



Talking Stox – 2024/2025 Season Review

MSRA Grader Elliott Shaw Reviews The 2024/2025 Season...



So, another season of MSRA racing action has come and gone and we are all left with a long summer stretch until we can get back on track for the 2025/2026 season in November.

It never ceases to amaze me how quickly the seasons tend to go by in the MSRA but this one in particular has flown by at a rapid pace!

Thank you to everyone who has played their part in a fantastic season!

#488 Elliott Shaw



The MSRA... 51 Years And Not Done Yet!



To kick things off, I must pay respect to the incredible milestone which our club is continuously able to achieve each year by reaching our 51st season of racing.

51 years is an incredible landmark and the racing we have witnessed across the 2025 season has been nothing short of spectacular from start to finish.

We have seen a large number of different meeting Final winners (16 in total!), new champions crowned and some which continue to win (more of that later!).

Not only is the MSRA the longest running Slotstox club in the UK, but we are also the best and continue to attract amazing attendances meeting after meeting.

The fact that we have seen a total of over 80 drivers compete for the past 2 consecutive seasons is a true testament to our longevity and long may this continue.

The 2024/2025 season has seen many highlights so please join me as I look through the best of the action from a great year of racing!





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2025 Midland Championship



The MSRA Midland Championship is always fiercely competitive as it offers everyone the opportunity to race across a series of Qualifying Rounds before two knockout rounds of Quarter-Finals and Semi-Finals come and go until we are left with the top 6 drivers prepped and ready to do battle in the Midland Final – the winner then has the honour of being the Midland Champion as well as earning the right to race as number “1” for the following season if they wish to do so.

In 2025, we saw an incredible 78 drivers race across the 9 QRs which ensured lots of competitive on-track action to find the top 24 racers to line up in the Quarter-Finals held at Wreck-It Raceway this year. The QFs themselves saw 4 qualifying drivers not in attendance so a dip into the pool of reserves gave a chance to 4 racers of making it into the Semi-Finals at JMR Promotions. Of the 12 to make it into the SFs, the most surprising result was #13 who drove well to be the only outer-lane racer to make it from Lane 5 whilst the remaining qualifiers all graced Lanes 1-3 throughout. The SFs themselves ended up fairly undramatic as all 6 qualifiers took their place in the Midland Final, again from Lanes 1-3, making for a tight contest lying in wait for them all ahead.

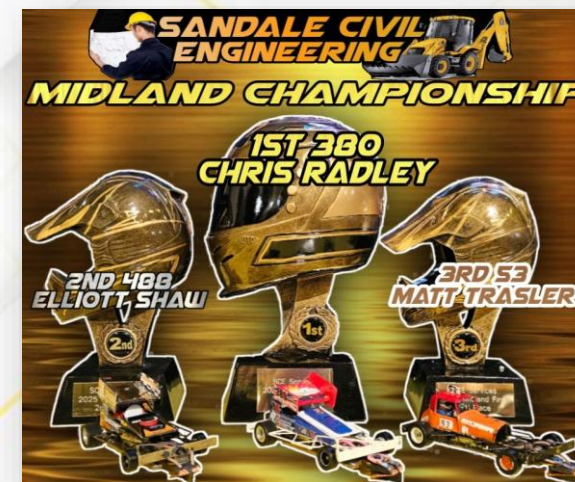
After a coin toss to determine the grid order, it was #390 Barrie Gregory who called correctly and snatched Lane 1 to grid in Pole Position for the first time. Remarkably, the remaining 5 racers were all previous Midland Champions with 16 Gold roofs between them! Even more amazingly, the 6 drivers gridding were the top 6 qualifiers from the QRs which rarely happens!

