

## BNL Round 2 – Mariembourg provides twists in the tale



The second round of the BNL Karting Series headed to a new location in 2019, as Karting Des Fagnes International Raceway, based in Mariembourg, provided a wonderful backdrop for the halfway point of the season.

The 1,388-metre circuit would also provide some great action over the two days of competition in south-east Belgium, and also give us some twists in the storyline towards the title fights, with the majority of them heading to Karting Genk this coming October.

### Micro Max: Van Der Struijs exercises damage control, as Schormans shines!

The 2019 Micro Max title will go down to the wire at Karting Genk this coming October, as the top four are split by just 40 points after what was an interesting race weekend in Mariembourg.

Tommie Van Der Struijs' (NED - #54) dominance over the championship after a perfect round at the season opener was quickly extinguished, as fellow countryman Kacper Schormans (#40 – NED) showed his credentials over the two days, taking three wins over the four races.



GKS Lemmens Power's Thomas Strauven (#9 – BEL) was able to secure a further two second place finishes at Karting Des Fagnes, putting the youngster into the mix for the title in third, just four points ahead of Max Sadurski (#19 – NED), who became the third different winner this season, winning race two of the weekend.

The #86 of Mika Van De Pavert was one that clearly is one driver that was battling with the rest of the usual suspects, as the Dutch driver would place no lower than fourth all race weekend, securing 65 points after four action packed races.

### **Mini Max: Thien quickly responds, but Gerhards retains standings lead**

The battle has clearly heated up in Mini Max, as the half way point of the 2019 campaign saw both Jayden Thien (#107-NED) and Tim Gerhards (#50-NED) take home two wins a piece at the Mariembourg-based circuit.

Thien seized the initial advantage on day one of the weekend, as the Dutch driver took pole position and then racked up two wins, before Tim Gerhards retook his control on the top of the standings on the Sunday.



The turning point was in the third race of the weekend, as the #50 fought back against Thien, with the pair swapping the lead of the race throughout the majority of race three itself.

Thien's weekend would take a further turn for the worse, as the Dutch racer would be involved in two separate events in the final race, the last of which would halt him in his tracks to try and close the gap to the points leader.

Tim Gerhards, as a result of taking a total of six race wins this year, now has a 34-point advantage going into the final weekend of the season.

Last year's BNL Rotax Golden Trophy runner-up, Enzo Bol (#155 – NED), would secure some very impressive consistency throughout the weekend, taking three third place finishes and a second, putting him third in the standings on 132 points, 58 behind the points leader.

The Dutch driver was battling with Jens Van Der Heijden (#151-NED), Nick Gerhards (#60-NED) and Teun Schmidt (#166-NED) throughout the weekend and is 41 points ahead of the #60 in the standings.

### **Junior Max: Van Vugt still on top, as Reinaerds comes of age**

Mike Van Vugt (#217-NED-JJ Racing) still leads the standings by 57 points after a topsy-turvy weekend for the 14-year-old from Wogsum saw his success rate suffer a slight blip along the way.

Race three saw the Dutch youngster slip outside of the top ten on a very fast-paced first lap before the field had gotten through turn three. He tried to make his way back up through towards the sharp end of the field, but on lap five, it went south very quickly.

Van Vugt was battling with Welsh wonder Matthew Higgins for position in race three, but the former found himself 180 degrees pointing the wrong way on lap five, coming out of turn four, and he promptly retired one lap later.

However, it was a spell-binding drive from the Dutch wonder, who came back firing on all 125cc from the last row on the grid to take a third win of the weekend, ahead of Thom Reinaerds (#237-NED-GKS Lemmens Power), who now moves up to second in the standings.

Reinaerds would capitalise on Van Vugt's misfortune on race three, and pick up his first ever BNL win as a Junior, and is only a further five points ahead of Coles Racing's Kris Haanen (#264-NED), who had a very difficult race weekend.

