



Talking Stox – 2024/2025 Edition No.6

A Frantic Fortnight To End The 2024/2025 MSRA Season...



The 2024/2025 MSRA season has raced its final laps with a short and snappy fortnight of racing action to bring the season to a close. Here are the best bits of the action from the final 4 meetings of the year!

#488 Elliott Shaw

Meeting #30 @ Baylis Raceway – Saturday 22/02/2025

A solid turnout of 40 racers prepared to do battle at the final meeting of the season at Baylis Raceway and, as was the case last weekend, the Heats belonged to Lane 6 with 5x wins in a row to kick things off. The Consi's continued the outer lane showcase of speed although good drives from #63, #170 and #12 ensured they progressed to the QF races from Lane 3 with a few surprise outer-lane drivers being beaten in the process.

The QF races were pretty subdued apart from QF2 where we astonishingly saw driver after driver fall by the wayside with #260 and #886 both hitting mechanical issues whilst #207 and #333 both ended upside down allowing #63 to cruise home to score her first QF win of the season! That meant only 13 drivers gridded in 3 SFs but, predictably, we saw all qualifiers come from Lanes 4-6 as the Final awaited the top 6 racers.

The Final line-up was a mass exodus of 2x Reds and 4x S/Ss ensuring a close and quick race was in the pipeline. After an early squabble for the lead with #555, it was #107 who got to grips with the tight Lane 1 to lead away as #53 hunted him down from Lane 4. What followed was yet another great duel for Final honours on this track with #107 eventually overcooking it on the very last turn to allow #53 to swoop around to claim his 2nd Final win of the season by just 0.172s! #380 was just over a lap shy in 3rd as #488 had a race to forget with grip issues down in 4th just in front of #555 in 5th as #8 failed to make it through the first lap!

The annual "Over 60s" races ended proceedings, and a fine battle ensued between #203, #390 and #260 for the most part of the Final with #390 going for the hit on #203 with a few laps to go and rolling himself out! The final 5 laps was a race between #260 and #203 as they battled to the line for honours. In the end, it was #260 who held off the charge to scoop his first Over 60s title in his first eligible season to take the win by 0.340s in front of long-time leader #203 in 2nd. #170 put in a fine drive from Lane 1 to clinch a podium as defending champ #207 ended in 4th as the final classified finisher after #390 and #142 both failed to finish at the end.

Heats (only winners required):

Heat 1: 488
Heat 2: 260
Heat 3: 53
Heat 4: 8
Heat 5: 380
Heat 6: 333
Heat 7: 422

Consolations (top 3 to QFs):

Consi 1: 13, 207, 9, 3, 44, -
Consi 2: 107, 391, 63, 142, 225, -
Consi 3: 7, 22, 170, 390, 199, 75
Consi 4: 555, 203, 228, 133, -
Consi 5: 886, 211, 605, 66, -
Consi 6: 247, 115, 12, 51, 125

Quarter-Finals (top 3 to SFs):

QF 1: 247, 8, 228, 170, -
QF 2: 63, -, -, -, -
QF 3: 53, 9, 605, 391, -
QF 4: 380, 107, 12, 13, -
QF 5: 211, 488, 555, 115, -

Semi-Finals (top 2 to Final):

SF 1: 488, 8, 63, 9, 605
SF 2: 53, 107, 211, 12
SF 3: 380, 555, -, -

FINAL:

53, 107, 380, 488, 555, -

Grand Nationals:

GN 1: 12, 170, 58, G45, -, -
GN 2: 203, 63, 133, -, -
GN 3: 225, 199, 3, -, -
GN 4: 53, 555, 422, 247, 207, 51
GN 5: 107, 8, 22, 142, 115, -
GN 6: 380, 13, 605, 391, 7, -
GN 7: 390, 9, -, -, -

WTR 1: 44, 125, -, -

WTR 2: 225, 3, 133, 58

Over 60s SF 1:

170, 390, 207, 115, 125, -

Over 60s SF 2:

203, 260, 142, 228, 51, 886

OVER 60s FINAL:

260, 203, 170, 207, -, -





Talking Stox – 2024/2025 Edition No.6

A Frantic Fortnight To End The 2024/2025 MSRA Season...

