



BRSCC Formula Ford 1600 – Northern Race Report 03: issued 15<sup>th</sup> July 2010

**Northern Championship: Rounds 5 & 6**  
**Venue: Anglesey Circuit - Coastal**  
**Date: 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> June 2010**

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**Images: Bourne Photographic**

## Introduction

Rounds five and six of the 2010 Avon Tyres Formula Ford 1600 Northern Championship took place at Anglesey Circuit over the weekend of 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> June, utilising the challenging Coastal configuration of the North Wales circuit. Entry numbers were somewhat down compared to the first two meetings of the year, and so while the Post-89 and Pre-90 competitors would still be competing for their own championships, all the cars ran together in two races over the weekend. The format was a great success, with all the drivers enjoying close, competitive racing, wherever they were running in the field.

## Qualifying – Saturday

Dry, sunny weather greeted the 22 drivers for Saturday's 20 minute qualifying session. Championship leader, Jordan Skinner, was soon at the head of the timing screens, but the Australian looked rather less comfortable with the handling of his Ray than he had done all season. There was clearly a strong opportunity for a challenge on pole position by the drivers right behind him; Neil Patten, Martin Short, Lee Hannam, Doug Crosbie and Neil McArthur. Patten was looking particularly competitive, with this being especially impressive given that the driver was far from the best of health on the day.

Hannam running in provisional fifth place was the best of the Pre-90 field, with Nigel Dolan and John Farrell also sitting inside the top ten. Team Red and Black Racing's Nigel Thompson and Kevin Donnelly having been focusing their 2010 efforts on a European championship campaign, but it was a pleasure to welcome the two Pre-90 drivers back to the Northern Championship for this meeting. It was also a pleasure to welcome long distance traveller, Jaap Blijleven – a long trek to a meeting in anybody's book, but particularly so given that the Dutch driver was only able to compete on the Saturday of the meeting!!!!

Out on track the Anglesey twists and turns were proving as challenging as ever, with spins and excursions on to the grass for Neil McArthur, David Gavan and Andrew Thomas to name but a few. By half distance, Patten's pressure was paying off as the Warrington driver moved himself into provisional pole position. Grip levels were proving to be somewhat lower than the previous day's testing, with Skinner, Dolan and Pete Booker being amongst those coming into the pit lane to make tyre pressure changes during the session.

As the chequered flag approached, Neil McArthur managed to squeeze in one final spin on his last lap, while at the head of the field Patten combated his ill health to take a very impressive pole ahead of Skinner. After a disappointing start





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to the year by his own standards, Short was pleased with third on the grid ahead of Neil McArthur and John Murphy. Hannam in sixth was the best of the Pre-90 field, with Crosbie in seventh and Donnelly in eighth. Neil's son, David McArthur, posted a very credible ninth spot qualifying time in his first meeting, with Dolan equally impressive to be rounding out the top ten in his class D Van Diemen.

