

The Chequered F1ag



A Formula One blog by Stephen English
www.stephenenglish.ie

Formula 1 needs to let racers race

SEBASTIAN Vettel continued to dominate Formula 1 with a lights to flag victory that saw the German take his 11th victory of the season ahead of Jenson Button and Fernando Alonso in the inaugural Indian Grand Prix.

Vettel's performance once more showed just how complete the world champion has become with yet another superb race from the front that saw claim yet another single season record.

This time Vettel surpassed the record of Nigel Mansell for number of laps led in a season; it is worth noting however that Mansell set his tally in one race less than Vettel. It is clear that Red Bull has the fastest car on the grid but to say that Vettel owes his success to this fact does a tremendous disservice to the 24 year old who has only made a handful of errors this season.

Of these mistakes only one, outraking himself at the end of the Canadian Grand Prix, occurred in a race and while it allowed Button to overtake him on the last lap it was highly likely that the McLaren driver would have found his way past on the back straight such was the advantage of the drag reduction system in Montreal.

Vettel's performances have been in stark contrast to Lewis Hamilton. The Englishman's struggles in 2011 continued with another race marred by clashing with Felipe Massa.

The pair came together at turn five after Lewis tried to overtake the Ferrari under braking into the narrow third gear left hander. With the corner leading directly into a chicane there was only room for one car and when Massa started to turn into the corner contact was inevitable.

Massa and Hamilton clash again

THE incident was the latest in their ongoing battle that has seen them contact each other seven times in the last year. In India Hamilton had the faster car but it was hard to see how this move could have been successful unless Massa was exceptionally willing to cede the position.

Coming into the corner Massa defended the inside before moving towards the racing line leaving Hamilton to shadow down the inside.

With a dusty track surface it was clear that Hamilton would have his work cut out for him to overtake the Ferrari but the Englishman knew that he needed to get ahead of Massa as soon as possible. So he tried to move through under braking. When Massa turned in there was nowhere for either driver to go and they clashed.

It was clear that this was a simple racing incident and that neither driver was to blame. It was simply a case of one driver trying to overtake and his rival trying to take his racing line and close the door.

However in modern Formula 1 it seems that every on-track incident warrants investigation and so the stewards decided to take a second look at the clash and penalise Massa for causing an avoidable accident.

How such a conclusion could be made not only boggles the mind but also sets a dangerous precedent. The sport has spent years trying to increase overtaking and create more excitement on track but in 2011, a year that has seen arguably the most exciting racing in Formula 1 history, drivers are not allowed to defend their position. We have seen time and again drivers punished for causing avoidable accidents when they have done nothing premeditated or malicious, they have simply had racing accidents.

Throughout the year we have seen numerous drivers penalised for crashes and either given grid penalties or drive through penalties. If the authorities want to see racing they need to allow drivers to attack and defend otherwise the penalty of a mistake is just too great for a driver to attempt a manoeuvre.

Even looking at other clashes between Massa and Hamilton, such as Singapore, and there is little reason to see why either driver was penalised. In both incidents they made contact and both were able to continue, albeit with damage, but there was no malice in the overtaking attempt or defence. It was simply drivers racing each other.

The system used in Formula 1 throughout the season needs to be analysed in detail over the winter by the FIA and a more suitable solution needs to be found otherwise races will continue to be marred by needless penalties for drivers.

Paradox of cost saving examined by MotoGP

IN MotoGP news has broken that the limits on testing will no longer be in effect. Newspapers in Italy have reported that series organisers have concluded the ban, brought in as a measure to curb spending from the leading teams, has actually ended up costing more than simply allowing teams more freedom.

For the last two years factory riders racing in the premier class have been limited to 12 days of testing during the winter and last year were given eight days to test the new for 2012 1000cc bikes.

Teams used various loopholes to conduct testing, the prime one being that they were able to hire other riders to do the testing.

As a result the teams still tested but because their test riders were over two seconds off the pace they actually gained very little useful knowledge from the sessions. With teams now hiring test riders the testing ban was clearly costing them money in terms of rider contracts, manufacturing and travel expenses for little to no positives.

