



# ARMY KARTING TEAM



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SEARCH ARMY KART TEAM

## OBJECTIVES

To be the best Army Kart and win the Steve Long Memorial Trophy.

All 3 Endurance Karts to finish the race in order to develop the novice drivers.

Premier 21 to win a second race.

## WEATHER

Dry throughout the whole weekend, average temperature of 17 degrees with bright sunshine and a light breeze.

## RACE REPORT

### RAF MSA INTER SERVICE CHAMPIONSHIP ROUND 2 – LYDD, KENT

18 – 20 May 2018

Round 2 saw the team travel to Lydd Kart Circuit in Kent. A particular favorite by most teams, Lydd is one of the fastest tracks on the calendar. It offers over 1040m of track with plenty of overtaking opportunities.

### BRIEF SUMMARY

Premier 21 – 1<sup>st</sup>  
Premier 22 – 10<sup>th</sup>  
Premier 33 – DNF

Endurance 1 – 11<sup>th</sup>  
Endurance 2 – 9<sup>th</sup>  
Endurance 7 – 13<sup>th</sup>

## THE TEAM ON A TRACK WALK





## PREMIER 21 – Bdr Haines (RA)

Coming off the back of a win at Llandow Bdr Haines was feeling confident heading to round 2. FP1 & FP2 allowed Bdr Haines to do some last minute setup changes before heading into the heats on Sunday. Heat 1 proved straight away that he would be difficult to beat this weekend. The main challenge came from number 40. Heat 2 & 3 saw Bdr Haines once again dueling with Kart 40. The final was set and Bdr Haines sat 2<sup>nd</sup> on the grid. This presented a challenge as Kart 40 was extremely good at blocking down the main straight. Bdr Haines decided to play the long game set up a couple of dummy moves on the outside before going on the inside into the final turn, the move paid off and allowed him to pass along with another driver. This gave Bdr Haines the room he needed to pull ahead and create a safe gap before bringing home the win a few laps later. An extremely hard fort battle saw Bdr Haines using all his race craft to pass a difficult opponent. That's 2 wins in a row now.





## PREMIER 22 – Cfn Norman (REME)

Cfn Norman found herself on the back foot at when arriving at Lydd, a crash in a previous race had caused her chassis to bend and some work to be carried out on her engine. Regardless of this she worked tirelessly to build it and get it ready in time for the first heat. Heat 1 saw her fighting mid pack but due to overcooking a corner she spun and had to spend the rest of the heat fighting her way back to the pack. Heat 2 was better and Cfn Norman was slowly moving back, later found out that the gearing was incorrect. Heat 3 wasn't a better story as an exhaust gasket blew and she had to pull into the pits. In the final Cfn Norman had no mechanical issues but the wrong jetting caused performance to be down. In only her second race in the series Cfn Norman showed determination and a tireless effort to get the kart back out on track every time. An immense effort from the most junior soldier on the team.





## PREMIER 33 – LCpl Clement (REME)

LCpl Clement is still carrying novice plates, this was his third competitive race. Free practice showed his skill set is improving as his times were becoming more competitive. All novice drivers have to start at the back of the grid, this gave LCpl Clement two other competitors also on novice plates. Heat 1 started well but a small lock up resulted in a spin and saw LCpl Clement finishing P14. Heat 2 saw LCpl Clement moving up the pack and finishing in P9. Heat 3 was the same story with LCpl Clement maintaining good pace and finishing P8. Those 3 results meant LCpl Clement started the final in 8<sup>th</sup> position. The mechanical gods were not kind though and he had to retire a couple of laps into the race due to a bent axel. Discounting the final LCpl Clement finished the heats in good positions for someone carrying novice plates.





