

South West Kart Club



Damon Strongman

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The 2011 Victorian Country Series kicked off in a positive manner at Cobden's South West Kart Club on February 13 with the single day event attracting strong entry numbers just shy of the 200 mark with 13 classes on offer.

The first five rounds of the six round series are all one day events with Ballarat hosting round two (March 20), Warrnambool round three (May 1), Wimmera round four (July 24), Portland round five (October 2) before the two-day final round and presentation at Hamilton in November (5-6).

All classes provided great racing with two 8-lap heats (draw / reverse) and a 12-lap final around the 966metre Cobden Park Raceway circuit.

After missing the overall series win by

a mere six points in 2010, Junior National Light saw Karcher backed Damon Strongman's good start to the year continue with a clean sweep of all three races.

The final saw Strongman out of pole, Luke Marquis on the outside front row and Mitch Wilson out of P3 but going into the first corner there was a huge shunt from behind sending Marquis off the circuit and through the grass. This left Strongman and Wilson to battle for the win in the final with Wilson finding some extra pace to take the lead with the two karts virtually glued together for the entire race.

On the last corner heading for the chequered flag Strongman slid his Adam Macrow Engines powered kart in under Wilson to snatch a well-deserved victory. Marquis recovered to cross the line third and

sits second in points ahead of Wilson, William Hawkes and Jake Klein.

Anton De Pasquale won a heat and the final but a disappointing eighth in heat two sees him second in the points tally behind Luke Walker while third in points is Cameron Reynolds after following De Pasquale home in the final.

Consistency sees De Pasquale lead the Junior Clubman points going into round two but it was South Aussie Luke Marquis who was the pace setter winning both the second heat and final. Kyle Rethus finished second in the final and is third on points followed by Luke Walker and Cameron Reynolds.

20 Midget drivers faced the starter with Cooper Murray walking away with the series points lead after claiming

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winner Jordan Nicolaou, Renshaw, Mitchel Wilmot and Maverick Benson.

A clean sweep sees Scott King on Maximum points in Clubman heavy while Christopher Thomas finished second to King in all three races and is followed in points by Glenn O'Brien and Nathan Mitchell.

Like King, 2010 series champion Scott Ferguson also won all of his races to score the maximum points haul in Clubman Super Heavy over Andrew Hayes and Robert Panzarino.

Leon Forrest continued where he left off in 2010 after winning the Clubman Over 40s class with Ian Branson next in line followed by Andrew Stubbs and Mark Cottrell.

Jordan Nicolaou was another driver to win all three races, this time it was in the Leopard Pro class where Harley Benson finished second on every occasion. Alexis Stavrou is third on points after Trevor Handley suffered a DNF in the final.

Ashley Quiddington and Corey McCullagh went head to head in Rotax Pro but it was Quiddington who came out on top courtesy of two race wins. Ian Thorley sits third ahead of Broe Shiells.

Andrew Rae won both the Senior National Light and Pro classes in 2010 while Joshua Tapscott finished runner up to Rae in Light and third in Pro however the start of the 2011 series has seen Tapscott take an early points lead over Rae after winning heat two and the final. Bradley Anderson, John Dankowski and Ashley Quiddington round out the top five.

Encouragingly TaG Restricted Pro was the biggest field at the opening round with an impressive 24 entries. Dominic Mittiga won the final and leads the points over second placed James MacDonald followed by Chris Crawley and Barry Stevenson who crossed the line third in the final.

victory in the opening heat and final. Jordan Pike sits second after being runner up in the final while heat two winner Jack Nolan sits third in points followed by Jackson Rees who finished third in the final.

In the remaining junior class, Thomas Prascevic won both heat two and the final in the Rookies class but sits a narrow second on points behind heat one winner and a consistent Jarrod Dwyer. Third sees Joshua Munn followed by Morgan Feast in fourth.

Tyler McDonald started strong in Clubman Light after finishing runner up in the series to Hayden Renshaw in 2010. McDonald won both heat two and the final to lead heat one



Jordan Nicolaou



Dominic Mittiga



Anton Depasquale



Tyler McDonald