

2017 CAMS SKA/NSW NGB Stock Honda Nationals Sydney Motorsport Park Gardner March 4th & 5th Superkarts NGB Rotax and Stock Honda Nationals

Report and Images by Riccardo Benvenuti

One of the hottest summers on record had finally come to an end, and the arrival of autumn also coincided with the start of the NSW Motor Race Championship. Leading up to this event Sydney was hit by bad weather, and it would continue throughout the weekend. This meet at Sydney Motorsport Park would also host a round of the SKA National Superkart Series and the format was split evenly between the National drivers and the State contingency. Both would participate in one qualifying session and four races.



The Superkarts came out to qualify late Saturday Morning and Paul Degan made the most of the slippery condition to claim pole, alongside him was Mitchell Quirk. The second row was occupied by Stewart Matthews and Laurence Fooks. The fastest of the NGB Karts was Mark Vickers (5th position) and highest qualifying 85cc kart was Scott Jamieson. With all positions settled the drivers were ready for the first two races to be held Saturday afternoon.

Mark Vickers was not able to make the starting grid and had to commence the first race while in the pits. A clean start by all, Quirk and Fooks lead the field into turn 2 and where closely followed by Degan and Matthews. Degan and Quirk took control at the front and dived for the lead for the duration of the race. Matthew held on to the leading duo as best as he can while fourth position driver Fooks was losing ground to the pace setters.

Plenty of midfield battles intensified; Allan Parker, David Fimeri and Jack Makay more often than not dived for the same piece of road while the battle between Ken Williams and Allan Dodge was a pleasure to watch. The first race went to Degan who in turn was only 1 tenth of a second in front of Quirk. 3rd place went to a hard charging Matthews. The first Kart home in NGB was Leigh Grant (5th) while the 85cc win went to Scott Jamieson. The conditions on the track were treacherous and all competitors did extremely well by just staying on the black stuff, only 3 DNF out of 23 starters was a great effort by all.

Race two also held on Saturday afternoon with similar conditions to the first race. Fooks made a brilliant start and was followed by Degan, Quirk and Matthews. The leaders arrived at turn two and made it around with no major incident, unfortunately that cannot be said about the rest of the field. Justin Levis, Adam Blattman and Leigh Grant came together resulting in all 3 Karts spinning towards the outfield at turn 2. Grant's Kart found its way at least 10m off the track while Levis and Blattman got going again to re-join the back of the field. Grant had to step out of his machine to push it towards terra ferma, eventually re-joining after having lost plenty of time.

Like the previous race the four leading karts broke away, Tony Moit was circulating in a comfortable fifth position while Parker, Vickers and Blake Roesse battled for sixth. Behind them was another great dice between Dodge, Fimeri and Lauren Shand. The final result was Fooks 1st, Matthew 2nd and Quirk 3rd for Stock Honda. 1st home in NGB was Moit while Jamieson won 85cc maintaining his perfect record.



The sun came out just before the start of the third race, this would be a welcome change for the drivers. On a dry track Fooks made a brilliant start finding himself in the lead, he was closely followed by Degan, Matthew and Quirk. By the third lap Matthews claimed a short lived lead as it was Degan's turn the following lap. This spirited battle lasted the whole race, and it was the same in the midfield; Dodge, Moit, Grant, Parker and Jamieson swapped position till the end. The final result was Fook 1st, Degan 2nd and Matthews 3rd in Stock Honda. The winner in NGB was Vickers while Jamieson took out 85cc.

The fourth and final race was held late Sunday afternoon and it was back to wet weather running. Fooks continued where he left off in the previous race, he lead every lap to take another win making it three wins for the round. Matthews and Degan fought a great battle for second position, Matthews prevailed finishing 2nd while Degan made an error and fell down the field. Quirk capitalized at front to claim 3rd rewarding his tenacity and hard work. Allan Parker had a moment at turn two while dicing with the pack, he was fortunate to continue racing without much time loss. Vickers was again the first home in NGB and in 85cc there were no finishers.

The 2017 SKA NGB Stock Honda Nationals

final positions were:

Stock Honda

1st Laurie Fooks 78 pts
2nd Paul Degan 70 pts
3rd Stewart Matthews 69 pts

Rotax Light

1st Blake Roesse 76 pts
2nd Mark Vickers 65 pts
3rd Lauren Shand 63 pts

Rotax Heavy

1st Tony Moit 74 pts
2nd Alan Dodge 74 pts
3rd Leigh Grant 73 pts



Courtesy Riccardo Benvenuti