## ENDURANCE 1 – Capt Hall (REME), SSgt Bedingfield (RLC), Bdr Harvey (RA)

Free practice 1 & 2 saw the drivers of Kart 1 shave off over a second by adjusting the kart setup and trying different lines. A second in karting is massive! Capt Hall took the qualifying session, unfortunately not placing very high, the team decided to set the kart up for the weather conditions that were due during the race and not through the qualifying session. Endurance racing is all about consistency and longevity. The race started with Capt Hall fighting his way through the pack. After a crash involving two karts from RAF Waddington the red flag was waved whilst the incident was dealt with. This meant the grid was re-formed and the race started again. The re start played into our favour as the whole grid was now grouped up again. Next up was Bdr Harvey who then took another couple of positions, this left Kart 1 leading the race, consistent laps from Bdr Harvey ensured the kart stayed in P1 for an extended period of time. The final session was SSgt Bedingfield, half way through his session he had to carry out a dummy change, as he pulled in to the weigh bridge and turned the engines off the scrutineers noticed that one of the engines kill switches wasn't working, this meant the kart had to be pulled over for the mechanics to fix it, at the same time it was also noticed that the seat had become loose. By the time these mechanical issues had been fixed the kart had lost around 5 laps, which left the kart in P11. An unfortunate consequence of endurance racing but a strong showing from all 3 drivers.





## ENDURANCE 2 – Sgt Lockyer (REME), LCpl Bishop (REME)

Kart 2 faced the same issue in qualifying, the kart was set up for a heated track surface and not the overcast cooler conditions of the qualifying session. LCpl Bishop was out first and found himself in his favorite position, picking off drivers one by one, before long and after the restart the kart was in the top 3. A quick change to Sgt Lockyer saw a steady session where position was held. It was back to LCpl Bishop again who set consistent fast laps keeping the kart in the top 3. The final session was back to Sgt Lockyer, after a refuel the kart headed back onto the track in P5, the target was kart 50 who was almost a whole lap ahead. Sgt Lockyer was pulling kart 50 in by half a second a lap, unfortunately he ran out of time and the checkered flag was waved just as Sgt Lockyer had got bumper to bumper with kart 50. P5 was an extremely good final position considering the qualifying position. Unknown to the team during one of the driver swaps the kart was weighed and found to be 3kg underweight. After some research the conclusion was drawn that when the kart was weighed all 4 wheels weren't correctly on the weigh bridge. A simple mistake which cost us a 3 lap penalty putting us down into P9.





ENDURANCE 7 – Capt Fountain (RE), Sgt Coates (QRH), Pte Cole (RLC)

Kart 7 set competitive times during FPI & FP2, only a couple tenths off of the leading karts. All looked good for the team of novice drivers for the race. Pte Cole started the race, making good progress, moving through the pack before handing over to Sgt Coates 50 minutes later with a faultless pit stop. 20 minutes into his session disaster struck, Sgt Coates was forced to pull into the pits unexpectedly with a mechanical problem. The support team flew into action to find a sheared king pin on the front right wheel. It was a miracle he was able to get it back to the pits at all as the wheel was virtually unattached from the chassis! An extremely unusual failure, which took some resourceful thinking from the support staff to solve, as an exact spare was not to hand. The mechanics worked quickly to get kart 7 back out onto the track and into the fight once more. The last session was down to Capt Fountain to bring the kart home. Overall an impressive P13 from the team despite the extended period of time in the pits and considering it's only the second race for all three drivers. Kart 7's journey and progression is showing all the signs that they will be front runners in the near future.





Support Staff – Mr Hall (Chef), Cpl Firkins (Mechanic), Cpl Todd (Mechanic), LCpl Allain (Mechanic)

No race weekend would be possible without the help from the team support staff. Mr Hall ensured that all team members had nutritious food available, even at times force feeding lettuce, tomatoes and fruits, a welcome change from trackside burgers and hotdogs. All 3 mechanics are worth their weight in gold, changing gearing, playing with kart setup, all in between sessions when time pressure is on and drivers are demanding a kart that does what they want it to do. Without the help from all these elements it simply would not be possible to do what we do.

