only a few minutes remaining. Steve Curley 189 and James Eccles 532 were very much attempting to keep within a close distance of the front three while going under the radar, but with the pace being as fast as it has been all weekend, this was a challenge which was becoming a real battle.

With only a few minutes remaining, disaster struck for Matt Bennett 413 as he caught a car mid straight and flipped onto the infield where he was stuck on the corner for what felt like forever in stockcar racing. He managed to get pushed onto the infield where he was able to re join the track on his own accord. This however was the turning point in the race as into the lead stormed Urmston's Anthony Wyper.

Minutes soon turned to seconds as the time remaining slowly reached 0 and the buzzer at race control sounded for the final time. The results were hidden on the big screen so drivers and spectators were clueless as to who has become the champion.

You could feel the tension in the air as the results were finally read out during the presentation. The costly mis-fortune of Matt Bennett's trip to the infield seemed to be all that it took for him to miss out on the title sadly for him. It was eventually Anthony Wyper who sneaked past Matt and became the new European Champion not only for 2022, but a third time in his racing career. An absolutely brilliant achievement to have on his CV... As Toe said, "It sounds better than an in second place".

Graham Eccles rounded off the podium with a brilliant finish ahead of son's Brandon and James, Urmston's Steve Curley, Rugby's Alfie Jones, Paul Jenkinson and Rich Harding.

Review from Sam Jacklin

Well what a weekend, with it being mine and the tracks first national I wasn't sure how it was going to go.

Huge thank you to Emma Parker and Allan Inness for running the PC and keeping everyone on track.

Thank you to Adam Gilbertson and Chris Taylor for keeping everyone legal.

We started with 49. We worked it down to 9 to make a great final line up. Each one of them 9 drivers could have won it.

The racing was hard and extremely fast but massive well done the Mr 2nd who can enjoy his time as the euro champ once again Anthony Wyper.

Matthew Bennett gave him such a race but a costly trip to the infield meant that toe just did enough.

Massive well done to Noah Bailey who took the glory in the juniors. That in itself was a hard race and a well deserved champion once again.

Now onto the next event.

Rugby for the English open

Saturday 19th Feb 10am

Bookings are open NOW.

It has been decided that Rugby will run there club meeting on the Friday which will also be there shootout series round 1.

It will be fantastic to see so many drivers once again!

Sam



Interviews

1st place in the Junior European final – 117 Noah Bailey (Hathern)



Stuart: Noah Bailey, 1/12th F1 Junior European champion for 2022 ... How does that sound?

Noah: The same as it sounded in 2020. Awesome!!

Stuart: Tell us a little about how the race itself went?

Noah: The race was okay. I just dodged the crashes haha.

Stuart: You just missed out on the semi final qualification for the overall European championship by a couple of laps. Some really tough competition to deal with though. Were you a little disappointed not to make the cut?

Noah: Yes, of course.

Stuart: Nevertheless, you certainly made up for that narrow miss in the F1's by not only winning the F1 Junior European, you also won the F2 Junior European AND the overall European championship in the F2's. That is amazing for someone as young as you! 13 years of age and already mixing it with the best in the business!! I bet you were over the moon with the weekend's results! How did you celebrate?

Noah: I was really happy with my results. Back in 2020 when I won the junior F2 European I really

wanted to get matching stripes on my cars. So I really tried and went onto win the F1 junior European too.

This time I just wanted to enjoy the day .. So no pressure. It was awesome to defend and keep my matching stripes. Going on to win the F2 European was brilliant, I was really happy. After a two hour drive home I celebrated with a big fat cheeseburger with chips, a hot bath and an early night.

I also spoke with Noah's mum Emma later on after the event.

Stuart: Emma, your son has managed to win 3 titles in 1 weekend! Not many people can say that. You must be very proud of him. How do you feel?

Emma: Well, what can I say. He's just a little superstar. We always tell him "do your best, enjoy your racing and have fun" and he always does. If you watch him race, he's always smiling, usually talking or laughing. And he genuinely loves his racing. He makes me and his dad very proud. He's achieved a lot in his short career as an F2 driver. We're all looking forward to seeing what else he can achieve this year and in the future.

Interviews

3rd place in the European final – 530 Graham Eccles (Urmston)



Stuart: 3rd place in the European Championship for 2022, how do you feel?

Graham: Tired! Looking down the list of drivers entered showed that the competition for positions in the Euro Final race would be very tough. So, I am pleased to have made it and got a rostrum finish but disappointed with my car setup in the final. Would really have liked to be able to take the challenge to Toe and Matt but I had to make a tyre change and it just wasn't the same as it had been in the semi race. Awesome to be part of a great weekend of racing and meet up with people I haven't seen for some time.

