

## Sand Racing Report 2022

The true die-hard sand race enthusiast would be surprised if they saw the entry list for the first meeting of this season. Only 2 slider/speedway style bikes & no racing/sports cars on the beach. So what was the entry made up of, 5 saloon drivers, 4 youngsters on bikes but thank goodness for the MX riders as they provided almost a third of the total entry with 20 present.

Of course it was the MX riders split into 2 groups that provided the best action. Each group started with 2 races on the longer twisty course which showed how supple they have to be as they swing their bikes through left & right handed corners. When these were done it was out onto the full oval course for a further 2 races where power is the answer. In the A group Owen Waddingham came out as best rider closely followed by Billy Russell & Jarrod Carrington whilst in the B group George Bourgaize was leader of this pack from newcomers Olly Driscoll & Tom Wood. Unfortunately due to a couple of red flag incidents in a previous race & at the start of the 1<sup>st</sup> bike handicap race there was not enough time to complete the programme of races.

With Digby Cleal & Tyler-James Savident having reached the age of 8 they have had to move up to the junior class so at present there are no cadet riders. Because they both ride different style bikes Tyler-James on his MX bike just had solo rides where-as Digby came up against Thomas Vining & Lewis Le Blanq on their sliders. Unfortunately Lewis dropped a valve on his bike in the 1<sup>st</sup> race so could not complete for the rest of the afternoon. Of the 3 races held for the sliders only once did both riders finish so it was Bob Teed who took the wins whilst Erin Ogier just finished once.

The 5 car drivers were spread over 3 classes with Eric Trump beating Neil Bourgaize in similar Hyundai Coupe's for production cars over 1800cc, whilst Matthew Board in his Ford Puma took the production class up to 1800cc. This just left the 2 modified unlimited saloons at the rear of the field as Steve Marquis in his Ford Focus beat the 16 time ladies Autocross champion & only women ever to come runner up in the Autocross main championship Linda Jones who was making her debut appearance on Vazon in a smart pink & white Honda Civic. A problem with getting the wheels with the knobbly tyres on to fit onto the hub meant that Linda had to resort to using a pair of Steve's spare wheels with less grippy tyres, a problem to be sorted before the next meeting.

Paul Stanford