### Avon Tyres Formula Ford 1600 Northern Division QUALIFYING - RACE 3 - CLASSIFICATION

POS	NO	CL	NAME	ENTRY	TIME	ON	LAPS	GAP	DIFF	MPH
1	0	A	Neil PATTEN	Van Diemen RF99	1:12.256	5	8			77.22
2	9	A	Jordan SKINNER	Ray GRK10	1:12.403	5	13	0.147	0.147	77.06
3	7	A	Martin SHORT	Van Diemen RF00	1:12.927	8	11	0.671	0.524	76.51
4	16	A	Neil McARTHUR	Van Diemen RF00	1:13.113	12	14	0.857	0.186	76.32
5	91	A	John MURPHY	Van Diemen RF99	1:13.367	16	16	1.111	0.254	76.05
6	44	C	Lee HANNAM	Reynard RF88	1:13.456	8	9	1.200	0.089	75.96
7	54	A	Douglas CROSBIE	Van Diemen RF00	1:13.528	13	14	1.272	0.072	75.88
8	47	C	Kevin DONNELLY	Van Diemen RF88	1:13.631	8	15	1.375	0.103	75.78
9	15	A	David McARTHUR	Van Diemen RF04/09	1:13.647	8	16	1.391	0.016	75.76
10	4	D	Nigel DOLAN	Van Diemen RF86	1:13.745	6	15	1.489	0.098	75.66
11	27	C	John FARRELL	Reynard FF89	1:13.930	6	14	1.674	0.185	75.47
12	1	C	Nigel THOMPSON	Van Diemen RF88	1:14.047	7	16	1.791	0.117	75.35
13	99	A	Jeff HODGSON	Van Diemen RF02	1:14.419	12	16	2.163	0.372	74.98
14	10	C	Jaap BLIJLEVEN	Reynard FF88	1:14.891	6	15	2.635	0.472	74.50
15	40	D	Mike STEWART	Van Diemen RF86	1:15.266	13	16	3.010	0.375	74.13
16	36	B	Pete BOOKER	Swift SC95	1:15.290	6	15	3.034	0.024	74.11
17	33	C	Andrew THOMAS	Reynard SF89	1:15.828	14	15	3.572	0.538	73.58
18	2	D	John WILKINSON	Van Diemen RF86	1:15.955	4	15	3.699	0.127	73.46
19	26	D	Mike MULLINS	Van Diemen RF86	1:16.208	14	15	3.952	0.253	73.22
20	81	A	David GAVAN	Van Diemen RF96	1:17.089	15	15	4.833	0.881	72.38
21	21	D	Barry THOMPSON	Van Diemen RF86	1:17.209	9	15	4.953	0.120	72.27
22	52	D	Trevor MORGAN	Van Diemen RF86	1:17.907	11	15	5.651	0.698	71.62

## Race - Saturday

Although Neil Patten had grabbed the upper hand earlier in the day in qualifying, Jordan Skinner made his best start of the year so far when the lights went out on the grid, and propelled himself into the lead through the first corner. Martin Short got away well from third on the grid, although contact with Neil McArthur on the opening lap put him into a spin and right to the back of the running order by the start of lap two. A strong race start, coupled with Short's spin, ensured Lee Hannam was up from sixth on the grid to fourth spot by the end of the opening lap.



In the laps that followed Skinner once again set about opening up an advantage at the head of the field. Patten was equally safe in second spot, but seemed unable to match the pace of the race leader. Behind him, a number of individual duels were developing for the following positions. Neil McArthur and Lee Hannam were competing for third spot, with Kevin Donnelly and John Murphy for fifth, and Nigel Thompson and Doug Crosbie for seventh. Crosbie particularly was looking for any passing opportunity, and as Thompson was forced to defend the position, this



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allowed five other cars to tag onto the back of battle, to make a seven car train. David McArthur, Jaap Blijleven, John Farrell, Jeff Hodgson and Nigel Dolan all joined the party, with Mike Stewart also not far off the back of the group.

Crosbie's pressure eventually paid off as he passed Thompson and started pulling away. In the middle of the following group, there was contact between Farrell and Blijleven, both drivers were able to continue but it did brake up the chain of battling cars. Meanwhile, up ahead Murphy made a clean overtake on Donnelly for fifth spot in the braking zone for Rocket. He then set his sights on fourth place man Hannam, eventually taking the position with an identical passing move. Elsewhere, Mike Mullins was circulating with no nose cone, the offending item deciding to fall off of its own accord.

As the second half of the race unfolded, Thompson found himself trading places with David McArthur for eighth spot. Both drivers also needed to watch their back, as they would ultimately fall victim to Short on a race long recovery driver after his opening lap spin. Also working hard to recover from earlier contact was Farrell in his Reynard FF89. Back at the head of the field, Skinner was maintaining a comfortable eight to nine second advantage over Patten. Donnelly in sixth had an unfortunate spin in his Van Diemen, allowing Crosbie the opportunity to close in and grab the position.



