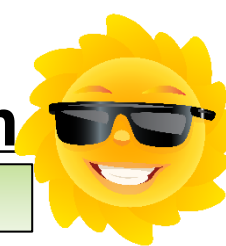


Talking Stox – Summer 2025 Edition

A Look Ahead As The 2025/2026 Season Approaches...



Hello and welcome to the Summer 2025 edition of “Talking Stox”! It’s hard to believe that we are at the half-way point between the end of last season and the start of next season already, but the off-season has certainly flown by! Join me as I take a brief look ahead to the 2025/2026 MSRA season with only 4 months left until the racing begins!

#488 Elliott Shaw

Promoters New & Old Join Up for 2026 Fixtures!

After a fantastic set of fixtures showcasing 9 different tracks last season, the list for 2026 will see that number reduce slightly down to 8 but a whole host of different challenges will await us all across some new and returning tracks!

Firstly, **555 Promotions** is back after a successful first campaign on the revamped “Postage Stamp” circuit last season so more fast and flowing action is almost certainly guaranteed!

Clive Baylis returns at the helm of **Baylis Raceway** for his 5th season as a promoter on his notoriously unique layout which has the honour of playing host to this season’s Midland Masters Championship (more of that later!).

Taking over promoting duties on Clive’s “D”-shaped circuit at **Baylis Racing** is Yazmin Taylor-Beck who steps into her first role as an MSRA Promoter! I’m sure everyone will join me in wishing Yaz the very best in her debut promoting year!

A familiar face has taken over the running of last year’s Brandon circuit as Barrie Gregory returns as a promoter for the first time since 2009. Running under the banner of **B.T.P. (Brandon Track Promotions)** for this season, Barrie will be hosting this year’s Ladies’ Final in February!

Also joining as a debut promoter for 2026 is **LJD Raceway** who are to be fronted by Liam and Dave Mulliss alongside Jonathon Walmsley – this trio will be bringing an exciting brand-new circuit to the MSRA fixtures so keep your eyes peeled for it!

Long-time promoter Matt Trasler is also back with his super-sized circuit as **MAD Raceway** prepares for another season of racing at Bedworth Liberal Club!

Richard Sleeman’s **R.S. Promotions** is also back for 2026 which means a return to the “big track” as the JMR circuit is rested for this season. R.S. will be hosting the Rosebowl and Supreme Finals this season so some fast title deciders await!

Finally, **Rocket Raceway** complete our line-up for this season as the sole remaining circuit to be hosted in Sileby. Geoff Radley and Marie Gilbank will also be in charge of hosting the 2026 Midland Final, so we have the biggest event of the season to look forward to on this track!

Bring it on!





Talking Stox – Summer 2025 Edition

The 2026 Fixture List... In Brief!

For the 2nd consecutive season, we are scheduled to have 33 race meetings grace our 2026 Fixture List and below are a few snapshots and key dates for your diaries so make a note!

First off, our official pre-season test meetings are planned for **Sunday 12th October (Bedworth)** and **Saturday 1st November (Brandon)** – full details of tracks and start times will be announced in the coming months so keep a lookout!

From there, we kick-start our season proper on **Saturday 15th November** as MAD Raceway hosts the season opener. Each promotion will host 4 meetings this season and we have a one-off appearance for last year's Wreck-It Raceway track as this doubles up with Rocket Raceway for the Xmas Cracker on **Saturday 27th December!**

For the first time in a good number of years, our season will not end on a Sunday afternoon as R.S. Promotions will take the honour of closing off our season on **Saturday 7th March** to host our 33rd and final meeting of the year.

It's set to be a brilliant season with some exciting tracks!

Time To Talk Titles!

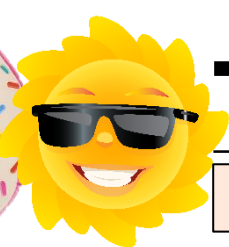
As usual, we have a plethora of Championship events up for grabs across the entire MSRA season and the big events are shaping up to be unmissable based on the tracks hosting!

