

## **Adam Mackay, Kart Racing**

I sit on the grid, gripping the steering wheel and waiting for the marshal to wave that all important flag. My engine is revving and my heart is revving just as fast! At last we're off, and 26 cadet karts pour out onto the track ready to start the race. We drive slowly round the track lining up into our grid positions and getting ready to start the race. The start is one of the most important parts of the race – if you get a good start and get ahead of the 'pack' it is easier to pull away and stay clear of all the crashes! Round the last corner and I start to press the accelerator harder – the lights turn to green and my foot's flat down – I'm away and out in the lead.....

I have been karting for two years now and absolutely love the thrill and excitement. I'm 11 years old and already driving at a speed of 65mph most weekends! I race in the cadet class – 8-13 years old – and race in Scotland and England. Last year I finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Honda Cadet Scottish Championship and have had over 40 podium places in Scotland. My local track is Boyndie near Banff and I spend hours there 'testing' and trying to improve my driving techniques and kart set-up. I also race in Golspie, Crail and Larkhall – the three other Scottish tracks. My dad is my mechanic and he spends all his spare time working on my kart and preparing it for race meetings. This takes up a lot of time as we are always looking to go faster and the set-up of the kart plays a huge part in this.

Last year I entered my first British Championship for WTP engines. This meant I had to race at tracks all over England and accumulate points from each race meeting. I traveled as far down as Kent and Cambridge, as well as Yorkshire, Cumbria and Lincolnshire. It was my first time racing at most of these tracks and it was really exciting to be racing in a big Championship against some of the best British drivers. At the end of the Championship I finished 13<sup>th</sup> in Britain – not bad for my first year of racing in England! The top 15 racers are 'seeded' and are allowed to race with the number that they qualified with – '13' certainly wasn't unlucky for me! I was the only Scottish cadet to finish in the top 15 in any of the British Championships last year and my dad and I were delighted. It made all the hard work worthwhile.

Because I did so well last year we have decided to enter the British Racing Drivers' 'Stars of Tomorrow' Cadet Championship. This is the ultimate Championship and is where Lewis Hamilton (my hero of course!) was first spotted. The best in Britain race against each other – 58 cadets all aiming to cross the finish line first! The racing is immense and the race weekends are just like a Formula 1 weekend – just on a smaller scale. We have 'test day' on the Friday, practice on Saturday and racing on Sunday. I will be racing all over Britain and as far away as Belgium so there will be lots of traveling and driving for us. When I'm a Formula One driver I will have to travel even further!

I really enjoy racing in England as the grids are a lot bigger and therefore the racing is a lot better and I get lots of experience racing against the best drivers in Britain. My dad and I spend many hours driving to the tracks in our red van – an old Parcelforce van that

we have converted into a race van. It has a garage at the back and also beds, a toilet, cooker and a fridge. We live in the van all weekend – there’s even a TV in it and sometimes I take my playstation too. I have made lots of friends through karting and it tends to be the same boys that I see at the racing most weekends. They are from all over Scotland and England and we all get on really well.

I am aiming to finish as high up in the ‘Stars of Tomorrow’ championship as I can and would love to finish as a ‘seeded’ driver for next year. Racing in England most weekends means that I can only race in Scotland when there are no British Championship rounds. Unfortunately this means that I will miss some of the Scottish Championship race meetings so becoming Scottish Champion is not going to happen this year. The racing standard in the British Championship is way above Scottish club racing so look out Scotland when I do turn up.....

