

National Honors on the Line: Preview - Rotax Nationals

AKA press release

Kart racers from all across the country will be heading to Sydney's Eastern Creek International Karting Raceway next weekend (September 26/27) in an attempt to be crowned the Australian Champion at the Rotax Nationals. The competitors, who will all be competing aboard 125cc Rotax-powered karts, will reach speeds in excess of 100 km/h while racing only centimeters' apart on the 1024-metre circuit.

Over the past few years Victorian David Sera has cemented himself at the top of Australian karting with numerous victories in the major events across the country, including three of the last four Rotax Light crowns at the Nationals. Sera will be joined on the track in the battle for the Rotax Light crown by Windsor's David Whitmore, Bankstown's Nathan Tigani and the North Shore's Jason Hryniuk.



Above: Windsor driver David Whitmore (#57) is ready to take on the best drivers at next weekend's event *pic - photowagon.com.au*

Since graduating from the junior ranks 18 months ago Whitmore has continually developed into a front-runner in the Rotax Light division across Australia and is the reigning New South Wales State Champion. "It is going to be good taking on the best drivers on my home track, hopefully I'll have a little bit of an advantage over them but it will be tough against the likes of David Sera, Bart Price and Damien Ward," said Whitmore "We've been doing a fair bit of testing over the last few months in an effort to be fully prepared, it is going to be a tough event but I will be giving it everything I've got to win.

"Everyone that is racing at the event is going to be hard to beat and qualifying will play an important role for the shape of your weekend. I'll be aiming to be inside the top five at the end of qualifying but as everyone in karting knows it is not over until the end of the last lap in the final." Queenslanders have dominated the Rotax Heavy division at the Rotax Nationals having won the last six titles and Bundaberg's Kel Treseder is the reigning two-time Champion. While confident entering next weekend's event Treseder is well aware that local drivers such as Castle Hill's Daniel Baker and Mt Druitt resident Craig Stauner will be tough to beat on their home circuit. "Once again there is a high quality field assembled for the Rotax Nationals and come Finals time next Sunday it is going to be 'game on' with the best of the best set to rise to the occasion," said Treseder. "I think local track knowledge will certainly come into play but hopefully we visiting drivers will be able to overcome the local guys and continue the domination by Queensland drivers in the category." In the battle of the junior drivers, the Championship chase in Formula JMA is wide open with the likes of interstate visitors Ben Jurczak, Chris Hays, Luke Rochford and Sam Howard set to take the challenge to local drivers Pierce Lehane, Darsey Kondopirakis and Tobias Bellbowen.



Above: Young Sydneysider Pierce Lehane in action behind the wheel of his CRG kart *pic - photowagon.com.au*

While the Junior category has been contested in Australia for several years next weekend's event will be the first time that the category has got National Championships status. Next weekend's event kick starts a double-header of action for karting in the Western Sydney region with Oran Park hosting the New South Wales State Championships the following weekend (October 3-5).

Former winners of the Rotax Karting Nationals

Rotax Light

- 2001 – Matthew Wall (Vic)
- 2002 – Josh Arandt (Vic)
- 2003 – Bart Price (Vic)
- 2004 – Scott Auld (Qld)
- 2005 – David Sera (Vic)
- 2006 – Hayden McBride (NSW)
- 2007 – David Sera (Vic)
- 2008 – David Sera (Vic)

Rotax Heavy

- 2001 – Damien Meyer (NSW)
- 2002 – Brett Davidson (Vic)
- 2003 – William Yarwood (Qld)
- 2004 – William Yarwood (Qld)
- 2005 – William Yarwood (Qld)
- 2006 – William Yarwood (Qld)
- 2007 – Kel Treseder (Qld)
- 2008 – Kel Treseder (Qld)

Previous Venues

- 2001 – Eastern Creek International Karting Raceway, Sydney, NSW
- 2002 – VACC Park, Melbourne, Vic
- 2003 – Mt Sugarloaf Raceway, Newcastle, NSW
- 2004 – Ipswich Raceway, Ipswich, QLD
- 2005 – Beckley Park Raceway, Geelong, Vic
- 2006 – Mt Sugarloaf Raceway, Newcastle, NSW
- 2007 – Ipswich Raceway, Ipswich, QLD
- 2008 – VACC Park, Melbourne, Vic