- **Midland Masters** – Baylis Raceway
- **Rosebowl Final** – R.S. Promotions
- **Midland QFs** – 555 Promotions
- **Midland SFs** – LJD Raceway
- **Midland Final & NOTY Final** – Rocket Raceway
- **Ladies' Final** – B.T.P.
- **Junior Final** – Baylis Racing
- **Minors Final** – 555 Promotions
- **Supreme Final** – R.S. Promotions

It's fantastic to see such a good spread of circuits hosting all of our championship events across the season as they all offer a different challenge to all racers participating!

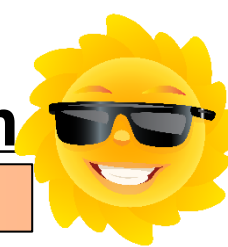
I can't wait to see how things pan out across these title deciders in 2026!





Talking Stox – Summer 2025 Edition

Grader's Picks To Watch Out For In 2026...



Coming off the back of another fantastic campaign last season, **#488 Elliott Shaw** will be aiming to create more history in 2026 and reach double figures in the Points Championship victories tally if he can snatch the Silver roof. A tall order though especially with the quality of competition aiming to thwart his progress!

Taking home 3 titles last season, **#380 Chris Radley** is neatly poised to take the fight for the big events once more in 2026 and will be going all out to defend his Gold roof in February. Off the back of his most successful season in 2025, Chris will be hoping his pace and form continue long into the 2026 campaign!

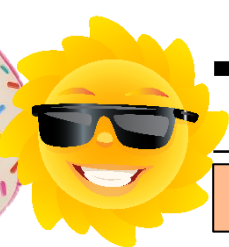
#53 Matt Trasler enjoyed a brilliant season of results in 2025 bagging a top 3 in all 3 Major Championships. Frustratingly for Matt, none of these ended in victory so he will be out to set that record straight this season and should be right in the hunt. Matt also reached 50 Final wins last season so can he add more this year?

Returning for the full season in 2025, **#260 Nigel Shaw** proved that he still has the pace to challenge the very best and ended a solid 4th position in the points. Heading into 2026, Nigel will be hoping to kick on from a solid second-half to last season and be right at the sharp end from the get-go once the new season starts!

Also returning for the bulk of 2025 was **#107 Evan Foster** and he enjoyed a fine return to the MSRA earning 3 Final wins and a 5th place points finish to end in the Superstars. With his relentless pace and race-craft, there is no reason why Evan won't be a main contender for the big titles across the 2026 season!

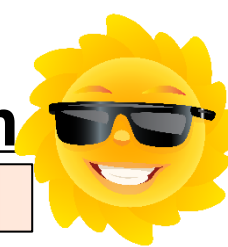
Best of the rest in 2025 saw a brilliant duel between **#390 Barrie Gregory** and **#555 Richard Sleeman** so I'm fully expecting more of the same from this duo as they fight to earn bragging rights and shoot into the Superstar positions ahead of them!





Talking Stox – Summer 2025 Edition

Grader's Picks To Watch Out For In 2026...



After his most consistent and impressive season last year, **#9 Scott Groves** earned a continuous Red grade and picked up many consistent meeting scores to keep him near the head of the Points list. Heading into 2026, his confidence must be brimming so could this be the year which Scott reaches Superstar for the first time?

After a one-sided Ladies' Final, the battle between **#391 Kelly Foster** and **#211 Yazmin Taylor-Beck** never materialised as many would have expected so I'm particularly interested in how this battle will ebb and flow throughout 2026 and whether the top 2 females may need to start looking over their shoulders.

I say that as **#12 Lexie Groves** enjoyed a very strong season in 2025 and showed massive character to grid in both the Rosebowl and Midland Masters Finals as well as a totally dominant performance in the Junior Points beating her nearest rival by 50pts! Could we see Lexie continue her form and take the Ladies' title?

One of the most talked about battles of last season was between two young Novice racers in the form of **#3 Liam Mulliss** and **#119 Jackson Earp** as they fought to be the number 1 of their debut campaign. In the end, it was Liam who prevailed, but Jackson also showed great maturity and consistency in the latter stages of the season so could we be looking at the next duo to battle it out for the Junior Championship over the years to come?

