



Talking Stox – Summer 2024 Edition

What Can We Expect Heading Into The 2024/2025 MSRA Season?



Welcome to the first edition of “Talking Stox”! This new-look report is designed to be a brief rundown of all things MSRA as our 2024/2025 season is firmly on the horizon! Keep your eyes peeled throughout the season as monthly editions will be released each grading period!

Enjoy!

#488 Elliott Shaw

Fixtures, New Events & New Start Times...

After a condensed fixture list in 2023/2024, the proposed list for 2024/2025 will see a slight increase in meeting numbers with a planned **33 meetings** and a brilliant **9 different tracks** to race on!

This season will also see the arrival of the new **“Alternative Format”** meetings with a total of 9 specific dates dotted across the fixtures ready to host what should be a great series of events.

We also have some changes to a few meeting start times at select dates with all Saturday meetings (bar a December double-header) now starting at the earlier time of **7pm**. Plus, there will be some Sunday meetings which will alternate between a **1pm** start and a **2pm** start. Make sure to check the full fixture list to save the times!

The Reimagining of the “Postage Stamp”

555 Promotions leader, Richard Sleeman, has confirmed that his unique “postage stamp” circuit will be getting an overhaul in the summer break in anticipation to host the 2025 Midland Final!

The plans have shown that the track will boast long straights, large contact points and a fast improvement on the existing layout so sounds promising!

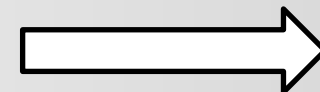
I cannot wait to see how this track is to race on!

The Return of the Speedy D!

After a year on the sidelines, 2024/2025 will see the return of long-time promoter Dean Tressler at the helm of Speedy Promotions once more.

This also means the full-time return of the tight and technical D-shaped Speedy circuit which is always a tough task to race on and tends to bring lots of close action and on-track carnage!

Welcome back, Dean!





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Practice Makes Perfect!

For a chance to dust off the cobwebs and get your eye in before the season starts proper, make sure you visit Brandon Club on **Sunday 27th October** for a practice meeting hosted by **Baylis Raceway** with a start time of **1pm!**

There is a chance that the new **555 Promotions** circuit will also be present for its first real test session in advance of the new season commencing – more details are likely to follow so keep a look out for the announcement on Facebook!

New Season, New Rules...

A few rule changes were voted in at last year's AGM so don't forget to read up on these before the new season takes effect!

The biggest rule change was the overhaul of the **White Top Championship** which now sees **all** White graded drivers eligible to take part at each meeting score valuable points towards the season-long championship.

Trophies for the race winners remain and a new “monthly” award will be given to the top White graded driver each month!

Championships, When & Where for 2025?

Always a talking point heading into every MSRA season is the list of championship events and what we can expect from the big finals in the upcoming season.

Below is a brief list of what is up for grabs in 2025 and where the main final events will be shaping up to be won at:

- **Midland Final** – 555 Promotions
- **Rosebowl Final** – Amethyst
- **Midland Masters** – MAD Raceway
- **Novice of the Year** – 555 Promotions
- **Junior Final** – Baylis Raceway
- **Ladies Final** – Speedy
- **Minor Final** – Wreck-It Raceway
- **Supreme Final** – MAD Raceway

If last year's championship events are anything to go by, 2025 should see an even more competitive battle for title honours!





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Driver Spotlight – Who and What to Look Out for in 2025...

After the most dominant season in MSRA history, **#488 Elliott Shaw** heads into 2025 with the biggest target on his back imaginable. Defending a record 5 championships this season, everyone will be out to beat him at all costs and only time will tell if he can continue his incredible run of form into the new year.

After a spell of 2 magnificent seasons, **#184 James Wilford** has to be a solid candidate to thwart the efforts of the #488 machine. A fierce and fast racer, James must head into 2025 feeling confident of challenging for the top accolades in the MSRA again.

#380 Chris Radley is another driver who ended last season in fine form with a smattering of plaudits culminating in both his 5th consecutive Midland Final podium and 5th top 3 finish in the points table. He will be hoping that this form continues into the new season and be in the hunt for the major titles once more.

#154 Jack Reynolds finished in the top 4 in the points championship and made his debut Midland Final to ensure that 2024 was his best season to date. He will surely head into the new campaign full of confidence and look to be at the sharp end to battle the elite in the biggest title events again this season.

The battle between the Red graded drivers in 2023/2024 was incredible to witness with the entire grade of 5 drivers separated by just 29 points on last season's end of year list.

Surely the desire to disrupt this pack of drivers will be on the minds of the top Blue graders from last season so it will be interesting to see how **#228 Paul Taylor**, **#247 James Sleeman-Whitmore** and **#213 James Kinton** progress throughout the course of the 2025 season and whether any of them can mix it up with the current Red graded racers!





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Returning for just over half of last season's meetings, **#260 Nigel Shaw** will surely be heading into the new season wanting to return for the full campaign and do battle for the top title honours once more so keep an eye on the returning Chairman in 2025!

The 2024 Novice of the Year, **#35 Kyle Neale**, had an amazing debut season last year making 4 meeting Finals and reaching the Junior and Supreme Finals. Going into his second season, his target must surely be to fly up the grades to Red, but will he be able to do it?

Surely a candidate to dominate the Junior Finals for years to come, **#15 Natalia Higgins-Bedford** also had a meteoric rise in 2024 claiming the Grand National Championship along with the Minors Championship. If she can keep up her consistency, she has a very realistic chance of reaching and maintaining a Blue grade across the 2025 campaign!

We were treated to 13 brand new members who joined our raceways in 2024 and some of the standout names from this list include **#333 Duncan Bullock** alongside Father and Son duo **#373 Andy Hodgson** and **#272 Luca Hodgson**. Duncan ended the season on a high by clinching the White Top Championship and both Luca and Andy managed to reach and maintain a Yellow grade in their maiden season.

All three of these drivers start 2025 from Yellow and are also joined there by two other 2024 Novices in the form of **#5 Charlie Willey** and **#125 Garry Bench**.

This 5-way battle could be incredibly interesting throughout the course of 2025 so I'm excited to see where they all end up on the final Grading List at the end of the season! The question is, who will be first to make it to Blue grade?

Let battle commence!





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And Finally...

Well, there you have it. The 2024/2025 MSRA season is firmly on the horizon and a lot of new and exciting challenges are sure to be present to test even the best drivers!

Personally, I am looking forward to the variety of championship events and the circuits which are hosting them across the 2024/2025 campaign as I feel that all of the big championship finals could be closely-fought affairs.

In particular, MAD Raceway hosting the Midland Masters could throw up a level of unpredictability which we have rarely seen in that championship since its inception in 2018 due to the nature of the long straights and relative evenness in terms of lane advantage – let's hope the final can be a great one whatever happens!

I'm also intrigued to see the outcome of the modifications which Richard Sleeman will be making to his 555 "postage stamp" circuit but, from the designs he has spoken about, it seems sure to be a fast bumper-wielding track to rival the most carnage-creating circuits in MSRA history! One thing's for sure, the Midland Final should be interesting on that track!

Aside from that, I hope everyone is enjoying the summer break and close season and is ready for the upcoming challenges facing us all as the MSRA blasts back into noise in November!

It will be here before you know it!

#488 Elliott Shaw