

## MOTORSPORT

# Great racing on final weekend

**LAST** weekend witnessed the exciting finale of the 2020 World Superbike championship, in which our countryman Jonathon Rea MBE, took a record-breaking 6th consecutive world title.

Josh Brookes shattered the dreams of Glenn Irwin's challenge in the nerve-tingling BSB finales.

Back home it was also the final round of the Irish Mini Bike championships at Nutts Corner, where the future Irish/British, or even World, Superbike champions start their careers.

Despite a damp start and oil spillage, the organizing club didn't give up. Following a track inspection by a few riders, ALL competitors were given a few laps on the track, before giving their verdicts. After a show of hands in a social distancing manner it was pretty clear the majority wanted to race. They were also given the chance to vote for a non-championship event or continue as a championship event, with the majority voting for championship status.

The gods were certainly looking down on the IMC again as the sun came out and the track soon dried up. A full race programme was achieved with some very close and exciting races.

As in any championship, there can only be one winner, and this means disappointment for the runners up.

The IMC took the decision on Monday last to call this meeting as the final round of this year's championship, amidst the current COVID-19 crisis (Mondello Park was to be the final round in two weeks' time).

Following more Government announcements on Friday, the club again worked closely with the governing bodies to ensure the meeting would be allowed to go ahead with all guidelines in place. They were able to run without spectators.

2020 saw the rise of more young talent. Their progress was proved at the weekend as they showed their experience gained over the past few months.

Buster Sherman Boyd may have wrapped up the VW AUDI Bitz title in the Bam Bam class, but another new star has emerged in the form of Jack Hamilton, who took the overall win, and clinched second in a very hotly contested championship.

Third went to ex-junior motocrosser, Alfie Flynn, with rookie Max Robinson, son of former road racer and short circuit champion, Paul Robinson, and grandson of the legendary Mervyn Robinson, taking 4th place.

Jake Johnston had a great debut season, taking 5th in the series.

In the Scarlett DIY Mini GP Class, there was yet another Hamilton to the fore, this time, elder brother Brian, on his Kayo machine. Brian managed to snatch the championship from his injured rival, Bucci-mounted, Ruben Sherman Boyd.

Boyd had led the championship but got injured just before the last round which he

had to miss. Going into Sunday's event, both riders were tied on points.

Boyd bravely cut off his plaster in order to race, and he gave it his best, despite the pain and agony. Fourth in race one was followed by second in race two, before taking victory in the final race - but it wasn't enough, as his arch-rival Hamilton took the title.

It is indeed a credit to the Hamilton family, who have no less than seven family members contesting the IMC series!

In the Road Racing Ireland Junior gearbox championship, it was the stylish Balbriggan rider, Finnan Wherity, who took the championship spoils, with Freddie Cook in second spot.

The Eurol Lubricants 140 stock class has provided the closest and most exciting racing during the season, and Sunday's racing was no different.

Not only was the racing close, so was the final positions of the championship, with Mondello Masters superbike championship contender, Luke Johnston, taking the spoils by a mere point from James Thompson, with Gareth Morell in third.

The Hillhead Sheds Vets championship goes to Kelan Smith.

Kelan was an absentee at the weekend due to lockdown in his home area, but he had done enough to take the championship from Michael Thompson and Eion Smith.

Mark Johnston took the Senior open B championship

The Martha Beatty Memorial saw Michael Murphy claim his first championship from Sam Baxter and Michael Thompson, whilst in the David Beatty senior open class it was yet another close championship.

Despite missing a round due to injury, Kyle Cross was the overall winner on Sunday, but it was the consistent James Thompson who secured the championship.

Second overall on Sunday and taking third in the championship, was the up-and-coming short circuit rider, Ajay Carey, who this weekend along with teammate Cameron Dawson, will make his debut at Cadwell Park.

Mark Carey took the Irish Motorbike and Scooter show two-stroke junior elite title to Athboy, as his overall win was enough to secure his championship spoils. In the four-stroke class, the injured and brave Ruben Sherman Boyd, did enough to clinch this championship.

Following the racing, all Junior riders were presented with a Trophy, sponsored by Temple Trees, in recognition for their efforts during the 2020 season.

The season may be over, but for the IMC, work now starts for the 2021 season - and watch out for yet another exciting deal within the next week or so.

## BSB

Jamie Lyons secured 5th in both final Moto 3 races at Brands Hatch last weekend. After what was a rather torrid season, it was satisfying for Jamie to get these two great results.



Brian Hamilton, 2020 IMC Scarlett DIY.COM Mini GP Champion in action.



Moto crosser, Josh Chambers made his debut in Pit Bikes on Sunday taking 9th in the Open B class

## GAA

## Club notes

### CLONOE

Last weeks lotto numbers were 7, 15, 19 and 27. There were no jackpot winners. Two people matched 3 numbers winning £25 each: Harry Brady and Danny McStravock. Next weeks jackpot is £1200. Anyone wishing to enter can do so by 7pm each Monday on [www.klubfunder.com](http://www.klubfunder.com).