Line-up (left photo):

#390, #488, #380, #260, #53, #107

So, the scene was set at Bedworth Liberal Club as the 6 finalists entered the arena to a soundtrack of their choosing and 50 laps was all that stood between them and the chance of lifting the coveted 2025 Midland Championship. After an initial quick getaway, there was early carnage as multiple drivers were involved in a tangle at the top turn allowing defending champ #488 to snatch the advantage to lead out front. #380 quickly got into 2nd and started the chase down with the gap staying at around half a lap for a handful of laps. After 14 laps, #488 was onto the back of #390 who had been delayed earlier on and there was a moment of hesitation as both #390 and #488 headed onto the back straight which allowed #380 to close the gap right up. After finally clearing #390, the battle was neck and neck between #488 and #380 for the next couple of laps and, sensing the opportunity, #380 went in for the hit on the back straight to dispatch the #488 car and take charge out front. From that point onwards, it was a game of cat and mouse as the top two were separated by half a lap. With both drivers evenly matched on pace, and both able to navigate through the backmarker traffic without issue, it was eventually #380 Chris Radley who ended on top finishing just 0.977s ahead of #488 in 2nd at the end. A late dramatic moment occurred as an errant marshalling hand affected the running order with a couple of laps left as #260 dropped down the order from 3rd to eventually be leapfrogged by the rest of the pack as #53 ended in 3rd, #390 finished in 4th and #107 came home in 5th.

Congratulations to Chris Radley on becoming a two-time Midland Champion and winning it in fine style!



Midland Final Podium:

1st #380 Chris Radley

2nd #488 Elliott Shaw

3rd #53 Matt Trasler



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2025 Points Championship



For the second consecutive season, the MSRA saw a total of more than 80 members grace our racetracks throughout the year with a final tally of 83 names on our end of season Grading List including 10 brand new members for the 2024/2025 campaign; thus, proving that our club remains in a healthy position which is a delight to see.

That being said, with so many members racing across the entire season, how much of an impact would this have on the battle at the sharp end for the honours to win the Points Championship and having the Silver roof up for grabs? The true answer to that question is that more members racing ultimately makes the competition tighter and more unpredictable which is exactly what we all saw across the 2025 MSRA season.

Way back on the initial Grading List issued in mid-December 2024 we, quite unbelievably, saw the top 7 racers on that list remain the same 7 racers at the top of the final Grading List issued in March 2025; however, that fact doesn't essentially tell the full story of what turned out to be an enthralling battle for the Points Championship across the entire season of 33 meetings.

The initial battle in the Points Championship consisted of an early lead for #488 Elliott Shaw edging out #53 Matt Trasler by a slender margin of just 3pts. #380 Chris Radley was just 11pts behind in 3rd fending off a brilliant opening period for #555 Richard Sleeman as he reached Superstar by 7pts ahead of #260 Nigel Shaw in 5th. What followed in the next Grading Period of just 5 meetings was more of the same with only #555 slipping out of early contention to leave the top 4 drivers of #488, #53, #380 and #260 to pull clear of the chasing pack with the overall gap between them sitting at just 50pts.

We saw a shift in the standings after the 3rd Grading Period as #380 stormed through with an average of 32.33pts per meeting to snatch 2nd place and leapfrog #53 in the process. However, with an equally impressive run of meetings averaging 30.16pts per meeting, it was #488 who continued to lead the way out front as the top 4's gap now opened up to a massive 126pts as we reached the half-way mark of the season. #53 had lost a bit of ground and dropped back to 53pts off the top but was still in the mix.

It wasn't until the fourth Grading Period where we saw the sheer scoring power of #488 assert his position at the top of the standings with a couple of top-points scoring meetings which propelled him out front to lead by 63 points over #380 still ahead in 2nd place as the gap between #53 in 3rd and #260 in 4th closed to within 28pts.

A totally dominant fifth Grading Period from defending champ #488 followed which saw him outscore #380 by a massive 71pts to increase the advantage to 134pts with only 4 meetings remaining. The fight was closer further back in the Superstars as #260 closed right up to within just 4pts of #53 with the final two weekends remaining ahead.

