
Proctor and Hadfield take the honours at Donington

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Senna Proctor and Jonny Hadfield captured the spotlight as both drivers picked up thrilling wins at the Kickstart Energy Ginetta Junior Championship meeting at Donington. Hadfield took his first pole in series during qualifying and converted this into a dominant win during the opening race of the weekend. Proctor meanwhile, was embroiled in an epic battle during race two with Jonny Hadfield and Billy Monger before making a great late move to take the honours. Both Lewis Brown and Billy Monger continued their great start to the season with podium finishes while Kyle Hornby took his first ever rookie cup win during race two.



Senna Proctor extended his championship lead after an excellent weekend at Donington.

Instead of the usual Friday practice sessions, the drivers took to the track for the official BTCC Support Series test day on Thursday experiencing the warmest conditions of the season so far. Partially due to track conditions, the first session of the weekend saw the fastest times of the day set with Danish rookie Patrik Matthiesen topping the leaderboard ahead of Billy Monger and Dave Wooder. Monger proved to be the standout performer of the day as he headed the field during the second session ahead of much improved rookie Cameron Roberts. Wooder maintained his good form by placing third with Sophia Floersch entering the top-6 for both sessions. The final session of the day took place with reduced track temperatures but the Charlwood based racer replicated his strong showing in the second session and took the honours once again ahead of HHC Motorsport teammates Jamie Caroline and Patrik Matthiesen. Championship leader Senna Proctor ended the day with the tenth fastest time but less than half a second off the pace.

After a day of rest on Friday, drivers and teams were set for a frantic Saturday with three different sessions taking place. Early in the morning the Kickstart Energy Ginetta Junior Championship drivers were given their final practice session before qualifying later in the day. Lap times appeared slow early on in comparison to Thursday with Billy Monger the initial pacesetter. With less than five minutes to go, R&J Motorsport driver Lewis Brown pulled out a stunning lap to go seven tenths of a second clear of the field. This prompted an increase in pace from the other driver and lap times started to tumble in the final minutes of the session. However, no one was able to top the second year driver who finished the session first ahead of Dan Zelos and Brown's impressive teammate Kyle Hornby in third. TCR experienced another strong session with Matt Chapman in fourth, Senna Proctor rounded out the top-5.

Conditions were perfect heading into qualifying which would determine the starting positions for the first race of the weekend. As the session got underway the JHR Developments pairing of Billy Monger and Senna Proctor topped the timing sheets with highly competitive lap times. Five minutes were remaining in the short qualifying session when Jonny Hadfield posted a brilliant time to put his R&J Motorsport Ginetta G40 at the top of the standings. With three and a half minutes remaining, TCR driver Cameron Roberts brought out the red flag and

drivers were eager to take to the track once again for a final assault on the session. Despite late challenges from Lewis Brown and Dave Wooder, Hadfield held on to take his first ever pole position in the Kickstart Energy Ginetta Junior Championship. He was joined on the front row by teammate Lewis Brown with JHR Developments trio Billy Monger, Senna Proctor and Dan Zelos completing the top-5.

The first race of the weekend began later that day with Jonny Hadfield aiming to take his first ever Kickstart Energy Ginetta Junior Championship series win. As the race got underway the Buxton based driver made the perfect start and held the lead ahead of Senna Proctor with Lewis Brown in third. After a good start from Jamie Caroline, an incident involving him, Sophia Floersch and Dave Wooder dropped the trio outside the top-20. On lap two, Dan Zelos found a way passed Billy Monger for fourth while Patrik Matthiesen had made a great start rebounding from 13th to place in sixth. The following lap saw a change for second as Brown re-passed Proctor and Will Tregurtha entered the top-5 at the expense of Zelos. Unfortunately early problems for Wooder and Will Stacey saw both drivers retiring from the race. An impressive start from Alex Day saw his Tollbar racing machine rise up into the seventh position with Sophia Floersch charging hard into the top-15.

