

Formula270RLK.

Formula 270 - Round 1, January 2012

The 2012 Formula 270 Championship began on a cold and wet Wednesday night with 4 of last years top 5 in attendance alongside a whole host of regulars eager to get their seasons off to the very best start.

Qualifying

Just one pool of drivers meant a chance to set an early marker for the year for everyone. The first mistake of the year came from the race director forgetting about the 10 minute qualifying lap and allowing the drivers just 4 laps! A few moments later and a computer adjusted it was all eyes back onto the timing screens.

The afore mentioned leading 4 drivers were at the top of the timesheets once again. Ryan Watson bagging the first pole of the year in dominant fashion almost 4 tenths faster than everyone. Last years inseparable duo Will Gibbs and Chris Daines were split by a similar margin in 2nd and 3rd ahead of 4th placed Oliver Wheddon just ahead of James Guest in 5th. Samuel Tearne produced a good effort to bag 6th followed by Ben White, Andrew Taylor and Jason Keeler. Lewis Nurse and Alfonzo Lawrence completed the session safely in 10th and 11th respectively.

A Final

The drama began before the race had even begun with James Guest stuffing his kart into a tyre wall on the out lap to the grid! The final got underway with Ryan Watson quickly losing the lead from pole position to Will, Chris and Olli. The only driver to gain more than one place on the opening lap was Lewis up from 10th to 8th. After losing more places on the second lap Ryan decided to make a kart change and rejoined the race in 6th. Up front Will and Chris were dicing for the lead while Chris' gestures when in front were suggesting the pair stop fighting and concentrate on opening a gap on the field. Will was having none of it and the top 2 from 2011 engaged in a big fight for the lead whilst still opening a gap on Olli in 3rd. A mistake from Samuel on lap 6 saw him drop from 5th down to 8th moving Ryan, Ben and Andrew up one spot. Andrew had been particularly busy moving up from the field during the opening laps.

The race pattern began to emerge after 10 laps, Will and Chris still scrapping for the lead with Olli in a comfy 3rd. Ryan in 5th was now producing some very quick laps and was chasing down James in 4th. Ben and Andrew were settling into a fine fight for 6th and 7th, Samuel 8th with Lewis hunting him down in 9th. Alfonzo and Jason were enjoying their own battle that of most pirouettes as they performed more 360s than you see at the x-games between them!

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Chris made what proved a race winning move on lap 12 and finally broke away from Will as he eased into the distance. Ryan's chase down of James was completed on lap 18 as he sailed by and into 4th unable to catch Olli in 3rd. The big fight now on the track was between Ben and Andrew over 6th place with 4 official passes on one another including 3 in the last 7 laps.

Ben finally got the better of Andrew who will have to wait for another round to get his revenge. On the final lap Lewis who had dropped into last as early as lap 2 demoted Samuel to 9th as he took his 8th place and a valuable 3 extra championship points.

So Chris begins 2012 the way he ended 2011 with a win and also taking the fastest lap of the night by over a second.

Reigning F270 Champion Will Gibbs carrying the 270 number plate came home 2nd with Olli completing the podium after a lonely drive in 3rd. Ryan will be pleased to have recovered from 6th to take 4th while James will be happy to show his kart control at top speed is a bit better than half speed in 5th. The fight for most spins was "won" by Alfonzo in 11th with Jason managing marginally less spins and coming home 10th.

Round 2 will take place on **Wednesday 1st February** with a few Round 1 absentees promising a re-appearance and with 2 dropped scores allowed including one non-attendance the destination of the 2012- F270 title is still anyone's?

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