Meeting #31 @ 555 Promotions – Sunday 23/02/2025

Heats (only winners required):

Heat 1: 380
Heat 2: 207
Heat 3: 391
Heat 4: 555
Heat 5: 107
Heat 6: 488

Consolations (top 3 to QFs):

Consi 1: 211, 115, 170, 605, 199, 58
Consi 2: 13, 213, 8, 203, 4, 125
Consi 3: 260, 247, 9, 987, 133, -
Consi 4: 390, 53, 228, 12, 3, 175

Quarter-Finals (top 3 to SFs):

QF 1: 390, 213, 380, -, -
QF 2: 488, 13, 9, 391, -
QF 3: 247, 107, 211, 260
QF 4: 555, 53, 228, -

Semi-Finals (top 3 to Final):

SF 1: 380, 390, 107, 211, -, -
SF 2: 488, 53, 555, 228, 13, 9

FINAL:

380, 488, 53, 107, 390, 555

Grand Nationals:

GN 1: 125, 203, 63, 987, -, -
GN 2: 12, 170, 58, 133, -, -
GN 3: 107, 380, 213, 247, 9, -
GN 4: 488, 8, 390, 260, 13, 228
GN 5: 211, 207, 53, 605, -

WTR: 3, 125, 58, -

The final meeting of the season at 555 Promotions started out with a pesky track fault which appeared to be a combination of the lap scoring equipment and the track sensors but, after a lot of fault finding, the problem remained so a swift change of track was in order as we bid the 555 circuit farewell for this season and saw the MAD Raceway track set up as the replacement for the 30 racers in attendance.

So, after an unfortunate delayed start, the meeting got underway with some fast Heats from the off and an even split of 2x wins apiece across Lanes 4-6 set the early tone.

Just 4 Consi's were up next, and a brilliant set of consistent racing saw only one DNF from #63 on the very last bend in Consi 3 as she did everything to help her chances in the GN title by making sure she progressed no further into the meeting! A less-than-usual 18 drivers progressed to 4 QFs and the first inner-lane win of the day came courtesy of #247 as he battled for the win in QF3.

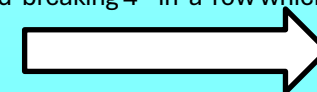
With a plethora of Blues, Reds and S/S lining up for the SFs, the action continued to be quick as #380 eased his way to win SF1 before Points rival #488 followed with a similar drive in SF2 to head to the Final on a maximum haul of points.

So, the Final line-up was almost identical to last night's, with only #390 replacing #8 from yesterday, so an even split of 3x Reds and 3x S/Ss took to the grid. There was early drama at the chicane bend as 4 of the drivers tangled in an eventful incident which allowed #488 to take an early advantage to swoop into the lead ahead of #107. #380 quickly found himself into 2nd and started the chase out front with #53 vying for the final podium slot. After a few laps of hard battling, #488 and #380 had another hesitant moment together down the back straight with #380 coming out in front and now the one to catch. The laps went by with little to separate the top 2 but #380 held off the challenge to win his 3rd Final of the season by a mere 0.392s ahead of #488 at the end! #53 just sneaked into 3rd replacing #107 on the podium by a matter of 0.112s during the final few laps as #390 finished in 5th and #555 in 6th a way back.

All eyes were on the GN battle between #213 and #63 after the gap closed to just 4pts last night. After today's results ended with a stalemate, with both racers scoring a 3rd place, the gap remains at just 4pts into the final weekend!

Finally, with 2 meetings left to go, the race for the Silver roof is officially over after #488 heads into the final weekend 126pts clear of #380 in 2nd place. Amazingly, this marks a record-equalling 9th Silver roof for myself and a record-breaking 4th in-a-row which has never been done in MSRA history!