History has always shown that racing teams will always spend whatever money they can raise and with teams clearly wasting money Dorna made the wise decision to lift the ban on factory riders testing.

The decision will save teams money and with new regulations for 2012 will help factories to develop their bikes at a much faster rate and, hopefully, increase competition in the premier class. The team that stands most to gain is Ducati who has struggled terribly in 2011 with Valentino Rossi taking just a solitary podium.

The Italian has been unable to test the 800cc bike and develop parts for it and it has clearly hampered him throughout the season but with testing now limited to 120 sets of tyres per rider it is clear that for 2012 Valentino should be able to get a much greater understanding of his bike and hopefully develop the GP12 efficiently over the winter and start the year with a bike to match his talents.

With Casey Stoner and Dani Pedrosa leading the Honda charge and Yamaha's Jorge Lorenzo and Ben Spies expecting to be more competitive next season a fast Ducati would give MotoGP a great chance of having a very successful first season of the new regulations.

MOTORSPORT Whiteriver Park Racing Circuit

McEvoy and Campbell gear up for Collon Championship event

THE first ever All Ireland Winter Championship event is to be held on Collon.

Last week, the Rallysport Association were pleased to announce the event is set to take place at the superb Whiteriver Park Racing Track and facilities at Ireland's newest motorsports venue in Collon.

The event starts at 11 am on Saturday, November 5 and each competitor will have a minimum of six timed sprints around the superb tarmac circuit at Whiteriver Park and all the competitors will be competing for class as well as overall honours.

Competition will be fierce on the stage and the full entry list of 120 drivers includes competitors in a wide range of machinery including the absolutely fantastic high speed juniors in Class 1 in their Novas and Corsas right through the field to the RT2000 supercars and race cars in class 7 and the class 8 turbocharged four wheel drive rallycars.

There will be Impreza's, Evos,

Cossies, Escorts, Corollas, Civics, Peugeots, Citroens and all sorts of impressive machinery, all chasing for points in this the first round of this Winter series.

Local interest includes the phenomenally fast Dunlop Touring Car front runners, Hugh McEvoy from Dundalk, Navan's Peter Cosgrove and the O'Mahoney pair from Bettystown in Co Meath.

Damian Campbell from Dundalk in his Mitsubishi EVO rallycar will also be taking part as well as the local Woods family and friends from Drumskin who will also be in a wide range of exotic Subaru and Renault powered supercars.

Alastair Kellett and Paul Copeland from Kells are also running in the phenomenally fast Fiat Punto Abarth and several competitors are making the long trek from Donegal, Cork and north of the border.

So we are in for a fantastic day's motorsport at Whiteriver Park and the action which starts at



One of the cars that will be on show at the rally

11am and will run right through until 4.30. It's a great day out for all the family and with children and seniors getting free admission what better way of enjoying your

weekend.

For any additional information please visit www.therallysportassociation.com.

Medals for Dealgan Boxers



ABOVE: Some of the latest Dealgan BC fighters after their successful stint at the Nine Counties Championship held at the National Stadium

GREYHOUNDS Dundalk Stadium

Fairways winner Pauline's Pride can go the distance

By Joe Carroll

MORE will be seen of Fairways Hotel 525 winner, Pauline's Pride – perhaps over longer distances.

In taking the latest in the series of stakes sponsored by the local hotel at Dowdallshill last Saturday night, Francie Murray's charge looked a stayer in the making. He was slow into his stride, and had each of his four opponents to pass by the time he reached the opening turn.

But none of the others caught the eye like the son of Royal Impact and Lemon Rita did in the back straight. He picked up the trailblazing Whetstone Snowy in effortless fashion, and then went on to score by just under six lengths in a competition-faster 28.94.

Owned by Co Laois's Pauline Dunne, the black February '10 went through the competition unbeaten, and has now won three of his four races.

Anthony Rooney's Balbriggan runner, Whetstone Snowy ran his best race to date to take second, while Gainstown Mike took third, a neck clear of Val. Ravens Rock, a semi-final winner, was an absentee.