Passing the midway point of the race saw Jonny Hadfield extend his lead at the front with Monger making the move into second by the end of lap seven. Positions were changing hands throughout the field as Kyle Hornby moved into the top-10 at the expense of Stuart Middleton who has enjoyed a successful opening spell in the series. By lap eight the Team BMR Junior driver Senna Proctor had fought back to second with Patrik Matthiesen enjoying a spell inside the top-5, a little further back in the field saw Sophia Floersch lighting up the timing screens as she recovered from an earlier incident and had moved up 15 positions in nine laps. On the penultimate lap of the race there was little change out front but Jonny Hadfield had extended his lead to over seven seconds. Pre-season favourite Jamie Caroline was having a weekend to forget as the HHC Motorsport driver struggled to recover from the earlier incident and was also handed a 10 second time penalty for exceeding track limits. Back out front, Jonny Hadfield completed a faultless drive and captured his maiden victory in the Kickstart Energy Ginetta Junior Championship. Senna Proctor held onto second with Billy Monger taking third. Rookie honours were taken by Patrik Matthiesen who finished fifth followed by Will Tregurtha in seventh. Sophia Floersch was the third highest rookie after a sensational comeback drive saw the young German rookie recover from 23rd to finish in eighth position.



Jonny Hadfield took his first ever Kickstart Energy Ginetta Junior Championship race win during the first race of the weekend

The second race of the weekend began on Sunday afternoon with conditions still very good for both drivers and fans. From the front row of the grid, Senna Proctor made a brilliant start and took the lead from Jonny Hadfield as the cars entered Redgate for the first time. Jamie Caroline was the biggest mover on the first lap as the HHC Motorsport driver climbed up to 13th on the opening lap from his 20th place starting position. On lap two Hadfield regained the lead with the leading drivers pulling out a gap on the rest of the field. With some mature and intelligent driving both Dan Zelos and Patrik Matthiesen had moved into the top-5 but had Lewis Brown eager to collect a podium finish. Lap three saw Lewis Brown move back into fifth with Caroline now eyeing up a possible

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podium finish as he entered the top-10. After breaking away from the chasing back, Sophia Floersch set her sights on the leaders and on lap four she set the fastest lap of the race, gaining 1.5 seconds on the drivers ahead of her.

By the midway point in the race, Jamie Caroline entered the top-5 after a brilliant recovery drive following his disappointments in the first race of the weekend. A little further back in the pack saw a great tussle between rookies Floersch, Will Tregurtha and Kyle Hornby lead to a change of positions and a little rubbing as the drivers made their way onto the start/finish straight. Lap seven saw a spin for Elite Motorsport's Geri Nicosia drop him outside the top-20 while Dave Wooder and Will Stacey were making good progress through the field after being involved in incidents during race one. Jonny Hadfield was still holding the lead as the drivers started their ninth and final lap but Senna Proctor made a brilliant move into Redgate which moved him into the lead, a position which he held throughout the final lap to give him his second Kickstart Energy Ginetta Junior Championship win of the season. Hadfield was a close second with Billy Monger third on the road but was demoted to 10th after a five second time penalty was applied to his time due to a track limits infringements. This enabled Lewis Brown to claim his first podium in the series ahead of Jamie Caroline and Dan Zelos who fought hard during the closing stages in the race. The lead rookie was Kyle Hornby in sixth with Will Tregurtha and Sophia Floersch also collecting rookie trophies.



The leading drivers chatted to ITV's Steve Rider following the second race of the weekend

Once again the Kickstart Energy Ginetta Junior Championship provided its fair share of thrills and spills at Donington, including a maiden win for Jonny Hadfield. With many of the top drivers heading into the weekend finding themselves mired in midfield battles, this has allowed Senna Proctor to extend his championship lead to 32 points ahead of Donington star Hadfield. Patrik Matthiesen is sitting third with Lewis Brown and Billy Monger hot on his heels. Pre-season championship favourites Dan Zelos and Jamie Caroline sit sixth and seventh in the standings respectively, with impressive rookies Will Tregurtha and Kyle Hornby also inside the top-10. The Kickstart Energy Ginetta Junior Championship series now takes a short break before returning at Thruxton on the weekend of May 9th-10th.

Ginetta Junior Championship standings after Donington:

1st – Senna Proctor 126

2nd – Jonny Hadfield 94

3rd – Patrik Matthiesen 91

4th – Lewis Brown 84

5th – Billy Monger 79

6th – Dan Zelos 70

7th – Jamie Caroline 64

8th – Will Tregurtha 57

9th – Kyle Hornby 52

10th – Sophia Floersch 49

11th – Stuart Middleton 43

12th – Will Stacey 35

13th – Geri Nicosia 33

14th – Matt Chapman 30

15th – Harry Mailer 27

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