



Winner of the 1980 East Anglian Championship, Alan Dent, in his RS-bodied Escort at Ringwood.



A domestic line-up of PRI Hot Rods at Lydden circuit in Kent.



Superstox star, Howard Cole, about to take part in the grand parade at Ipswich. That's F2 ace, Bill Batten, driving the car. Batten, Cole and Ivor Greenwood were great friends, although they rarely raced together.



One of the top men in PRI Formula Three, Brian Holmes, at Arena Essex.

1983

Eight of the top Hot Rod drivers from Northern Ireland made their first trip to Tipperary, in the south. Some of the Tipperary drivers had already bought, and were racing, current, top specification cars, and this was to be the start of a healthy relationship with the circuit.

The first major event of the year for the Hot Rods was the English Championship at Wisbech stadium, in May.

Peter Grimer bagged it, his third major career title, as he'd won the English back in 1978 at Buxton, and, of course, the previous year's NHRPA. Kenny Cooke had put Barry Lee's old Opel Kadett on pole, with George Polley qualifying in second. Polley, however, had to retire from the race with a puncture, which left Cooke comfortably in front, until he tangled with back-marking Derek Hales. Grimer, therefore, took over at the front. Kenny Cooke, in probably one of the best races of his career, then came back past several top drivers, including Barry Lee, to take second.

Grid line-up for the start of the 1983 World Hot Rod Championship. Ormond Christie has pole position, with Andrew Dance sharing the front row. Behind them is defending champion, Davy Evans, with Stu Jackson, Chris Griggs and Peter Grimer.



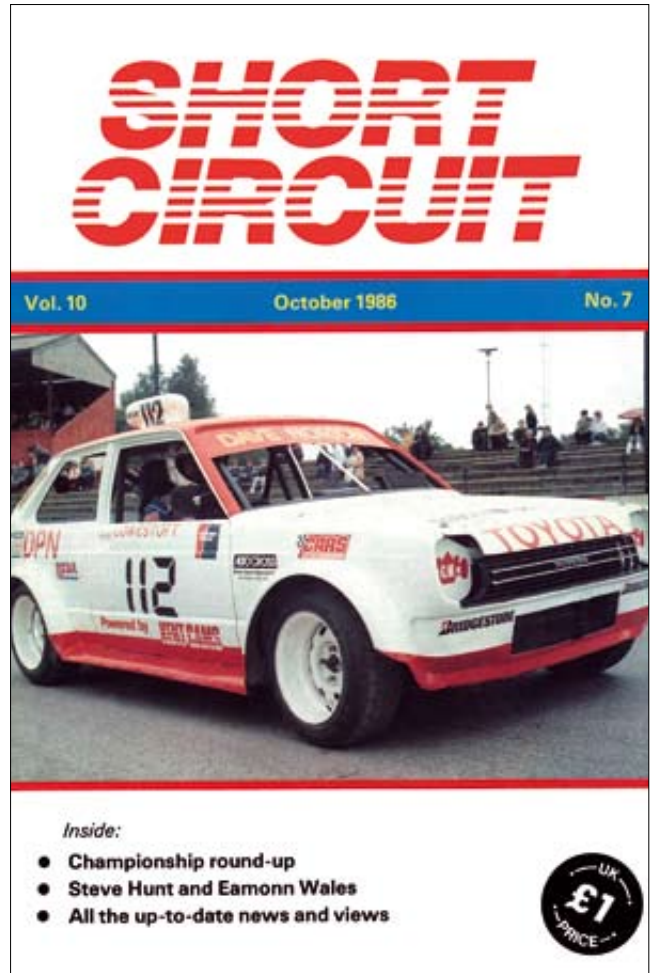


GP Midgets action at Arena Essex. Harry Sayell (1) leads 1977 World Champion, Mick Bonner (24). Chasing them are the Sinclair brothers Peter (red) and Paul (yellow), followed by John Lowe (33) and Basil Craske (21).

Evergreen Aldershot-based racer, Roger Wilkinson, had a good season, winning both the British Figure of 8 and London Championships.

With Alf Boarer having moved to Hot Rods, it was veteran driver, Basil Craske, who took his VW-powered car to the Midgets points title he'd last held in 1983. Craske also won the World Championship at Alwalton Raceway, Peterborough – this one being organised properly, with overseas drivers being invited to take part, unlike the previous seasons!

Up country there would be a void to fill on the BriSCA circuits in 1987, as six time World Champion, Stu Smith, retired from Formula One Stock Car racing at the age of 40. His last meeting was his testimonial, at Belle Vue, Manchester, in December.



Short Circuit magazine has provided excellent coverage of all aspects of the sport since 1977. 1600cc Hot Rod driver, Dave Norton, will have been pleased to have made it to the front cover in October 1986.



Sadly, the Mk3 Ford Escort never made it as a top line Hot Rod, despite the efforts of drivers like Mick Cannon who produced a well turned-out version. Mick leads Mark Peck, Bryan Wright, Ken Salter and Mike Beeston in this shot.

Who needs a jack, when you've got loads of spare rims and tyres? 1987 Best in Britain winner Jason Dell's car, is ready for some under car diagnostics.



1989 Hot Rod World Champion, Norman Woolsey's Royal Mail liveried Peugeot 205.

