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Newsletter

KnK/NL0906 - 01 (In parts) – The Race Meet

The weekend everyone was waiting for was finally here, September 16th & 17th and rounds 4 & 5 of the RMC. The venue, the new circuit at Mohite's Racing Academy just outside Kolhapur. We felt that it was such an outstanding show that it warrants a section by itself.

The facility had transformed into a picture perfect venue for the final two rounds of the Rotax Challenge. Four weeks earlier we had visited the circuit and we could never have believed that such a change were possible, particularly during the monsoons. This would be an unforgettable weekend for many; drivers from across the country were here to race for the final points of the Indian Rotax Max series.

September. 2006



IT WAS DRY DURING FRIDAY PRACTICE



The event attracted a number of important people from the racing scene, Sanjay Sharma and Hari Singh from JK Tyres, Robin Shroff and Shyam Kothari from our ASN, the MAI.

Shreekant Apte and Dilip Desai were among some other well knowns in motor sports circles there.



It was good to see an Indian event draw international personalities, Kart manufacturer BIREL were well represented, Richard Lim of BIREL Malaysia was in attendance with a group of mechanics to tune Akhil Kushlani's Birel kart. Akhil has been the driver to beat this season in Rotax, and was expecting similar results at Kolhapur. Mr. Tadashi Sasaki, President BIREL PACIFIC s.r.l. had also flown across from Japan to witness this thrilling weekend of racing at Kolhapur.





Bollywood star Jackie Shroff was Chief Guest and caused quite a stir when he arrived at the venue in a chopper. Mr. Shroff then walked around the periphery of the complete circuit meeting his fans and motor sport enthusiasts.



The crowds were remarkable, an estimated over 3000 cheering spectators turned up, enduring the uncertain weather, to observe the racing.



The track owners and their friends kept the crowds entertained between events with parades and drive-bys on bikes and in cars from their garage of vehicles. There was some striking machinery on display much to the thrill of those attending.

When Sanjay Sharma of JK Tyres remarked that this was the most remarkable karting event in recent years, he was not being polite, it was!

For the reason of the size of this newsletter, I am dividing it into parts. This is the first.

Thank you for reading with me, the next two are about the racing.

Cheers!

Micki