

# COURIER Sports



## MOTORSPORT

# Great weekend for Newmills riders

NEWMILLS riders, Lewis Mullen and Chris McKay both had reasons to celebrate at the weekend.

For nine-year-old Lewis, he was making his British Championship debut on the tarmac, and former junior motocrosser, Chris McKay was doing likewise, but on home soil!

Lewis Mullen, missed the opening round of the IMC series due to a clash of dates, as he was booked to go to the BMB series, where on his debut, he qualified in third place, and went on to take third in each race.

This was indeed an impressive result for the schoolboy, who had to learn the circuit, and was competing in a field of 20 riders, many of which, were much older, and more experienced.

For McKay, it was a fairytale debut on Saturday last, when he made the transition from junior motocross to tarmac racing and

celebrated with two-second places and a win, but more importantly, giving him the overall win in the 140 stock B class at the opening round of the IMC 2020 Championship which attracted a record 112 entries.

McKay, who competed in the junior motocross in both 65 and big wheel 85cc classes, regularly finished in the top 10.

Due to family work commitments, Chris was unable to attend all events, hence never really had any championship placings to show.

After a few years away from bikes, he had read about the IMC series, so decided to give it a go, and after a couple of practice sessions, he was hooked.

His results on Saturday will now have him as a marked man for his rivals for the remainder of the season!

Matthew 'Missile' McCord took a fourth, but crashed out in next race and retired in the

third race.

Quite a few other locals were in action, including Craig Anderson, who was having a good weekend until he got tangled up with Cork rider Jeff Quilter, when battling for podium placings.

Other locals in action included Oisín McIntyre, Craig Badger, Jake Johnston, Sam Lyons, Joe Quinn, Nancie Armstrong and Owen Campbell.

The entry level BamBam Class grid included the next generation of famous names - Matt Davidson (Barry Davidson), and Max Robinson (Paul Robinson).

Also in the line-up was a trio of siblings, Jack, Rachel and Emily Hamilton from Annaghmore. All in their debut outing, it was Jack who took home the bragging rights with a second place finish in Race 2.

Moneymore 13-year-old Jack Ferris put in a

strong performance in the Junior Elite Class onboard his KTM 65cc machine to claim the 2-stroke Class while Ruben Sherman-Boyd took the honours of the 4-stroke class.

Saturday's event not only marked a return to competitive sport, the first of the 2020 season by any motor speed organisation, the organising club had to adapt to many new procedures, due to the Covid-19 regulations.

Their hard work showed, and everyone respected the new regulations, something we will just have to get used to!

Reuben Boyd was the most successful rider on Saturday, the 11-year-old was in dominant form, winning at his ease.

The IMC series has also attracted quite a few newcomers from the local area, with the next round at Athboy Karting Centre on Saturday, 8 August.



Winner on his tarmac debut, Newmills rider, Chris McKay in action at the IMC Series on Saturday. SC2030316



Oisín McIntyre, another of the many locals attracted to the Irish Minibike Championships. SC2030317

# Revving up for the return of racing behind closed doors at Kirkistown

LIKE so many other activities, motor racing at Kirkistown Race circuit in County Down, has been non-existent this year, due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

However, that is about to change this Saturday, 25 July when an 11 race event will happen.

Unfortunately, spectators will not be allowed in, for social distancing reasons. Hopefully, these restrictions may be eased in the future as the R-number continues to fall.

There is a way that enthusiasts can be aware of what is going on, as it

happens. All cars and karts must have electronic transponders and these interact with a web app called MYLAPS Speedhive. Live timings and results can be watched on most mobile devices.

The Northern Ireland Formula Ford 1600 Championship has two races.

Once again, the Randalstown Rocket, Alan Davidson is driving Hugh Reid's Mondiale M89s. He will be heart set on out running the more modern machinery of Robert Johnston's Van Dieman RF99.

Robert, from Nutt's Corner, is only

in his second full season and will be pushed to cope with Davidson's experience. The dark horses are Robbie and David Parks, from Ballina, who both have very competitive Ray machinery.

The Saloons and GTs have the largest grid of the day with a mixture of NI Saloons, Ask Supercars and pure GTs. Gerard O'Connell, from Dungiven, should be quickest in his space frame Escort. It will be interesting to see how Belfast's Stephen Traub goes in the car that won the ITCC championship in 2019. Stephen

bought the Honda Integra from Stephen Potter and has already done some modifications.

Roadsports have a small field. Hollywood's John Benson is in the only Crosslé and may have the legs on the Westfields of Cameron Boyd, from Bangor and Trevor Allen, from Lisburn.

The combined Fiesta and Mazda MX5 field is also big. In the Fiestas, expect Belfast brothers Paul and Mark Stewart to be at the sharp end, while Lisburn's Stephen Murray should be near the front of the Mazda field.

There are also Superkarts, with many of the usual stalwarts of this great form of racing. Colin Menary (Bangor), Stuart Coey (Comber) and Liam Fox (Lisburn) will be renewing their rivalry in the 250cc class. It is also to see them joined again by Reading's Jason Dredge.

Comber's Peter Crossan will be at or near the front in the 125cc class.

It is good to see racing back at Kirkistown and if this meeting goes to plan, there will be a further three meetings to complete the truncated 2020 season.