

# GETTING READY FOR BNL

**THE BNL SERIES, AT ITS SECOND EDITION IS PREPARING TO ANOTHER VERY SUCCESSFUL SEASON. WE TALKED TO SERIES ORGANIZER BOY PIJLS, WHOSE ENTREPRENEURSHIP OPENED THE ROAD TO BELGIAN KARTING RENEWED ENTHUSIASM**

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## THE CHAMPIONSHIP

"Compared to last season when we had three Rotax classes (Mini Max, Junior Max, Senior Max) and three CIK classes (KF2, KF3, KZ2), this year we add the Micro Max class. We've had a lot of demand by Micro Max drivers who wanted to race in a national event like ours, besides the local races that already offer the class."

## THE CIRCUITS

"BNL is a national authorised series, and CIK states that you can only leave your country once for this sort of events. So, besides Genk that is our hometrack, and the circuit abroad, the choice was between Mariembourg and Spa-Francorchamps. The latter did not give availability because it's undertaking rebuilding works, while the former had no available dates to allow one BNL round. So the opening and closing round will be held at Genk, and for round 2 we will move across the border to northern France, at Ostricourt. I visited the track and facility with GKS driver Michael Ryall, we did some tests and the feedback was very positive. Michael enjoyed the track very much, it's very fast with lots of overtaking possibility,



excellent paddock, parc-fermé and facility in general. If we organized an international authorised series, we could have raced abroad as many races as we would have liked, but the choice is restricted to CIK homologated tracks only. The problem is that there aren't many CIK homologated tracks around here."

## ENTRY RESTRICTIONS

"It's a national series, but it's open to all European drivers with national licence of their ASN. This one of the advantages of organizing a national series. If BNL were an international series, we could have accepted international licence holders only. For non-European drivers, a permission from the local ASN is required."

## PARTICIPATION

"This year we have a limit of 36 drivers in each class, and with over one month to the first round, a very popular class like KZ2 is almost fully inscribed (we have already 34 entries) and compared to last season when we had only 17 drivers on grid it's a great success. I foresee some problems in KF2, as in many other national series participation in this class will decrease. The majority of KF2 drivers switched to KZ2 because KF racing is definitely more expensive. In KF3 and Rotax classes there should be full grid as usual. Initially we thought to open entry to as many drivers as possible, but then we decided to put a limit so we can manage the programme easily. We've also decided to open single rounds entry to allow participation of those drivers who want to try out the series, and those who want to train for international events."

## PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

"The programme of the weekend will be quite similar to last year, with the exception that Saturday will be completely dedicated to racing. The four finals divided in the two days will then make the winners of the weekend."



► Above, 2008 BNL Series Senior Max podium at the last round held in Genk.

Below, KZ2 championship winner Michael Ryall. The British ace has confirmed his participation to the 2009 series racing for GKS Lemmens team.

## BNL SERIES CALENDAR - [www.bnkkartingseries.org](http://www.bnkkartingseries.org)

- 6-7 June **Round 1**, Genk (Belgium) - [www.kartinggenk.be](http://www.kartinggenk.be)
- 18-19 July **Round 2**, Ostricourt (France) - [www.karting-lille-jpr.fr](http://www.karting-lille-jpr.fr)
- 29-30 August **Round 3**, Genk (Belgium) - [www.kartinggenk.be](http://www.kartinggenk.be)



## BNL SERIES AND BELGIAN CHAMPIONSHIP

"In 2009 the national federation has decided to organize the Belgian Championship, and we are happy about this decision. In the past few years, before we launched BNL last year, the Belgian Championship had lost some of its appeal. Now there is a new person in charge, Mathieu Remmerie, who is doing a brilliant job. He has taken up BNL structure and implemented it to the Belgian Championship, and this is great for us because it means that we are the reference for everyone else. Round 2 of the Belgian Championship was a big success, much bigger than the first, because it was held at Genk and many national and international drivers came to prepare for the Euro qualifiers that will be held here in early May. Karting Genk, which organizes the BNL, supports the Belgian Championship because it is better to work together. Two series instead of one bring more drivers, and the more drivers the better the quality of our series. We are proud to have opened the road to Belgian karting renewed enthusiasm."

## HIGHLIGHT OF THE SEASON

"The highlight of BNL 2009 Series has to be the possibility for all Rotax drivers to qualify for the Rotax Grand Finals, that will be held this year at Ghibli Raceway in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt. The winners of BNL Rotax classes will automatically qualify for the biggest Rotax event of the year. Also, BNL Series is proud to announce the collaboration with Rotax, Alfano and Vroom for the second year running, proof of the high standards that our karting series has reached."