Stuart: Team Eccles all managed to make the European final after tough semi finals to deal with. I bet it felt good to get one over both of your sons! How is the mood in the Eccles camp?

Graham: Before lockdown the competition between us was intense and we have a whiteboard in the garage where we keep a record of wins along with an appropriate level of banter. We haven't raced much this last 22 months, but the rivalry is still there don't worry. So, on this occasion I came out on top but admit Brandon wasn't his usual best due to some new car niggles and James got very unlucky in the final when he was placed just behind Toe and Matt but lost time when his car was on its roof for a while. For us all to make the final takes some doing, and we are all happy with that but if one of us had won then I think the mood would be ever so different!

Stuart: What are your opinions on how the meeting was run?

Graham: A joint F1 / F2 meeting with circa 80 cars and 10 heats per round is always going to be a challenge to get through smoothly, but Rob and Sam did a cracking job. Track in one room, pits in another and clear communication to drivers to take their car to scrutineering in advance worked very well. Personally, was glad of just over an hour per round of heats as we were running 4 cars. Must be mad and probably the last time we do that.

Stuart: What's next for team Eccles?

Graham: Lockdown took away something we all enjoyed doing, but gave us the time for other things which we have enjoyed. There was a point where I didn't even want to look at the cars and had lost interest. But we have done a few meetings now and have enjoyed them so will hopefully do some more national and club racing.

Brandon has his world and British titles to defence, me the national series and I know James is waiting to pounce and snatch them from us. So, we will be around for a while longer and see where the appetite for racing takes us next. I might have been the oldest in the Euro final race, but don't worry I am not retiring just yet.

Also have some great ideas and plans for ISTOX (www.istox.co.uk) with the parts, spares and cars we supply to many racers.



Interviews

2nd place in the European final – 413 **Matthew Bennett (Rugby)**



Stuart: 2nd place in the European Championship for 2022 .. How do you feel your weekend went?

Matthew: Obviously I would rather have won than finished second but before the meeting I wasn't even sure the car would pass scrutineering as it is so old and bent, so happy to still be in the mix with so many quick drivers racing.

Stuart: How did you feel the European Championship race itself went for you? You were very much on the pace all weekend.

Matthew: I had sneaked into the lead but got beached on the infield after a couple of minutes and lost a lap. That's stockcar racing.

Stuart: How did you feel the event was run? This was the first time that Dentona Raceway held an F1 championship (not forgetting the F2's either) with over 70 drivers booked in. An extremely busy weekend of racing for all involved.

Matthew: I thought it was ran brilliantly, with so many cars it needed to run like clockwork, and it did.

Stuart: Event number one of the year is now done and dusted. What do you have planned for the rest of the year?

Matthew: It will be a combination of 1/8th and 1/12th meetings as time allows.



Interviews

1st place in the European final – 30 Anthony Wyper (Urmston)



Stuart: Anthony Wyper, 2022 European champion .. How does that sound?

Anthony: Well, it sounds better than 'and in 2nd place' ...

Stuart: Tell us a little bit about the European race itself? It looked like you were under threat all race from some real tough competition.

Anthony: It was definitely one of the toughest races I've been in. Racing against the best the section has to offer .. From current world champions to former world champions .. I think we all found it a tough race.

Stuart: This is the third time now that you have become European champion. Does this victory feel as sweet as the previous two?

Anthony: Sweeter. I had actually sold up a few years ago due to personal reasons at home. I wasn't going to return until Billy and Michael Clague convinced me to come back racing. I forgot how much it costs to get going again. New car, handset, charger etc. But it wasn't the racing I missed the most, it was meeting up with a great bunch of people, having a laugh, catching up on old times.

Stuart: What's next for the European champion?

Anthony: Well, it's known that the gold roof is the only championship I haven't won and that is where I get the name Mr 2nd place so that's the aim.

Stuart: Well done again on the win. Is there anything you'd like to add?

Anthony: I have to give a big shout out to Rob and Sam Jacklin and the rest of the Dentona team for putting on a great event. This is the first event for this new club and I'm sure it's agreed we all had a good time. My driver of the weekend has to be little Zella Harding in the Pepper Pig car. She's only been racing a month and she's able to get it around the track at a major championship meeting and also managing to put me in the fence. Hats off to her! (I think Uncle Ben told her to do that). Well done.

On a personal note, I'd like to say a big thankyou to everyone involved in Dentona Raceway for a fantastic weekend of racing. It was a brilliant occasion and it was lovely to see so many faces supporting the section after a difficult couple of years due to Covid 19. Thankyou also to everyone who has allowed me to use a photo of there's in this report. It's much appreciated.

Meeting report by Stuart Clarke.







1013-1020 PRJCTS

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