

TOUGH MONKEYS

F1 Karting North East Sprint: 03/06/06

This was a bit of a fun race this. It was one of my best mate's Stag weekends, and we'd arranged to go karting while we were painting the town red up in Newcastle. Coincidentally, it was to be at F1 Karting, an outfit I'm familiar with from Loughborough in the Midlands.

Being six highly organised people, we arrived totally late and missed the briefing. Safety being safety, we still had to have the briefing and twiddled our thumbs while the race began.

We had split ourselves into two teams of three, my team being completed by the groom Dominic and the weekend organiser Nick. After the briefing I legged it out to the grid and was accelerating out of the pits before I'd even sat down. Heading onto the track completely cold and right into a race is never great preparation, but I was soon carving my way through the field. We'd started 12th and a good five minutes adrift, so had a lot to do.

By the end of my stint I'd clawed the team back up to 6th, and then it was time for Dominic to have a go while I analysed my lap times to see where I could go faster. After Nick had done his stint, I went out for my last piece of action and took chunks out of the guys in front. I had a ball being out in the short track environment where I cut my teeth, and having been considerably quicker in my second stint than my first, we were very happy to finish in 3rd position. We can only wonder at where we would have finished if we had actually been on the grid when the race started!