It's been a great battle for the Silver this year!





Talking Stox – 2024/2025 Edition No.6

A Frantic Fortnight To End The 2024/2025 MSRA Season...

Meeting #32 @ Baylis Racing – Saturday 01/03/2025

Heats (only winners required):

Heat 1: 211
Heat 2: 488
Heat 3: 107
Heat 4: 260
Heat 5: 555
Heat 6: 13
Heat 7: 115
Heat 8: 380

Consolations (top 3 to QFs):

Consi 1: 207, 228, 170, 4, 10, -
Consi 2: 199, 22, 172, 31, 66, 333
Consi 3: 605, 9, 5, 911, G9, 272
Consi 4: 17, 213, 175, 125, 133, 373
Consi 5: 391, 12, 987, 3, G234, 58
Consi 6: 203, 51, 44, 63, 8

Quarter-Finals (top 3 to SFs):

QF 1: 488, 9, 12, 172, -, -
QF 2: 199, 555, 44, 207, 605
QF 3: 211, 203, 107, 170, 115
QF 4: 5, 260, 228, 51, 391
QF 5: 380, 213, 22, 17, 175

Semi-Finals (top 2 to Final):

SF 1: 203, 228, 260, 44, 9
SF 2: 555, 22, 12, -, -
SF 3: 199, 107, 488, 213, 211

FINAL:

199, 555, 203, 22, 228, 107

Grand Nationals:

GN 1: 170, 5, 272, 10, G266
GN 2: 373, 31, 172, 911, -
GN 3: 58, 44, 4, 987, G9
GN 4: 66, 125, 175, 133, -
GN 5: 213, 8, 228, 51, -, -
GN 6: 211, 107, 333, 63, 17, 555
GN 7: 207, 260, 12, 115, -, -
GN 8: 13, 391, 22, 488, 9

WTR 1:

G9, 44, 172, 911, -

WTR 2:

125, 31, 58, -

The final meeting of the season on the tricky “D”-shaped Baylis Racing circuit attracted a brilliant grid of 45 racers as the penultimate meeting of the season awaited ahead with close racing predicted.

The Heats saw a remarkable performance from the outer lane drivers with 4x S/Ss claiming wins from Lane 6 with the remaining 4 Heat wins split between 2x Blues and 2x Reds which was surprising! The Consi’s restored a bit of normality to proceedings as the lower graders started to find the groove with wins being shared across Yellow, Blue and Red grades as all qualifiers prepared for 5 QFs ahead.

A brilliant win from #211 in QF3 was book-ended by 2x Yellow and 2x S/S wins with particularly close races between #199 in QF2 and #5 in QF4 to both brilliantly take the plaudits ahead of the higher graders as the Points title protagonists of #488 and #380 ended victorious in QF1 and QF5 respectively.

3 fast SFs were the order of the day with only the top 2 progressing into the coveted meeting Final. A close battle in SF1 saw #260 just missing out on a qualification spot as he chased #228 hard to the line before a surprise rollover from #380 in SF2 ended his chances to progress. SF3 saw a great duel between #107 in Lane 5 and #488 in Lane 6 with them both trying to catch #199 but failing at the end!

So, the Final lined up with 2x Yellows, 2x Blues, 1x Red and 1x lone S/S with it all to do around the outside! A quick start from everyone led to a bit of chicane carnage and it was #555 who came through unscathed to take the early lead ahead of #199 and #22 chasing behind. The laps went by with #203 replacing #22 in 3rd and the chase continued out front as #555 fought to fend off #199 for the lead. Eventually, it was #199 who battled through after a fine drive to score his 2nd Final win of the season! #555 drove well to score a 2nd place from Lane 5 as #203 followed home closely in 3rd from Lane 2. #22 continued to a close 4th ahead of a recovering #228 in 5th and #107 in 6th after both losing ground early on.