The win for Pauline's Pride was the opening leg of a Francie Murray treble. The Co Westmeath handler followed immediately with Pride And Glory winning a sprint, and then finished the night with Subway Dee taking the only 550 on the card.

First-timer Whiterock Prince looked one for the future with a facile win, and Best Boy cast recent form aside to go faster than anything else over the 400. Bull Babe was an 8/1 winner for the track's leading trainer, Martin Lanney, helping him complete a double.

News of Whiterock Prince's emphatic win would have gone some small way towards easing the pain felt by trainer, Craig Kelly, following the unfortunate injury sustained by kennel star, Moes Return, in the Tennents at Drumbo Park.

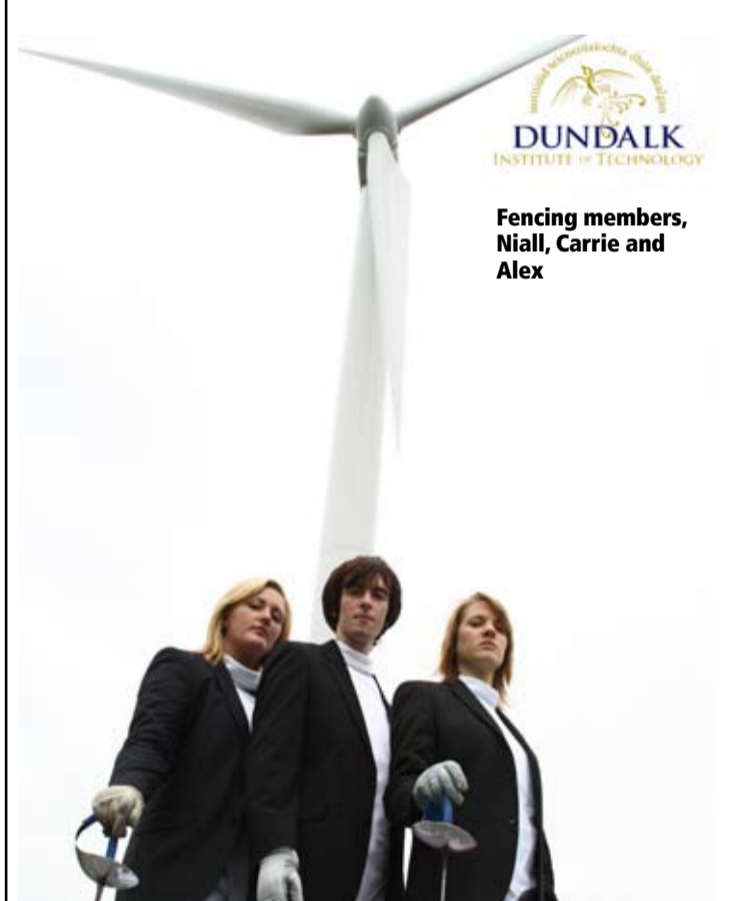
The young Clogherhead handler has charge of Whiterock Prince for Dromiskin's Thomas McKeivitt – and, really, the son of Crash and Gotoon Trendy couldn't have done the job more impressively. He soon took over Must Be Kingston, and as the race unfolded the bigger his lead grew.

Over eleven lengths divided the first two, Whiterock clocking 28.96.

Moes Return, owned by a group of local enthusiasts, had really lit up Drumbo Park in the Rennetts preliminaries, scoring a couple of big wins in superfast times. He was favourite to win his semi-final on Saturday night, but sustained a broken hock at the first bend.

Better luck for Fluff The Lines in the same competition. Gerry Callan's Knockbridge runner finished third in his semi-final, qualifying him for Saturday night's decider.

Sabre success at DkIT



Fencing members, Niall, Carrie and Alex

DKIT Fencing Club hosted their annual Sabre only fencing competition The Vinnie Duffy on October 15 in the PJ Carrolls Building in Dundalk IT.

The competition was organised by the Fencing Club committee consisting of Niall Kearns, club Secretary, Carrie McEneaney, club President and Alexandra Lollies, team captain along with the help from the Fencing Coaches Marcos Simpson and John McCabe.