The final 4 meetings of the season came and went in a flash and the race for the Silver roof was officially at an end with 2 meetings to go owing to the gap between #488 and #380 being out of reach to be overhauled mathematically. The gap eventually finished at 127pts separating this season's Gold and Silver roofs which sounds a lot but, in reality, is only an average of 3pts per meeting which shows how consistent both drivers performed across the entire season making for an incredible battle.

It still hasn't sunk in yet at what I have achieved in winning my record-equalling 9th Silver roof, and record-breaking 4th in-a-row, but I'm incredibly honoured to have accomplished this feat, especially going up against Chris Radley throughout the season as he has made it a fantastic battle to be a part of and certainly one of the most enjoyable seasons I have raced in across the last 23 years!





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2025 Rosebowl Championship



With a tradition and format harking back to the introduction of the MSRA Rosebowl in 1982, this championship has largely been considered the third “Major” championship of the MSRA for many years so is always fiercely competed for in a similar vein to the Gold and Silver roofs and I’m pleased to say that 2025 was no different.

Hosted on the “Amethyst” circuit for 2025, this event was anticipated to showcase the skill and speed of the lower-to-mid graded drivers with the inner lanes usually proving the most desired lanes of choice; however, we were treated to a surprise set of results from the 3 sets of Heat races as the top 18 points scorers would prepare to do battle in 3 tough Semi-Finals.

With a slightly less-than-expected turnout of 26 racers, there would only be 8 drivers which would be unlucky enough to crash out of the event after the Heats, so the racing was fast and frantic from the off as everyone battled for consistent scores in the Heat races, and we eventually saw #488 and #9 come through unbeaten after winning all 3 of their Heats.

The first SF saw an unusually tough line-up with multiple Major winners of #488, #53, #260 and #380 all gridding in the same race but it proved an easy qualification for #488 and #53 from the inner two lanes. SF2 saw #9 continue his charge with a fine win ahead of an in-form #8 making his debut appearance of the season. The final SF continued the trend of qualifiers from the inner lanes as #372 took a classy win ahead of #12 who made her debut Major Final appearance which was a fantastic moment to witness!

So, to the Rosebowl Final itself then and nerves possibly got the better of #12 at the start of the Final as she flew into turn 1 temporarily halting her process as the remaining racers started cleanly. That left #488 to lead from the get-go, snatching the early advantage to take a comfortable lead as the others chased to catch up. #53 quickly got into 2nd from his Lane 4 position as #372 kept in close proximity in 3rd. #9 suffered a slight off into turn 1 in the early stages but regrouped to stay in 4th ahead of #8 who was battling from Lane 5 as #12 was sadly an early retirement after rolling over at turn 1. The laps ploughed on without much incident or changing of positions and, in no time, the final flag was in sight with the running order staying static for most of the race.

Winning my 3rd career Rosebowl title to retain the coveted black and white checkers and becoming only the 7th driver to ever go back-to-back in the process was an amazing highlight of the season for me so I’m super proud to have retained my Rosebowl crown this season!



Rosebowl Final Podium:

1st #488 Elliott Shaw

2nd #53 Matt Trasler

3rd #372 Robin Bater



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2025 Midland Masters Championship



As a relatively recent addition to the list of MSRA Championships, entering in 2018, the Midland Masters has certainly had its fair share of excitement and unpredictability in the seasons it has been raced for and the 2025 edition continued that trend with some truly brilliant racing across the weekend of 4th/5th January as MAD Raceway hosted the second championship of the season.

Held across a full weekend of racing on one circuit, the Midland Masters format ensures that drivers from any grade can be competitive, win races and ultimately qualify for the Semi-Finals and Final event; however, owing to this year's track being more outer lane friendly, we saw an eventual Final line-up consisting of 1x Yellow, 2x Reds and 3x Superstars gridding for the title.