As we headed to the GNs, the battle was on for title glory between #213 and #63 with only 4pts between them. #213 rose to the pressure of being out front to calmly take a win in GN5 which piled the pressure on #63 who lined up in GN6 needing at least a 3rd place to take it all the way to the wire. Eventually, #63 came home in 4th after a valiant effort which means #213 ends the season as the 2025 Grand National Champion which also marks his 2nd GN title in the last 4 seasons – **congrats to James Kinton for the victory!**

Another title which was decided (albeit in less dramatic fashion!) was the White Top Championship as #3 held a 12pts lead over his nearest rival (#18) who was not in attendance so unable to score and close the gap – **a massive well done to Liam Mulliss for scoring his 2nd title in his debut MSRA season!**





Talking Stox – 2024/2025 Edition No.6

A Frantic Fortnight To End The 2024/2025 MSRA Season...

Meeting #33, Season Finale @ MAD Raceway – Sunday 02/03/2025

Heats (only winners required):

Heat 1: 488
Heat 2: 260
Heat 3: 53
Heat 4: 107
Heat 5: 211
Heat 6: 22
Heat 7: 380

Consolations (top 3 to QFs):

Consi 1: 13, 42, 3, 213, 119, 58
Consi 2: 605, 9, 987, -, -, -
Consi 3: 170, 391, 12, -, -
Consi 4: 390, 228, 20, 31, -
Consi 5: 207, 84, 203, 4, 133
Consi 6: 199, 555, 63, 175, G265

Quarter-Finals (top 3 to SFs):

QF 1: 84, 211, 107, -, -
QF 2: 260, 3, 228, 203, -
QF 3: 53, 12, 9, 20, -
QF 4: 380, 555, 42, 63, -
QF 5: 488, 390, 207, -, -

Semi-Finals (top 2 to Final):

SF 1: 390, 53, 3, -, -
SF 2: 380, 107, 228, 9, 42
SF 3: 207, 260, 12, -, -

FINAL:

53, 107, 260, 380, 390, 207

Grand Nationals:

GN 1: 199, 119, 3, 20, -
GN 2: 18, 42, 203, -, -
GN 3: 125, 58, G265, 133, -
GN 4: 987, -, -, -
GN 5: 390, 555, 22, 63, -
GN 6: 207, 13, 107, 213, -
GN 7: 488, 260, 391, 12, -
GN 8: 228, 211, 84, -, -

WTR 1: 911, 18, 31, -

WTR 2: 119, 125, 133, -

SUPREME FINAL: 380, 488, 211, 199, 31, 213

The 2024/2025 MSRA Season Finale was hosted by MAD Raceway and a grid of 39 racers lined up for on-track battles for one more time this season – with a special bumper raffle on offer for everyone as well, there was plenty to get stuck into as the meeting got underway!

Predictably, we saw a smattering of Superstar victories in the Heats with all 5 S/Ss winning alongside 2x Blues. The Consi's ended with some spectacular results for the lower graded racers though with fine wins coming from #170 and #199 from Yellow with #13, #605 and #207 winning from Blue as #390 scored the only Red win.

QF1 saw a win for #84 on his return to racing as he held off the charge with a brilliant victory to beat the opposition! The remaining 4 QFs all went the way of the S/Ss once more but special credit to #3 for grabbing a 2nd in QF2! We headed to 3 SFs once again with only the top 2 progressing into the Final and we saw #3 narrowly miss out in SF1 ending in 3rd but putting up a very respectable fight from his recent up-grade to Yellow!

So, the last meeting Final of the season saw 1x Blue and 1x Red line up against 4x S/Ss in the quest for victory. An initial quick getaway saw #260 race into an early lead as the others chased behind with the gaps ever so close throughout. Just after ¼ distance, #260 overcooked it into the top bend which allowed the chasing pack of #53, #380 and #107 to get ahead with the race now on between #53 and #380 for the lead. After a few laps of chasing, #380 flicked off the siderail of #53 heading onto the start/finish straight allowing #107 to take charge and hunt down #53 for the win with #260 recovering well in 3rd. In the end, it was a memorable Final win for #53 as he held off the pressure to score his 3rd Final win of the season and bookend the year after winning the first meeting Final way back in November! #107 came close behind in 2nd as #260 chased hard to end in 3rd. #380 recovered well to finish on the same lap in 4th a way ahead of #390 in 5th and #207 in 6th place at the end.

