

TOUGH MONKEYS

F1 Karting Midlands Endurance: 04/05/05

It was all a bit of fun, but what fun it was!

This event was organised as a low key stag evening for my father who was remarrying. Twelve of us turned out for the endurance race, split into six teams of two drivers. The interest for us came as not only would my dad and myself be racing together for the first time, we'd be pitched against my cousin and uncle in a bit of a family war.

Having experience of endurance racing and the relevant tactics, and knowing that the other teams would change more often, I'd said to my dad to go out and have some fun. Stay out there for as long as he wants, and when he's had enough I would take over and bring the kart to the finish.

A good start had seen my dad running in the top three for some time until a spin had dropped us down to fourth. As the laps unfolded, we remained in fourth but gradually dropping away from the leaders.

With almost two thirds distance gone, my dad gave the signal that he was coming in, and I was there waiting for him in the pit to take over till the end. I was immediately on the pace and with my dad giving me both position and time countdown with every lap I went passed, I was aware I was making serious inroads into the lead.

With a few minutes to go, I caught up with the leader who had got himself stuck behind a back marker. I wasn't in a mood to hang about, and swept past both of them in one move. Continuing to be held up and unable to pass on the twisty circuit, the now second placed kart was soon losing time to me. So much so that when the chequered flag dropped we had lapped them.

Like I said at the start, this was an evening of fun. And seeing my dad beaming from ear to ear made it all the more enjoyable.