The Semi-Finals saw an immense drive to kick things off from #47 who snatched a last-gasp win from Lane 6 beating top points scorer #380 into 2nd place in a surprise result. The remaining two SFs were largely uneventful but a wonderful drive from #12 saw her take to the grid in her 2nd Championship Final of the season after lining up in the Rosebowl Final just a few weeks earlier!

So, the Midland Masters Final was ready and the drivers were lined up for the 40-lap shootout for title honours as follows: #488, #53, #47, #380, #555, #12.

Straight from the off, #380 shot into the early lead from Lane 4 as #47 overcooked his getaway flying into the first bend and losing ground allowing #488 and #53 to start their battle for 2nd place. The laps went by with #380 largely untroubled out front as he navigated his way through the backmarker traffic well as the others tried to keep within touching distance. #47 started to regain his composure and flew through the pack and soon found himself chasing #380 for the win across the dying laps of the race showing a fantastic turn of speed along the way. Eventually though, the gap out front was too large and #380 came home to win his 2nd Midland Masters title with a dominant victory. #47 was only 0.449s back in 2nd place at the end with #488 completing the podium in 3rd. #555 finished in 4th ahead of #53 who ran into a bit of carnage throughout the latter stages of the race. #12 ended in 6th as the last finisher after a valiant effort from Lane 6!

Congratulations to #380 Chris Radley on a well-deserved 2nd Midland Masters win!



Midland Masters Podium:

1st #380 Chris Radley

2nd #47 Sam Nicholls

3rd #488 Elliott Shaw



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2025 Grand National Championship

The Grand National Championship is often an overlooked title within the MSRA and usually goes unnoticed amongst the pantheon of the other championship events – however, to win the Grand National title is no mean feat and requires a level of consistency in a similar vein to the main Points Championship as scores are tallied up across the year with all races competed in split between White/Yellows and Blues/Reds/Superstars to offer a more level playing field across the entire championship.

Add in the fact that meeting finalists are not eligible to score towards the GN points tally and we're left with a riveting battle each and every season!

This season saw a shock early leader in the form of current Points Champion #488 leading the way after the first Grading Period who was a complete surprise table-topper once the initial 6 meetings of the season were done and dusted!

After a bit of normality returned in the second Grading Period, it was #213 who took the reigns out front with a slender lead of just 2pts. A completely dominant third Grading Period set the tone as #213's lead shot up to 16pts as he kept his advantage.

The remaining periods saw the lead gap reduce bit by bit but #213 kept a cool head to score consistently before taking an unassailable lead into the final meeting of the season to clinch his 2nd GN title in the space of 3 years to become only the 5th driver in MSRA history to have won it more than once!

Congrats to #213 James Kinton on a fine display of consistency all season to eventually take the title!



2025 Novice of the Year Final

Introduced way back in 1980, the Novice of the Year holds a special place amongst the other MSRA titles as it is a championship which you can only ever win once. In order to do so, each driver lining up in the Final must join the club that year as a complete novice to Slotstox racing which always adds an exciting mix of nerves for all the finalists, especially as the Final event is usually held in tandem on Midland Final Night as well!

This season, we saw an impressive 8 novice drivers join our club (although only 4 were available on the night). The racing which they've provided instantly added an extra element of excitement to our regular meetings as they quickly got to grips with Slotstox racing MSRA style!

Most of the pre-race chatter had been surrounding the head-to-head battle between the two young superstars-in-waiting in the form of pole-sitter #119 Jackson Earp and #3 Liam Mulliss and which one of them may be the one to watch for the victory and we were treated to a fine duel for eventual honours.

After putting together an incredibly solid display of racing with no mistakes, the title went the way of #3 as #119 ended as the only other finisher in 2nd place.

A massive well done to #3 Liam Mulliss for showcasing a fine drive to take the 2025 Novice of the Year title!





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2025 Ladies Championship

Always a fierce on-track battle, the Ladies Final usually provides some good, close action and this year's Final continued the theme of previous title battles gone by.

