

Sand Racing Report Saturday 17th June 2023

Once again the MX riders provided the backbone of competitors on the beach for the seventh event of the season with twenty, a further 4 youngsters & six car drivers.

The MX A group of six of the fastest riders ended up being a strung out group with very little competitive racing as once Owen Waddingham hit the front there was no way he was to be caught, likewise second placed rider Cory Leggett had the upper hand over third place Paul Le Messurier. Marcus Crittall rode a steady fourth spot whilst Ian Le Messurier kept ahead of Kevin Rumems. This was the finishing order for the first four races & only got mixed about a bit in their final race which was a handicap where Marcus having passed Kevin & Ian to gain the lead held on from a fast charging Owen who managed second spot from Paul in third.

The MX B group of 14 riders was much more thrilling to watch as battles were taking place amongst the entire field. The main duel was between Rhys Melass & Olly Driscoll (sharing Owen Waddingham's bike for this meeting.) Other riders at the top end of the field included Harry Fleet, Luke Saunders & Alisha Wild King. Again this group concluded their racing with a handicap race where Rhys Melass came to the front on the last lap from Ben Le Prevost on only a 125cc machine who just kept ahead of visiting Jersey rider Thomas Rolland having his first meeting on Guernsey sands & his first ever handicap race.

The youngsters where split into either junior or intermediate & either on MX or slider bikes had their run of five races with Tyler-James Savident the only MX rider whilst Thomas Vinning, Lewis Le Blanq & Digby Cleal rode sliders. Unfortunately Lewis only completed one race before his engine decided to partially seize.

With only five cars on the beach it is difficult to make the racing interesting as Karl Marshall's buggy easily takes the lead from Gary & Jamie Le Page's shared modified Honda thus leaving Steve Marquis in his slightly modified Focus to battle with the production saloons of Eric Trump's Hyundai & Andy Rosamond's Audi. The only race that came alive was the handicap where the starting order was Eric, Steve & Andy then a gap to Jamie & a further gap to Karl. As Jamie & Karl had to catch & pass the other three, the point comes at where on the track is the best place to overtake so has not to be baulked. Jamie managed this on the straights, Karl in the corners so Jamie just had the edge to get to the line first.

Usually there is only a two week gap between sand race meetings but due to the Island Games & other local motorsport events it's two months before the competitors return to the sand so plenty of tinkering time to get their machines ready for what will be a two day event on Friday 18th & Saturday 19th August.

Paul Stanford