Congratulations to our Senior Player Colm Devlin and his wife Niamh who were married on Saturday.

All at Clonoe O'Rahilly's were saddened to learn of the sudden passing of Jonny Curran. A fierce rival on the field and a great friend off the field, he will be sorely missed and fondly remembered by all within the GAA community.

We offer our heartfelt condolences to his partner Clodagh, his sons Neasán and Darsá, his parents Anthony and Alicia, his brother Stephen, sister Louise, the wider Curran Family and the Coalisland Fianna club.

Sympathy is also extended to the Cullen Family, Coalisland, on the death of Susanna and to the McKeown Family, Aughamullan, on the death of John. May they rest in peace.

Seanfhocal na Seachtaine/Saying of the Week:

Is glas iad na cnoc i bhfad uainn.

Distant hills look green.

### STEWARTSTOWN HARPS

The club will be teaming up with MFC again for club merchandise this Christmas. Due to Covid, this will be done over an online link which will go live this week. Check club social media for the latest.

The club will be turning on the lights at Mullaghmoyle Park from 7-8pm on Tuesday nights each week so members of the local community can social distance walk around the pathway.

Samaritans Ireland are still offering an important service for those in need. Whatever you're facing, Samaritans Ireland are there to listen. Call them free on 116 123.

## Racing abandoned after arrival of Stormont email

THE final car and superkart meeting of 2020, being held at the Kirkistown Motor Racing Circuit in County Down on Saturday, was forced to abandon after five qualifying sessions when an email from the Department For Communities arrived into Race Control at 10.37am.

The email stated that since there were more than fifteen participants and the same participants were not "elite athletes", the event could not run under the most recent Covid-19 regulations.

The meeting had already started just after 9am.

This was a smaller than usual event with only 63 drivers over six classes.

Given that each driver could have a maximum of two assistants, that meant there was a maximum of

around 250 attendees, including marshals and officials.

The Five Hundred Motor Racing Club Of Ireland, owners of the Kirkistown Circuit, has not permitted spectators at any of their events this year.

They have also taken the step of issuing all competitors with proper, washable face masks and demanded that, even though the event takes place outside, everyone must wear face coverings at all times.

Motorsport fans are no doubt asking, what is an elite athlete?

Racing drivers from Kirkistown regularly race in England where they are feared by those they compete against!

At Brands Hatch next weekend, in the world-renowned Formula Ford Festival, Randalstown driver Alan Davidson is expected to bring home the spoils in the pre-90 Formula Ford class. His counterpart, David McCullough, from Ballymena, will be a contender in the Open Formula

Ford class. Their competitors will not just be from England, they will be from all over the world.

Both of these drivers do not get paid to drive but they are "elite"!

Following the enforced abandonment of the final round of races at Kirkistown Racing Circuit on Saturday, here are the new 2020 champions.

In the open class of NI Formula Ford 1600, the 2020 champion is Ballymena driver, David McCullough. The "Randalstown Rocket", Alan Davidson, was second, just ahead of Ballina driver, Dave Parks.

In the Pre-90 class, Alan Davidson was the runaway winner. Chris Hillis, from Belfast, was second and the evergreen Henry Campbell, from Ballymena, was third.

There was only one competitor in the Pre-87 class and so Mike Todd, from Ballyclare, is the champion.

Steve Morris has been a stand-out

competitor in Roadsports at Kirkistown for many years, in more ways than one. Firstly, he is 6ft 7ins tall, so he is easy to spot in the paddock. Secondly, he makes the trip from Welling in Kent for every meeting. Thirdly, he is one of the most genial and pleasant drivers at Kirkistown! Thus, it is a pleasure to announce that he is the 2020 Roadsports Champion. Second is Moira driver Kieron Smyth and third is Holywood driver, John Benson.

Kieron Smyth won the Class A Roadsports championship. Cameron Boyd, from Bangor, took Class B Roadsports championship. John Benson took the Class C Roadsports championship.

In the Saloons, Belfast's Stephen Traub is the 2020 Champion. Second was Craigavon driver, Peter Baxter. Shane Murphy, from Ovens, took third place.

In the BMW 330i class, run in

conjunction with the Saloons, the champion was Gavin Kilkey, from Londonderry. Greer Wray, from Lisburn, was second and his brother, Keith, from Dundonald, was third.

In the GTs, Dungiven driver, Gerard O'Connell, was the runaway winner. Hilltown driver, Paul Parr, was second, and Conor Devlin, from Armagh, was third.

In the Modi-5-Cup, a championship for Mazda MX5 machines, Randalstown driver Paul Sheridan won, driving the car that his sister-in-law, Eóran O'Neill, took to a similar position in 2019. Eugene McCann, from Newcastle, was second and founder of the class, David Cousins, from Ballywalter, was third.

The 2020 Kirkistown Fiesta Zetec Champion is Belfast driver, Mark Stewart. Second place went to Neville Anderson and third place went to Strangford driver, Megan Campbell.