With the most recent 2 Ladies Champions lining up on Lanes 1-2, and the Baylis "D" being notoriously famous for its inner-lane bias, the story seemed to be whether #391 could defend her title from Lane 1 or if #211 could reclaim it from Lane 2 – the story of the Final itself however seemed to bring in extra twists and turns as the race played out!

We had a line-up littered with quality throughout as the top 6 eventually gridded as follows: #391, #211, #605, #12, #63, #4.

As the 40-lap race got underway, it was #211 who got the initial jump to lead away into the tight chicane just ahead of #391 and #605 following closely behind as all drivers started the race cleanly. Entering onto lap 4, #391 made her move into the driver's bend but carried too much speed in, jumping across the front of the #211 machine and rolling onto her roof and out! #605 got caught up in the melee delaying her progress slightly and allowed #211 to stretch her advantage out front to over a lap. With both drivers evenly matched on pace, the gap stayed at around a lap right up until 8 laps remaining when

#211 ran into the siderail of #12 whilst trying to lap her which allowed #605 to unlap herself and start a late chase for the win! In the end, the pace of #211 out front was enough to seal the win to claim her 2nd Ladies Final in 3 years to reclaim her title! #605 ended just 0.729s back in 2nd with #12 finishing up the podium places in 3rd.

Congratulations to #211 Yazmin Taylor-Beck on a composed drive to win her title back in fine style!



2025 White Top Championship

The White Top Championship is the newest entry on the MSRA title list with its first running just 6 seasons ago in 2019. This season saw a slight change to the running of the championship with all White Top racers eligible to score at each meeting rather than non-scoring SFs as last year so how would the new rules affect the running of the title?

Well, throughout 2024/2025, we saw an incredible 32 drivers enter onto the White Top points table which provided a very close battle for top honours throughout the year culminating in a frantic final three weekends of scoring action!

Taking advantage of his finishing position in the White grade from last season, we saw a blistering start to proceedings from #66 who shot into an early lead scoring 23pts in the first period – this stat was made all the more impressive considering he only raced at 4 meetings, so he won 3 out of the 4 White Top races he competed in! A shoot up to Yellow for the rest of the season would ultimately put pay to his chances of taking the title but a brilliant start set the tone of the championship!

After a brief spell with #225 leading after the second period, it was over to #987 to take the advantage out front with a commanding 10pt lead after the third period! However, she also then found herself up-graded to Yellow which halted her progress as well! Step up #18 to lead the way after period 4 and into the hot seat – but not for long! A fantastic fifth period from #3 put him just 1pt in front with 4 meetings left and, despite the best efforts of #18, it was a lead which was unassailable come the final weekend!

Congrats to our Novice of the Year, #3 Liam Mulliss, for adding a 2nd title to his collection in his debut year!





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2025 Junior Championship

After a competitive duel for Junior honours between #247 James Sleeman-Whitmore and #35 Kyle Neale last season, both drivers entered 2025 having exceeded the age limit of 16 so a new name was guaranteed to be etched into the history books this season.

This season has seen the continuation of excellent performances from our Junior drivers and the eventual Final line-up was as follows:

#12, #4, #199, #119, #18, #3.

Hosted on the Baylis Raceway, it was a fast start for #12 and #199 who shot into an early battle out front with #18 keeping close in 3rd. As the laps went by, #199 started to race into a comfortable rhythm as #12 struggled against the backmarker traffic and #18 also rolled out of contention to exit the early action leaving #199 to control the pace out front. The race nearly came undone for #199 as he clipped an errant car heading into the final corner of the final lap before jumping into the wrong lane and onto his roof! Luckily, as he was in the wrong lane, his car was able to be re-slotted and he crossed the line to take a fantastic maiden Junior Final title! #12 battled back to claim 2nd ahead of an inspired drive from #3 taking a podium from Lane 6!

