



# PREVIEW BNL Round 2, Ostricourt (Fr.)

01-02 JULY 2017

By Chris McCarthy

As ever, the Ostricourt circuit in France will play host to the second weekend of the BNL Karting Series with the Micro, Mini, Junior, Senior, DD2 and DD2 Masters classes taking to the track.

The circuit is one of the best in Europe in my opinion. It's a long lap with several overtaking points and has a series of corner combinations both slow and fast which helps separate the great drivers from the good drivers, especially in the quicker classes.

In this preview, we reflect on what happened at round one and what we can expect at round two:



## Micro Max



At round one it was Senna Verluijs who dominated proceedings with three out of four wins. The fourth and one remaining win went to Dowe Dedecker, who unsurprisingly comes into Ostricourt 2<sup>nd</sup> in the championship nine points behind Senna. The subdued entry list will make it hard for Dedecker to close in Verluijs, but we can't count out Lewis Moulaert who was quickest in the final race at Genk and finished a close 2<sup>nd</sup>.

I think those three will be the main players again, but will the track layout change the racing at all? Certainly, the distance between the last corner and turn three, where the drivers are flat out, will allow drivers to stay close. Overall I think the racing will be even closer, Genk has a lot of long straights, but in the Micro Max class I think Ostricourt will be hard to separate the drivers.

## Mini Max

The Mini Max class could be the closest of all five with Kris Haanen and Kai Rillaerts just separated by four points. The chasing group currently consists of three drivers which includes, Milan Coppens; Max Stemerdink and Thomas Martens who are all split by just one point.



It's clear that Coppens, Stemerding and Martens will be keen to close the gap to Haanen and Rillaerts and if they do so we could find a five-way battle for the championship heading into the season finale. Given what we saw at Genk I think the four race wins will be shared between these five drivers.

### Junior Max



It was of course the final race of the weekend where things took a real turn for several drivers, but coming through unscathed was Clayton Ravenscroft who took the win and championship lead. The KR Sport driver left Genk with 201 points, five ahead Luca Leistra and 15 ahead of Ilian Bruynseels who came together in the last final.

In that same race, several drivers came to a halt on the warm up lap. They included Tehmur Chohan (8<sup>th</sup>), Hannes Morin (11<sup>th</sup>), Rhys Hunter (15<sup>th</sup>), Lewis Gilbert (18<sup>th</sup>) and Isaac Smith (10<sup>th</sup>) also suffering. They will all be determined to be making some ground up at Ostricourt and of them I think Morin and Gilbert are both capable of podiums or race wins.

Kai Hunter, 6<sup>th</sup> in the championship, was the surprise package of round one given he primarily races in Mini Max back in the UK. Just ahead of him Jasin Ferati was the biggest improver of the weekend as he took 2<sup>nd</sup> in the final race. Further down in 9<sup>th</sup> place Kobe Pauwels would be sitting a lot higher had he not had a bad third final so I'll definitely be keeping one eye on him!



## DD2 & DD2 Masters

Despite tough competition Glenn van Parijs was the dominant force at Genk and heading into Ostricourt he leads the championship by 21 points. Behind that we then have a very close battle for 2<sup>nd</sup> including Kevin Ludi, Vincent Jewell, Constantin Schoell, Joey Alders and Barrie Pullinger plus more!



Van Parijs won three out of four races at Genk with a 2<sup>nd</sup> in the other. So, at Ostricourt he'll have to be stopped otherwise the championship could be pretty much over before we know it. My prediction is that Ludi, Jewell and Schoell could share the spoils but the confidence of van Parijs will be very difficult to stop.

Alders, Pullinger and Christof Huibers and Jordy Lievens are all very capable of finishing on the podium and they in fact formed the podium in the first final on day two last year! In the Masters class Ian Gepts currently leads the way by 11 points over Tamsin Germain with Christopher Adams 19 points behind Germain.

## Senior Max

Dylan Lahaye and Harrison Thomas shared the spoils evenly between them at Genk taking two wins a piece. Lahaye won both finals on Saturday, with Thomas taking both wins on Sunday and that's left them five points apart heading into Ostricourt. Championship favourite, Jordan Brown-Nutley is 3<sup>rd</sup> and is 17 points behind Lahaye.

If we were to look back at last year's result, then Brown-Nutley would be the favourite for Ostricourt as he took a podium on the Sunday last year. But there are lots of new faces to the senior class this year who have already been impressive including Thomas. Others include Myles Apps (4<sup>th</sup>), Joe Turney (6<sup>th</sup>), Mark Kimber (7<sup>th</sup>) and Bradley Barrett (9<sup>th</sup>) all will be battling for wins and podiums.





One driver who I think will move forward significantly in the championship is Noah Roovers. He is currently 13<sup>th</sup> in the championship, which is certainly a lot lower than where he should be. Expect him to be fighting for wins at Ostricourt.

(Photos by M.Melis [www.kartphoto.com](http://www.kartphoto.com))

More info : [www.bnlkartingseries.com](http://www.bnlkartingseries.com)

Met vriendelijke groeten,

Salutations distinguées,

Best regards,

**BNL Karting Series organization,**

**Dave Ritzen and Chris McCarthy**



Circuit Promotor & Competitie Organisator

Damstraat 1 | 3600 Genk | België | +3289/65.81.82 | 0475/27.25.89.

Open all days except Tuesday from 10h till 18h

Rental Karts | Events | Competition | Brasserie à La Kart

[www.bnlkartingseries.com](http://www.bnlkartingseries.com)