Finally, we have a few, what I like to call, "outliers" who may spring a surprise or two depending on whether they consistently appear at race meetings or not. **#47 Sam Nicholls**, **#8 Jack Ratcliffe**, **#184 James Wilford**, **#137 Craig Taylor** and **#154 Jack Reynolds** are all previous Superstar racers who made limited (or Guest only) appearances in 2025 so, knowing the skill set of them all, could any of these drivers make a real charge forward and shoot up the Grading List across the new season?

Only time will tell...





Talking Stox – Summer 2025 Edition



#84 Dan Trasler – In Memoriam...

I think I can speak on behalf of everyone within the MSRA, past and present, that reading the news of Dan Trasler's passing in April was tragic and tough to take. Personally, I first met Dan when I was only 11 years old after he joined the MSRA as a novice driver way back in 2004, following in his brother Matt's footsteps a year earlier, so he has been a constant presence within my own life for 21 years and it is hard to believe that I will never see him again.

Dan was always charismatic and there was a special warmth which surrounded him as he lit up any room he entered. That warmth and charisma translated perfectly when he took ownership of the microphone at many meetings which he attended over the years, and he always had a knack of calling races well with a distinctive tone of voice – soft yet commanding at the same time – which I felt helped whenever he commentated on my races as he was always clear, concise and to the point.

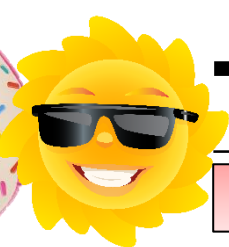
Dan made an instant mark on the MSRA when he joined in 2004 as he took a memorable Novice of the Year victory to emulate his brother Matt after he won it in 2003. Over the course of his time racing for the MSRA, Dan collated an impressive tally of race wins and earned a fantastic 23 Final victories which puts him 13th on the all-time list at the time of writing which shows his ability in the most demanding of races. Dan was also a 2-time Midland Final qualifier (in 2009 and 2015) and very nearly had the Gold roof in his hands at the first time of asking before being swept aside by the hard-hitting Richard Sleeman towards the end.

Dan also formed a promoting partnership with Matt in 2006 and the iconic M.A.D. Promotions was born. Together, along with their Dad Jim, they built their own track for 2007 (now ran as JMR Promotions) before building a further track the following year (now ran as Brandon). Matt and Dan took a brief year off in 2011 before returning in 2012 with Matt more at the forefront and Dan working behind the scenes – the “MAD” name continues to live on today with Matt's “MAD Raceway” circuit name which ensures that the legacy of what he created with Dan all those years ago remains firmly remembered.

My deepest condolences go out to Matt, Julie and Jim, as well as his wife Lucy and son Alfie, as they come to terms with a life without Dan.

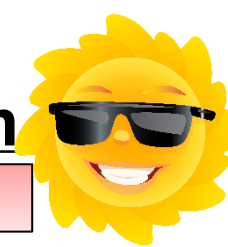


For me, Dan was the ultimate gent and one who I will miss dearly at the MSRA. RIP #84.



Talking Stox – Summer 2025 Edition

And Lastly...



So, another off-season is racing by at a rapid pace, and we only have a handful of months left until racing action kicks off in November which is amazing as it doesn't seem that long since our Presentation Evening in March!

Looking ahead into the 2026 season, I'm excited to see the brand-new circuit layout from LJD Raceway along with the returning R.S. Promotions although I must admit it is a shame to see Wreck-It Raceway disappear from our full-time fixtures so hopefully that track can be revived for a full campaign again for the 2026/2027 season!

There are a lot of things to look forward to with the upcoming season and, as always, the championship events usually receive the greatest anticipation so I'm sure most talking points will come from the big title deciders lying in wait across a whole host of tracks this season!

The Midland Masters, in particular, should be a complete unknown owing to the slight tweak in its running format with all 6 Heat races spread across the weekend being a complete random grid draw! That should, hopefully, add a bit more excitement and unpredictability to proceedings as well as offer a level playing field for all competitors.

Finally, as we head into the MSRA's 52nd season of racing, our club as a whole has never been in a healthier place in my opinion so let's all come together to continue making fantastic memories with some close on-track racing battles and friendly banter and laughs off it!

See you in November!



#488 Elliott Shaw