Students from different parts of the country attended the competition and it was a great day had by all. In the Woman's Sabre competition, third place was shared by our own Carrie McEneaney and Alexandra Lollies, second place was Liz Fitzgerald from Trinity College Dublin and first place was Niamh Spence from Foyle Derry.

In the men's sabre competition, third place was one of the clubs former members Glenn Maguire and Julian Hayes from Salle Dublin, second place was James Nicholl and first place was Richard Magee both from Foyle Derry.

DKIT Fencing Club offer a big congratulation to all who got placed and to all who took part in the competition also

a thank you to the staff of the clubs and societies office and the Care Taker staff of DKIT also for all their help and support in the organisation of the competition.

DKIT Fencing Club was set up in 2006 and up until last year the numbers in members had decreased significantly due to students graduating and leaving the club.

The 2011-2012 committee are working extremely hard to maintain the club so a huge effort has been made with advertisement of the club within the college and making sure the clubs and societies sign up day in the college was a success along with focusing on our studies as the committee are all in full time education in DKIT.

On the club's first meeting 25 members who were excited and interested about the sport joined the club and the numbers have been consistent since then.

As the Club President I am optimistic about the DKIT Fencing Clubs future and the committee will share their knowledge with our new members so they can take over the committee next year when this year's committee is finished and hopefully they will keep the club going that we have revived and for years to come.

BOXING Dealgan Boxing Club Memorial Show

Joe Ashmore Show will showcase no less than 18 Irish champions

DEALGAN Boxing Club will host a memorial boxing dinner show in memory of their late President, Joe Ashmore in the Youth Development Centre at Oriel Park on Saturday next November 5.

Joe was responsible for initiating the careers of Anto Donnelly, Poky Murray and Eugene McEaney to name but a few and is fondly remembered for his love of the noble art and helping nurture talent within the club.

No less than 18 Irish champions will take to the ring against a strong best Dublin team in what should prove to be the biggest show of talent ever staged in Dundalk. It will be a fitting tribute to Joe that the likes of multiple Irish champions Emma Agnew and Stephen Broadhurst will endeavour to show why the Dealgan club is regarded as one of the most successful clubs in the country.

All the boxers will battle it out to win the Joe Ashmore Best Boxer trophy on the night.

At juvenile level, Dealgan BC took five titles at the Nine Counties Championships held in the National Stadium last week with some great performances from Darren Joyce (60k), Orla Garvey (39k), Nicole Agnew (36k), Michael Quinn McDonagh (66k) and Amy Broadhurst (54k). Overall a very successful championships for the up and coming talent emerging from the Marian Park outfit.

This event is ticket only. Tickets for this prestigious event include a four course meal, fight programme and dancing until late. Meal served at 7.30pm Tickets cost €50 and can be obtained from calling 086-3748688.



The late Joe Ashmore himself with Bernard Dunne and Kenny Egan.

DUNDALK SNOOKER LEAGUE



Results

TOOLFIX PREMIER SNOOKER LEAGUE

Commercial B 3-2 Good Time Charlies
Commercial C 3-2 Potters
Snooker Drogheda A
Potters B 3-2 Bridge A

TOOLFIX FIRST DIVISION LEAGUE

O'Connells Bar 4-1 Commercial Red,
Bridge B 4-1 Embassy C,
Potters C 3-2 Bridge C,
Better School of Motoring 5-0 Commercial Green

Fixtures

TOOLFIX PREMIER SNOOKER LEAGUE

Bridge A vs Potters A
Good Time Charlies Embassy vs Commercial C Potters B vs Charlie Chaplins CC

TOOLFIX FIRST DIVISION LEAGUE

Commercial Red vs Commercial Green
Bridge C vs Bridge B
Potters C vs O'Connells Bar
Embassy C vs Better School of Motoring Embassy

Tables

TOOLFIX PREMIER LEAGUE

Team	P	Pts
Potters B	1	3
Commercial B	1	3
Commercial C	1	3
Good Time Charlies	1	2
Potters A	1	2
Bridge A	1	2
Charlie Chaplins	1	0