In the battle to be top Junior Points scorer over the season, the sheer consistency of #12 was eventually unmatched as she earned the Silver stripe for next season by 50pts over #199!

Well done to Jamie Campbell and Lexie Groves for their respective wins this season!



2025 Minors Championship

The Minors Championship was first introduced to the MSRA back in 2013 to allow a separate category for the youngest members of the club as only drivers aged 10 or under would be eligible to qualify for this championship event.

Unfortunately, since its inception, the number of drivers eligible have dwindled due to the age cap of 10 years and under; however, in 2025, we did see an increased number of 8 drivers eligible to participate in the Final event which is an increase on recent seasons gone by.

However, the scheduling of the Minors Final saw 5 of those drivers unable to take to the grid at the meeting in question unfortunately which left us with a trio to do battle and, amazingly, all from the same family stable!

After a quick getaway, it was #31 Riley Hampshire who took the race lead ahead of his siblings and after a few laps of chasing, both #911 Ted Hampshire and #133 Evie-Grace Campbell rolled out of contention leaving Riley to see out the remainder of the race and claim his debut MSRA title to become the 2025 Minors Champion!

Well done to Riley Hampshire on keeping a cool head to win it!





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2025 Supreme Championship

Always ran as the final race of each MSRA season, the Supreme Final is a chance to see all champions across the season go head-to-head for a chance to be the best of the best and this year's contest saw an impressive collection of champions lining up.

After a bit of off-track banter, nobody knew if Lane 1 would be the preferred choice to grid in due to the MAD Raceway being quite even across all lanes with a particular preference to the outer lanes, so the time trial laps were watched with keen interest!

*After our champions finished the time trial, we were left with the top 6 to line up:
#488, #380, #213, #211, #199, #31.*

With the grid order lining up with Lane 6 at the front and Lane 1 at the back, it was a frantic start as all the drivers raced into turn 1 and onto the back straight for the first time and there was slight contact between a few of the drivers as #488, #213 and #211 all came to grief allowing #380 to snatch the early lead out front ahead of #199 who started well from Lane 5. More carnage ensued on lap 7 as #211 fell into the wrong lane and bounced back off the fence to take out #380 from the lead position which allowed #488 to sneak through to take the lead. However, after some quick marshalling, #380 was

straight onto the back of the Points Champion and made a decisive move on the following back straight to snatch the lead straight back!

From there, it was a cat-and-mouse game between the top two as they were separated by around half a lap and evenly matched on pace until the end with the positions staying unchanged to the line!

Congratulations to #380 Chris Radley on taking the 2025 Supreme title!



2025 Over 60s Final

As a recent addition to the MSRA fixtures, the Over 60s is not an "official" MSRA title but is as hotly contested as the other championships so is always a fascinating watch!

This season's Over 60s event was well supported and saw a total of 12 drivers take to the grid across 2 SFs in the hope of making it all the way to the coveted Over 60s Final.

Both SFs were highly competitive, and we saw a fantastic array of talent to line up in the final event as follows: #170, #142, #207, #203, #390, #260.

With Baylis Raceway hosting this year's event, all eyes were glued to the outer lanes and whether any of the inner lane drivers could keep within touching distance across the 40-lap battle – especially as defending back-to-back champion #207 lined up in Lane 3!

As the race got underway, it was an early lead for promoter #203 who took the advantage from Lane 4 to lead away in front of a chasing #390 in 2nd and #260 in 3rd. #170 was keeping within close proximity and driving excellently from Lane 1 so was in a prime position to benefit from any carnage as well as keeping the pressure on the outer-lane drivers! The laps ploughed on with the gap never more than a few car lengths between the top 3 and, with a few laps left, #390 went for the hit but misjudged the timing and rolled out of contention! #260 kept a cool head in the heat of battle to swoop around the outside of #203 as they raced closely for the last few laps.

Eventually, the gap ended with #260 in 1st just 0.340s clear of #203 in 2nd with #170 only 1.822s back in 3rd at the end!

