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Young and old rise to challenge at two tracks on Easter weekend

Karts go full throttle

By SIMON CRASE

KARTING chaos dominated the region over the Easter weekend, with karters from across Queensland taking part in the Two Track Challenge.

On Saturday more than 100 kart racers from midget class to senior took to the Rockhampton track in the first day of racing.

Then it was on to the Gladstone leg of the challenge on Sunday.

Gladstone Kart Club spokesman Darren Derboben said competitors came from as far away as Cairns, and considering the national kart titles were being held in Melbourne, the number of racers delighted organisers.

"The quality of racing was very, very high and the competitors had a good chance to see both tracks before the Supercheap Auto series this year," Derboben said.

"The kids had a real battle, and the eight and nine-year-olds showed some real style for their age."

It was a good weekend for Gladstone competitors with local lads claiming their fair share of

the final placings over the Two Track Challenge.

Bundaberg's Joseph Black won the midget class, with Gladstone's Mitch Bennett finishing in third position on the podium.

Gladstone rookies Connor Smith and Josh Rogers won their class in first and second place respectively,

It is a challenging and technical track

— Darren Derboben

with Russell Whittaker in third.

Over 100 kart racers were on the Gladstone Formula K track on Sunday.

Derboben said everyone paid tribute to the clubs for putting on the challenge and racers were impressed with the local circuit.

"It is a challenging and technical track and they were saying they couldn't wait to come back for the Supercheap Auto Series in September."



Midget class driver Mitchell Bennett races in the Gladstone Kart Club Two Track Challenge at Formula K Raceway in Gladstone. Picture: DERRICK DEN HOLLANDER kart040410-



Midget class driver Kane Bycroft at speed in the Gladstone Kart Club Two Track Challenge at Formula K Raceway in Gladstone. Picture: DERRICK DEN HOLLANDER kart040410-



Midget class driver Olivia Bell was right among it on Sunday at Formula K Raceway. Picture: DERRICK DEN HOLLANDER kart040410-



Senior National Pro class driver Matthew Coulson in the Gladstone Kart Club Two Track Challenge at Formula K Raceway in Gladstone. Picture: DERRICK DEN HOLLANDER kart040410-

Comets burn out early as Redcliffe Dolphins power home

By ALAN KENNEDY

THE Comets looked to be in the box seat mid-way through the second spell but the Redcliffe Dolphins came home strongly to win 28-22.

It began at the kick-off, as Ian Webster struck the ball beautifully. Too well, in fact, and it sailed over the Dolphins in-goal and into the crowd.

That gave the Dolphins the start they needed and within the first set of six they were ahead as Roberts'

little grubber was watched by the Comets defence, who stood motionless to let fullback Ryan Cullen in for the softest try he will score all season.

When the Comets did settle they began to play some good football.

They were rewarded when the ball went through the hands of a number of players before Karl Johnson off-loaded to Josh Bishop, who powered over.

With Tyron Haynes and the big

men Mapp, Alan Rothery and Aaron Summers getting through a ton of work the Comets got on top. When Cullen made a meal of a kick through, Junior Auru pounced and kept the ball alive with a flick pass to Johnson to score.

Big Paul Ivan got the scores level when he powered over in the corner.

The Comets struck again through Mick Esdale, after Rothery ran at the Dolphins defence and got the ball to Bishop, who found Esdale in

support for the try.

On the half-time siren Redcliffe drew level as Tom Butterfield was adjudged to have got the ball down after a couple of passes in the lead-up appeared to drift forward.

If anyone on the park deserved a try it was Rothery. He got his reward after good lead-up work by Tim Glasby and Esdale, with Rothery coming in at the angle to add the finishing touch.

Another Matt Minto kick had the

Comets looking good at 22-16.

In the final minute of playing with 12 men Ivan crashed through again to score and pull it back to level terms.

The Comets will be kicking themselves for gifting the final try to the Dolphins.

It was a hard match, with the Comets losing Chris Beasley to the blood bin in the first half and Redcliffe losing a second rower in the second half with a knee injury.