Skinner held his advantage all the way to the chequered flag to take the race win and also the fastest lap honours; being the only driver to get into the one minute twelve second bracket. Patten finished second, and while Murphy was closing on third place man, Neil McArthur, in the latter stages of the race he was not close enough to pass before the end. Hannam finished fifth overall, and Pre-90 race winner with a very polished and professional drive. Crosbie was sixth, with Donnelly in seventh (and second in Pre-90). Short, David McArthur and Nigel Dolan rounded of the top ten, with the latter finishing third overall in Pre-90, and class D winner.



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### Avon Tyres Formula Ford 1600 Northern Division RACE 3 - CLASSIFICATION

POS	NO	CL	NAME	ENTRY	LAPS	TIME	GAP	DIFF	MPH	BEST	ON
1	9	A	Jordan SKINNER	Ray GRK10	17	20:49.418			75.92	1:12.714	3
2	0	A	Neil PATTEN	Van Diemen RF99	17	20:59.503	10.085	10.085	75.31	1:13.211	6
3	16	A	Neil McARTHUR	Van Diemen RF00	17	21:06.157	16.739	6.654	74.92	1:13.456	4
4	91	A	John MURPHY	Van Diemen RF99	17	21:06.585	17.167	0.428	74.89	1:13.576	11
5	44	C	Lee HANNAM	Reynard RF88	17	21:13.029	23.611	6.444	74.51	1:13.905	9
6	54	A	Douglas CROSBIE	Van Diemen RF00	17	21:17.818	28.400	4.789	74.23	1:13.870	5
7	47	C	Kevin DONNELLY	Van Diemen RF88	17	21:18.260	28.842	0.442	74.21	1:14.038	6
8	7	A	Martin SHORT	Van Diemen RF00	17	21:23.957	34.539	5.697	73.88	1:13.802	11
9	15	A	David McARTHUR	Van Diemen RF04/09	17	21:27.422	38.004	3.465	73.68	1:14.266	8
10	4	D	Nigel DOLAN	Van Diemen RF86	17	21:29.587	40.169	2.165	73.55	1:14.625	13
11	99	A	Jeff HODGSON	Van Diemen RF02	17	21:30.766	41.348	1.179	73.49	1:14.615	13
12	1	C	Nigel THOMPSON	Van Diemen RF88	17	21:32.057	42.639	1.291	73.41	1:14.350	15
13	10	C	Jaap BLIJLEVEN	Reynard FF88	17	21:37.579	48.161	5.522	73.10	1:14.552	7
14	27	C	John FARRELL	Reynard FF89	17	21:40.436	51.018	2.857	72.94	1:13.938	7
15	33	C	Andrew THOMAS	Reynard SF89	17	22:03.461	1:14.043	23.025	71.67	1:16.352	4
16	36	B	Pete BOOKER	Swift SC95	17	22:06.356	1:16.938	2.895	71.51	1:15.330	7
17	2	D	John WILKINSON	Van Diemen RF86	16	20:51.149	1 lap	1 lap	71.35	1:16.438	3
18	26	D	Mike MULLINS	Van Diemen RF86	16	20:51.952	1 lap	0.803	71.31	1:16.794	7
19	81	A	David GAVAN	Van Diemen RF96	16	20:52.454	1 lap	0.502	71.28	1:16.507	8
20	21	D	Barry THOMPSON	Van Diemen RF86	16	20:56.063	1 lap	3.609	71.07	1:16.998	4
21	52	D	Trevor MORGAN	Van Diemen RF86	16	21:26.304	1 lap	30.241	69.40	1:18.643	14
NOT CLASSIFIED											
DNF	40	D	Mike STEWART	Van Diemen RF86	10	12:49.941	7 laps	6 laps	72.47	1:14.909	6
FASTEST LAP											
9	A	Jordan SKINNER	Ray GRK10	3	1:12.714	76.73 mph	123.50 kph				
44	C	Lee HANNAM	Reynard RF88	9	1:13.905	75.50 mph	121.51 kph				
4	D	Nigel DOLAN	Van Diemen RF86	13	1:14.625	74.77 mph	120.33 kph				
36	B	Pete BOOKER	Swift SC95	7	1:15.330	74.07 mph	119.21 kph				