Persistence Motorsport's Daniel Guinchard (#254-GBR) would ensure that he has a chance to get to the championship podium at Genk in October, as the Briton would have a string of second and third places in the first three races, before he would end up not scoring in the final race, after it was red flagged and he was forced to start from the pits.



The battle for fifth is still very tight in the general order of points scored, with Milan Coppens (#244-NED), Dani Van Dijk (#256-NED), Tom Adams (#217-GBR-Coles Racing) and Higgins split by just 21 points at this moment in time.

### **Senior Max: Titanic battle at the top, but Ravenscroft still out in front**

The fiercest class in the BNL Karting Series has a very different outlook post-Mariembourg, as Clayton Ravenscroft (#399 - GBR - KR Sport) again only picked up one race win during the weekend, a repeat of what transpired in the March season opener at Genk.

However, the Briton still comes out on top after Karting Des Fagnes, extending his small lead only slightly to seven points in the standings, ahead of the resurgent Dylan LaHaye (#328 - BEL - GKS Lemmens Power), who took the win on the weekend results.

LaHaye was mighty around the new venue for 2019, as he would ensure his place in the title fight well and truly, taking a double victory on day one, third in the penultimate race of the weekend, before having to settle for second, after Ravenscroft blasted past ten other rivals in the final race of the meeting to win.

The top six are covered by just 52 points heading into the final round, with Ilian Bruynseels (#308 – BEL – Bouvin Power) in third, 26 adrift of LaHaye. The 16-year-old had a best result in the first race of the weekend, taking fourth at the finish, but would suffer ever-worsening results, before a non-score in the final race of the weekend.

Lewis Gilbert (#329 – GBR – Persistence Motorsport) would shine during the weekend, as his efforts saw him hit the final step of the podium, after a great set of drives throughout proceedings.



## **DD2 & DD2 Masters: Liveris takes over the top in DD2, as Cleirbaut unchallenged for title**

Greece ace DJ Liveris (#436 – DAEMS Racing Team) would mirror the efforts of former leader Xander Przybylak (#412 – BEL – Bouvin Power), who would have a weekend to forget, in respect of his title defence.

Liveris would be the driver of the weekend in the class, having stormed his way to the front of the field and picked up three wins, whilst Przybylak was excluded from the first race of the weekend, due to unsporting driving.

The Belgian was able to exercise damage limitation to come back from the exclusion to win the last race of the weekend, passing Liveris with just a few laps remaining and giving the Greek driver something to think about ahead of the season finale.

Sweden's David Rehme remains in third in the standings, 45 points behind Liveris and 32 behind Przybylak, whilst Sebastien Degrande (#447 – BEL – DAEMS Racing Team) and FM Racing's Jan Schwitter (#427 – CH) complete the top five.



Carl Cleirbaut (#510 – BEL – Bouvin Power) has one hand on the crown in DD2 Masters, as the “Fastest Baker in Flanders” was pretty much untouchable, as he continued a 100 percent winning streak, having won all eight races thus far, putting him on a maximum score of 200 points.

Britain’s Tamsin Germain (#525 – GBR) had a good show consistency, taking three second place finishes and a third to keep her ahead of Christophe Adams (#555 – BEL) and Kristof Lijnen (#588 – BEL) in the fight for second place in the standings.

The trio are separated by only 40 points, ahead of Michael Becker from RS Competition, who along with Patrick Weinstock, was not present at the meeting.



## “Peter de Wit Fair Play Trophy 2019”

The Peter de Wit Fair Play Trophy has a third different winner, as Ronals Billings (#541 -GBR) in DD2 Masters ws the welcome recipient of this award, due to his efforts over the weekend.

Former winner Tanju Yildiz was unable to be present at the weekend, but was able to assit in the future safety of the Trophy itself, by providing a protective case. Thank you for that Tanju.



The BNL Karting Series will conclude its 11<sup>th</sup> season at the “Home of Champions,” Karting Genk, on the first weekend of October (5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>.)