Well done to #260 Nigel Shaw for claiming the 2025 Over 60s title and in his first season of eligibility too!





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Grader's Picks & Driver Spotlight...

An incredible 83 drivers were listed on the final Grading List of the 2024/2025 MSRA season and here I will be shining a spotlight on some of the drivers and performances which I have been most impressed by across the course of the season...

#380 Chris Radley has had his finest season in the MSRA to date in 2025 and was in imperious form for the vast majority of the season. Taking home an impressive 3 titles, along with 3 Track Championships, ensured that 2025 was Chris' best season to date. Add into the fact that he pushed me all the way in the battle for the Points Championship and it was certainly a season to remember for Chris.

I have raced against Chris for 23 seasons now and I have never had such an enjoyable season battling against him as I did in 2025. For the most part of the season, meeting to meeting, we rarely encountered each other on track due to us both being towards the head of the points, so our only on-track battles seemed to come either in Meeting Finals or Championship Finals when we were able to go head-to-head.

Amazingly, we lined up together in 15 Meeting Finals over the season as well as in 3 Championship Finals plus the annual Xmas Cracker event, so we certainly managed to share the track more often than not!

What I can say about Chris is that he is a very fair racer but can be decisive when he wants to as was shown in 2 of the 3 Championship Finals we battled in where he brilliantly put me aside to go on and win.

Finally, I am proud to share an ongoing record of consecutive Midland Final podiums with Chris as we have now been in the top 3 for the past 6 Midland Finals together which is an incredible statistic and showcases our longevity in the MSRA (I feel older every year now!).

I'm looking forward to continuing our on-track rivalry next season!

#107 Evan Foster made a fantastic return to full-time racing in the MSRA this season and it has been brilliant to have him back fighting at the top.

Despite missing 3 meetings, Evan had an incredible run throughout the year making an impressive 19 out of 30 Meeting Finals and only failing to make the podium on 6 occasions – all whilst maintaining a Red grade across the season thus proving his consistency and speed.

Evan also took home the Baylis Racing Track Championship, on the notoriously tricky D-shaped circuit, and ended as runner-up at Brandon and Wreck-It Raceway so was able to perform well across a variety of tracks to earn some solid results.

He also ended the season on a high by returning to Superstar for the final Grading Period and it was an opportunity which he didn't waste after finishing as Top Points Scorer for the final period to underline his undeniable talent and ability at the highest level.

Evan will start the 2025/2026 season from Superstar but, after his results in the final period of this season, I don't think he'll be too fussed in all honesty! If anything, it may make him even more determined not to lose it when the new season commences!

It's been a great season for Evan in 2025 and I'm pleased that he is firmly back in the MSRA!





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Grader's Picks & Driver Spotlight...

#9 Scott Groves has made a massive step forward from 2024 to 2025 and his finishing position of 8th in the points shows that with a gain of 8 places from his 16th placed finish 12 months ago. Scott is a solid Red graded driver now and he has grown in confidence and speed and has certainly had a few memorable moments this season – none more so than his fantastic performance at the Rosebowl where he scored 3 out of 3 Heat wins and then backed up his results with a fine SF win to grid in his debut Championship Final! Superstar next season, Scott?

#886 Pete Randall made a welcome return to the MSRA for 2025 and raced at over half of this season's fixtures. Pete certainly started quick with 2 Final wins in the first Grading Period alone to shoot himself straight up to Red and he never looked back for the remainder of the season with some solid drives to maintain his Red grade going into 2026. Hopefully, Pete will be back again for more racing next season!

#12 Lexie Groves was another driver who impressed over the course of this season and made good ground on her finishing position of 2024 going from 28th to 19th on this season's end of year Grading List. Like her Dad, Scott, Lexie enjoyed a brilliant run at this year's Rosebowl event as she put in some solid scores throughout her Heat races and backed those up with a cool qualification from Lane 2 in her SF to grid in her maiden Rosebowl Final. The nerves possibly got the best of her in the race itself, eventually ending with a DNF, but she made it there with some great races before. Lexie continued her form to also grid in the Midland Masters Final this season as well which is a feat not to be underestimated at all! Add a maiden Meeting Final podium finish, and a victory in the Junior Points, and it was certainly a fine season for Lexie!