## Qualifying - Sunday

The excellent conditions continued for day two of the meeting, with plenty more dry, sunny weather for Sunday's racing. Although Dutch driver, Jaap Blijleven, was unable to compete on Sunday, there were still 22 cars present as the second day of the meeting saw the first outing for new driver, Ryan Dignan. Jordan Skinner was once again to the fore in the opening minutes of qualifying, with his early competition coming from Martin Short, Lee Hannam and Neil McArthur. Neil Patten was an early visitor to the pit lane, but was soon back out into the fray and challenging amongst the leading times.

As the laps unfolded, John Murphy also moved into the top four on the time sheet.



Hannam was once again leading the way amongst the Pre-90 drivers, with fellow class C men, John Farrell, Nigel Thompson and Kevin Donnelly not far behind. Class D's Mike Stewart was providing plenty of entertainment with arm full's of opposite lock through the final corner. Later in the session, the car would get the better of him with a spin and continue for the Cheshire driver. Other drivers having offs



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during the session included Donnelly, John Wilkinson and Neil McArthur. Further down the order, Barry Thompson had a late charge in the closing minutes to move two places up the order.

As the session drew to a close, the front row positions were reversed from the previous day, with Skinner taking pole from Patten, by 0.3 seconds. Neil McArthur and Short made up row two of the grid, ahead of Murphy and Doug Crosbie. Top Pre-90 qualifier, Hannam was seventh alongside one of his championship rivals, Nigel Dolan, in eighth. David McArthur repeated his qualifying result of the previous day with ninth on the grid, with class C man and Pre-90 championship leader, Farrell completing the top ten.

### Avon Tyres Formula Ford 1600 Northern Division QUALIFYING - RACE 17 - CLASSIFICATION

POS	NO	CL	NAME	ENTRY	TIME	ON	LAPS	GAP	DIFF	MPH
1	9	A	Jordan SKINNER	Ray GRK10	1:12.171	11	12			77.31
2	0	A	Neil PATTEN	Van Diemen RF99	1:12.438	4	13	0.267	0.267	77.03
3	16	A	Neil McARTHUR	Van Diemen RF00	1:12.660	4	15	0.489	0.222	76.79
4	7	A	Martin SHORT	Van Diemen RF00	1:12.771	5	15	0.600	0.111	76.67
5	91	A	John MURPHY	Van Diemen RF99	1:12.914	4	15	0.743	0.143	76.52
6	54	A	Douglas CROSBIE	Van Diemen RF00	1:13.043	12	15	0.872	0.129	76.39
7	44	C	Lee HANNAM	Reynard RF88	1:13.194	10	12	1.023	0.151	76.23
8	4	D	Nigel DOLAN	Van Diemen RF86	1:13.331	11	15	1.160	0.137	76.09
9	15	A	David McARTHUR	Van Diemen RF04/09	1:13.339	11	16	1.168	0.008	76.08
10	27	C	John FARRELL	Reynard FF89	1:13.398	9	16	1.227	0.059	76.02
11	1	C	Nigel THOMPSON	Van Diemen RF88	1:13.738	4	12	1.567	0.340	75.67
12	47	C	Kevin DONNELLY	Van Diemen RF88	1:13.948	6	16	1.777	0.210	75.45
13	99	A	Jeff HODGSON	Van Diemen RF02	1:14.234	5	13	2.063	0.286	75.16
14	40	D	Mike STEWART	Van Diemen RF86	1:14.521	9	15	2.350	0.287	74.87
15	2	D	John WILKINSON	Van Diemen RF86	1:15.354	7	15	3.183	0.833	74.05
16	33	C	Andrew THOMAS	Reynard SF89	1:15.509	14	16	3.338	0.155	73.89
17	36	B	Pete BOOKER	Swift SC95	1:15.773	12	15	3.602	0.284	73.64
18	21	D	Barry THOMPSON	Van Diemen RF86	1:16.540	15	15	4.369	0.767	72.90
19	26	D	Mike MULLINS	Van Diemen RF86	1:17.051	13	15	4.880	0.511	72.42
20	81	A	David GAVAN	Van Diemen RF96	1:17.200	7	15	5.029	0.149	72.28
21	52	D	Trevor MORGAN	Van Diemen RF86	1:17.966	12	14	5.795	0.766	71.57
22	29	C	Ryan DIGNAN	Van Diemen RF89	1:18.800	10	11	6.629	0.834	70.81