The race for the GN title may have been decided last night but we witnessed some epic action today with particular reference to GN4 where #987 kept it calm and controlled as her rivals fell by the wayside at the end! That left the final 2 WTRs of the season and some brilliant racing throughout both with wins going the way of #911 and #119 respectively.

Finally, we saw the annual Supreme Final take place with this year's Champions in the hunt for another title to round off the season in style. In the end, it was a close duel for honours between our top two Champions this season as #488 and #380 went head-to-head once more from Lanes 1-2. The race was close throughout with a bit of carnage into the chicane at various points but, eventually, it was #380 who bested the competition to win his 3rd Supreme Championship with a fine drive – **congrats to Chris on his win to sign off the season in style!**

Lastly, and most importantly, the MSRA raised an amazing total of over £500 for Dan Trasler at this meeting to help in his fight against cancer so a truly wonderful way to round off an incredible season – **we're all behind you, Dan!**



Talking Stox – 2024/2025 Edition No.6

A Frantic Fortnight To End The 2024/2025 MSRA Season...



Grader's Debrief...

After 33 meetings, and an entire season's worth of racing consigned to the history books, the final Grading List is done so let's have a sneak peek at next season's starting grades...

Leading the way at the top, I have managed to end this season winning my record-equalling 9th Silver roof and, remarkably, 4th in-a-row which has never been done previously so I'm truly humbled at reaching this incredible landmark.

Chris Radley has ended the season in 2nd place and 127pts back – this sounds like a lot but is actually only a difference of 3pts per meeting so it has been an incredibly close battle! The Superstars round off with Matt Trasler in 3rd, Nigel Shaw in 4th and Evan Foster in 5th.

Next, we have seen a last-gasp change of grades in the Reds as #207 put together a fine final weekend of results to overhaul the deficit and pip #391 to the final Red grade slot by a tiny 2pts! #8 also joins #207 at Red but as a downgrade from S/S in this last period.

The Blues remain pretty much as they were from the last Grading List, but we see #203 join them from Yellow after a solid final fortnight of racing. The Yellows mirror the Blues with no changes in the grades so the same set of racers will start next season as they end this one. There are also no changes to the White grade so an unchanged set of racers there as well.

So, the starting grades for the 2025/2026 MSRA season will see 6 S/Ss, 14 Reds, 23 Blues, 16 Yellows and 24 Whites – there's only 8 months to wait until we do it all again!

Apart from that, I have decided to add a few extra statistical additions onto this season's end of year list which I feel adds a little something more than just the regular Grading List stats so keep a lookout for those once the end of season list is produced and released!

This year has been my 19th consecutive one at the helm of the grading which is a position I was elected on to the BOC at way back in March 2006 when I was only 13 years of age! At that time, I never imagined I'd still be doing it almost 20 years later, but next season will see me reach that milestone. I still enjoy serving the club as Grader and it certainly keeps me busy in season but much less so out of season. Honestly speaking though, I won't be around as Grader forever so if anyone might like to take the step up then do let me know!

And Finally...

So, that brings my final edition of "Talking Stox" to a close for the 2024/2025 MSRA season and what a season it has been for us all!

I hope you have all enjoyed reading these newsletters providing a brief snapshot after each weekend of on-track action and I'd like to thank everyone who has taken the time to read and comment on them throughout the course of the season from start to finish as I appreciate it a lot!

Now the season has come to an end, there will be one final special **"End Of Season Review"** edition of Talking Stox in which I will round up all of the best bits and biggest talking points from the MSRA's 51st year of racing action so keep your eyes peeled for that one!

Until then, see you around!

#488 Elliott Shaw