#333 Duncan Bullock enjoyed a solid debut season in the MSRA last year and took home the White Top Championship in fine style. Heading into his second season as a Yellow, his objective was always to reach Blue if he could make it. After 3 successful Grading Periods of consistent scores, Duncan finally achieved his objective of getting to Blue and he continued his fine form to maintain that right until the end of the season. Duncan was also elected as the club's Chief Scrutineer at the AGM so it will be all systems go for him when he returns next year!

#47 Sam Nicholls is a driver which I feel goes unnoticed most of the time and unfairly so in my opinion. Appearing at only 9 meetings this season, Sam was never going to be fighting high in the points table, but his speed and ability is never in doubt, and he featured in 3 Meeting Finals from his 9 appearances which proves my point. Sam's best moment was the Midland Masters event though as he scored a fantastic SF win from Lane 6, shocking #380 Chris Radley from Lane 1, and then took the fight to Chris once more in the Final to finish just 0.449s off a memorable win! If Sam attended more meetings, he would be a real challenger for the S/S positions so I hope he can make it to more meetings next season!

#3 Liam Mulliss is my final driver spotlight and, I have to say, he has had an incredible debut season in the MSRA! On-track, he is fast and fearless and off-track he is enthusiastic and clearly wants to be involved with the racing at every given opportunity which is fantastic to see. Liam won both the Novice of the Year and the White Top Championship this season and quickly earnt a Yellow grade where he also seemed at ease. Heading into his second season, he must be one to watch to shoot up the grades and take the fight to win the Junior Championship!





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And Finally...



So, that's almost it from me and my review of the 2024/2025 MSRA Season and it has been an incredible season of highs which have truly shown how great our club is. Personally, it has been one of the most enjoyable seasons of racing I can recall since I started racing in 2002 but, like everything enjoyable, it seems to end all too quickly!

I have included a few snapshots of my season highlights below and have a few personal thankyou's which I would like to end with as a token of my appreciation for everything which I have received from them across this season as follows...

Firstly, to Paul Taylor for his continuing support and help towards me every single season and for creating one of my very favourite livery designs which I've had the pleasure of racing in the form of defending World Champion #1 Tom Harris. Considering that I left it later than usual to ask for this body and livery to be done, Paul surprised me by having it completed from scratch in a matter of just 9 days ready for me to use at the first meeting which I was amazed at when he told me! The work which Paul puts in for me, and a lot of the MSRA members, each and every year does not go unnoticed and I appreciate his help tremendously as I'm sure do most of the MSRA members who race his cars and liveries. Plus, the members seemed to like it as well after voting for it as "Smart Car of the Year" so a truly well-deserved accolade for Paul this season!

Next, I would like to thank Vikki Edwards-Slann for her extremely kind words towards me at the Midland Final night after presenting me with the "Unsung Hero" award. We are all members of this club thanks to Vikki's Dad, Dave Edwards, and the club would not be here without his desire to create it over 50 years ago. For me to play even a small part of the club's longevity and success is an honour and I am extremely grateful to have been presented with this special award at the biggest meeting of the season.

Finally, I would like to thank my fellow racers for playing their part in a hugely enjoyable season of racing for me. On a personal note, winning my 4th Silver roof in a row still hasn't sunk in yet and neither has defending the Rosebowl for the first time either but I'm hugely grateful to have been able to continue my success across this season and have thoroughly enjoyed the battles along the way!

Still, if I keep winning as many trophies as I have done this season then I may need to start saving up for a bigger house (see below for proof!) 😊



See you all in November!
#488 Elliott Shaw