## Race - Sunday

At the start of Sunday's 20 minute race, Jordan Skinner made his second quick getaway of the weekend to lead the field from pole position. The first lap was largely uneventful, and in the laps that followed, the lead three of Skinner, Neil Patten and Martin Short began opening up an advantage over the rest of the field. Leading the charge behind them was another of trio class A cars in the form of Neil McArthur, John Murphy and Doug Crosbie. Lee Hannam led the Pre-90 field in fifth place overall, with his close rival, John Farrell, right on the gearbox of ninth place man, Nigel Thompson.

Sadly Ryan Dignan's first meeting didn't see him make it to the chequered flag with an off into the tyre wall at the exit of Church corner. There was damage to one corner of the car, but fortunately the driver was





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unhurt. Farrell was continuing to push hard, perhaps a little too much so, as the Warrington driver ran wide through the first corner getting all four wheels off onto the grass. Elsewhere, Kevin Donnelly's race was over after three laps with a retirement at The Corkscrew, while there were also spins for class B's Pete Booker and class D's Mike Stewart, as well as a very sideways moment at Rocket for Barry Thompson.

By half race distance, leader Skinner had broken clear at the head of the field, leaving teammates, Patten and Short battling for second. Murphy and Crosbie were fighting for fifth spot, while Nigel Thompson, Nigel Dolan and David McArthur were battling for eighth. The contest for fifteenth place was between Barry Thompson, Mike Mullins and a recovering Stewart, while just behind them Trevor Morgan was in close quarters with David Gavan. Crosbie's pressure finally paid off as he grabbed fifth from Murphy with an out braking manoeuvre up the hill into the Rocket complex.

The combined race certainly provided great entertainment for the drivers and spectators alike. For example, David McArthur was running right on the gearbox of Dolan, despite the former being a Post-89 driver, and the latter a Pre-90. Similarly between Gavan and Morgan further down the order. With ten laps complete, second place man Patten's race sadly came to a premature end at The Corkscrew with a blown engine. However this would not leave Short with much breathing space, as he then found himself under scrutiny from Crosbie who was having a particularly strong second half of the race. This was a return to an old on-track rivalry, with the pair having spent seemingly the entire 2009 season never more than a few inches apart. For two successive laps, Crosbie got right alongside out of Church corner, but Short just managed to hold the advantage into Rocket. Eventually however, Crosbie managed to make a passing move and complete it to take second position.



At the chequered flag, Skinner took his second win of the weekend, making it five out of six for the season so far. Crosbie in second and Short in third both earned well overdue podiums, with Murphy finishing fifth and Neil McArthur in sixth. In Pre-90, Hannam in seventh was also a double winner for the weekend, closing right up on Farrell in the battle for the championship lead. David McArthur took his impressive second top ten finish of the weekend in seventh, with Nigel Thompson, Dolan, and Jeff Hodgson rounding out the top ten. Skinner completed a maximum points haul for the day with the fastest lap honours.