TOOLFIX FIRST DIVISION

Team	P	Pts
Better School M'ing	1	5
Bridge B	1	4
O'Connell's Bar	1	4
Potters C	1	3
Bridge C	1	2
Commercial C	1	1
Commercial Green	1	1

PLAYER RANKINGS

Pos	Player	Pts
1st	Christy Cooney	7
2nd	Stephen O'Hanlon	7
3rd	Darren Johnston	7
4th	Robert McGee	7
5th	Stephen Kelly	7
6th	Liam Johnston	7
7th	Paddy Hayes	7
8th	Ken McDonald	7
9th	Liam Barnacle	7
10th	Aaron Callan	7

All fixtures correct at time of going to print

MEDAL WINNERS



Ireland Wadokai Karate-Do Remnei members travelled to Aldershot, England at the weekend to compete at the Annual EWKR International Karate Tournament where competition was tough all round in both Kata (form) and Kumite (fighting). Sensei Tommy Marrett was delighted with the haul of medals that was brought home, 5 Silver and 2 Bronze. Eamon Yore, Mary Marcus, Ivan Byrne, Elizabeth Marcus, Connor Begley, Catherine Marcus and Aoife Byrne made up the IWRK team, congratulations to all.

Ready for battle - Cobra Khan Kickboxers



Members of the Cobra Khan club who will represent Ireland in the World Kickboxing and Karate championships in Spain. Back row from left: Bernard Duffy, Instructor, Catherine Pearson, Sean O'Hare, Patricia McQuillan, Instructor. Front Row from left: Catherine Brady, David Mathews and Megan Rogers

Ardee stay in pole position with Balbriggan win

Balbriggan	9
Ardee	14

ARDEE Rugby Club travelled to Balbriggan on Friday night for their latest match in the Magee Cup still hurting from last weekend's defeat to Athboy and determined to stay in pole position in the league.

Ardee played with the wind at their backs knowing first half scores were vital. The match started in typical fashion with both teams feeling each other's defences out in the opening quarter but it was Balbriggan who scored with a close range penalty.

Ardee began to press home their dominance at set-pieces and rucks and

were awarded two long range penalties which went unconverted. Ardee could have been further behind when Balbriggan's winger scooped up a loose Ardee ball and sprinted from his own half only to be ankle tapped by Gerry Curtis inside Ardee's twenty-two.

Ardee rallied and continued to put pressure on their opponents and when Kevin McKeown kicked into Balbriggan's twenty-two and raced onto the bouncing ball to score under the posts Ardee finally got the score they deserved and Halpenny converted.

Within minutes of the restart Gary Smith tackled his opposite number at centre and from the resulting ruck McKeown picked up the loose ball and evading two tackles to again score under the posts which Halpenny again

converted. This left the half-time score Balbriggan 3, Ardee 14.

The second half saw a resurgence in Balbriggan's attack and with a strong wind at their backs they continually pushed Ardee back deep into their own half.

Ardee although under pressure early kept cool heads and were unbreakable in defence for most of the third quarter, but signs were not looking good as their penalty count was starting to rise, from near nothing in the first half to easily rising to double figures in the second.

Balbriggan began to chip back at Ardee and with two out of three penalties converted leaving it a five point game with minutes to go. Another penalty by Ardee left them facing a lineout on their own five metre-line which left a lot of

people with their hearts in their mouths, Ardee managed to turn-over the ball but only cleared it ten metres, again Ardee turned the ball over from the lineout but lost it forward. The scrum was deemed last play Ardee again turned over the Balbriggan attack illegally and a penalty was awarded to Balbriggan which was kicked to touch thus ending the match much to the visitors delight. Ardee play Boyne at home on Friday night at 8pm.

ARDEE: Dominic Borza, Gerry Curtis, Joe Taffee, Declan Lambe, Shane Goslin, Kevin McKeown, Eddie Walsh, John McCreanor (Capt), Andy Kerr, Ronan O'Brien, Kevin McKeever, Keith Halpenny, Alex McDonnell, Mark McMahon, Paddy Malone. Subs: Joe McCoy, Jamie Rogers, Joe Austin, Eoin Lennon, Gary Smith, Mark McGahon, Glen Finnegan.