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**Avon Tyres Formula Ford 1600 Northern Division  
RACE 17 - CLASSIFICATION**

POS	NO	CL	NAME	ENTRY	LAPS	TIME	GAP	DIFF	MPH	BEST	ON
1	9	A	Jordan SKINNER	Ray GRK10	17	20:47.716			76.02	1:12.846	6
2	54	A	Douglas CROSBIE	Van Diemen RF00	17	21:04.892	17.176	17.176	74.99	1:13.091	10
3	7	A	Martin SHORT	Van Diemen RF00	17	21:05.525	17.809	0.633	74.95	1:13.413	2
4	91	A	John MURPHY	Van Diemen RF99	17	21:06.230	18.514	0.705	74.91	1:13.467	9
5	16	A	Neil McARTHUR	Van Diemen RF00	17	21:10.590	22.874	4.360	74.65	1:13.549	5
6	44	C	Lee HANNAM	Reynard RF88	17	21:13.789	26.073	3.199	74.47	1:14.030	3
7	15	A	David McARTHUR	Van Diemen RF04/09	17	21:21.941	34.225	8.152	73.99	1:14.011	16
8	1	C	Nigel THOMPSON	Van Diemen RF88	17	21:23.688	35.972	1.747	73.89	1:14.494	5
9	4	D	Nigel DOLAN	Van Diemen RF86	17	21:24.258	36.542	0.570	73.86	1:14.436	4
10	99	A	Jeff HODGSON	Van Diemen RF02	17	21:25.459	37.743	1.201	73.79	1:14.426	17
11	27	C	John FARRELL	Reynard FF89	17	21:26.174	38.458	0.715	73.75	1:13.838	8
12	33	C	Andrew THOMAS	Reynard SF89	17	21:54.687	1:06.971	28.513	72.15	1:16.042	4
13	40	D	Mike STEWART	Van Diemen RF86	17	21:58.113	1:10.397	3.426	71.96	1:14.729	5
14	2	D	John WILKINSON	Van Diemen RF86	17	22:00.536	1:12.820	2.423	71.83	1:16.404	10
15	36	B	Pete BOOKER	Swift SC95	16	20:48.839	1 lap	1 lap	71.49	1:15.659	4
16	26	D	Mike MULLINS	Van Diemen RF86	16	20:52.470	1 lap	3.631	71.28	1:16.729	3
17	81	A	David GAVAN	Van Diemen RF96	16	20:55.656	1 lap	3.186	71.10	1:16.738	16
18	21	D	Barry THOMPSON	Van Diemen RF86	16	20:56.376	1 lap	0.720	71.06	1:17.020	4
19	52	D	Trevor MORGAN	Van Diemen RF86	16	21:09.779	1 lap	13.403	70.31	1:17.131	8
NOT CLASSIFIED											
DNF	0	A	Neil PATTEN	Van Diemen RF99	10	12:22.360	7 laps	6 laps	75.16	1:13.221	3
DNF	47	C	Kevin DONNELLY	Van Diemen RF88	3	3:52.227	14 laps	7 laps	72.08	1:14.453	3
DNF	29	C	Ryan DIGMAN	Van Diemen RF99	3	4:05.460	14 laps	13.233	68.19	1:18.242	3
FASTEST LAP											
9	A	Jordan SKINNER	Ray GRK10	6	1:12.846			76.60 mph		123.27 kph	
27	C	John FARRELL	Reynard FF89	8	1:13.838			75.57 mph		121.62 kph	
4	D	Nigel DOLAN	Van Diemen RF86	4	1:14.436			74.96 mph		120.64 kph	
36	B	Pete BOOKER	Swift SC95	4	1:15.659			73.75 mph		118.69 kph	

Rounds seven and eight of the 2010 Avon Tyres Northern Formula 1600cc Championship will take place at Oulton Park on 31 July.

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