On the morning of the big race most members of the 19 RA LAD were on the ranges taking part in a fast paced, adrenaline filled APWT which really helped people to get in the competitive mindset required for the afternoon’s activities.

Unfortunately earlier that morning we had lost the use of one of our minibuses so many people were required to provide their own transport and the first race of the day had started, the one to the track! (At this point I would like to reassure readers that no party involved broke the speed limit.)

Almost everybody made it to the track on time but the first arrivals were team 4 which was mostly comprised of racers that had had success at go-karting earlier that year (Sgt Hier, Lcpl Bates, Cfn Marshall and Cfn Wharton). They did not hesitate to take every opportunity to make everyone else aware of this and brought the trophies just to illustrate the point. Pulling off victory dance moves and smartass quips gave the impression of an enormous over-confidence and it was not long before the general consensus was that they needed to get a whooping.

Meanwhile the underdogs, team 5 (Lcpl Riggall, Lcpl Rossiter, Cfn Mills, Cfn Silver and Cfn Spearpoint) who had never raced together remained quiet and observed the officials talking everyone through the race format. Team 5 Captain, Lcpl Rossiter then made a quick plan of the best way to approach pit-stops and other tactics with help from his team mates while the other teams stood around watching the pretty colours.

The race was in two parts, the first part not being part of the race, the warm up/ qualifying stage. This lasted twenty minutes and the idea was to give each racer a taste of the vehicles before their main racing effort. After this the cars were refuelled and put in the correct position on the starting grid, ready for the big race.

The first drivers were lined up and were in anticipation for the green light indicating the start of the race. The flag was waved and the drivers were off! The light didn’t turn green for a further thirty seconds or so, which caused some confusion for the timings. The team members that weren’t driving were obviously enthused and did their best to encourage the drivers on the track by shouting and waving in true British style.

After a couple of laps it was to everyone’s dismay that Team 4 were in 1st place and continued to be for the first half of the two hour endurance race. Team 5 however did badly in the qualifying stage and started on the grid in 7th place. Surely but slowly things started to change and team 5 pushed their way up the table to sit in second place.

The fuel stops were the turnaround point and did not take long for Team 5 to take pole position. It was not just team 5 to be pleased about team 4’s fall from 1st place and soon other teams had joined in and by the end of the race they had been knocked down a few more places.

[RESULTS]

Maybe the staff at the track had not expected the full might of the British army and were surprised to see how many karts ended up broken or just broken down, this was surprising as there was a vast amount of VMs present. The best display of go-kart breaking was definitely from Lcpl Jukes, who showed off his immense wrist strength by snapping a steering wheel clean off.

On behalf of the LAD I would like to thank Teamsport Eastleigh for providing a good track with decent facilities; Ssgt Wood for organising the afternoon; and the Commanding Officers Public Funding Enhanced for contributing towards the cost and making the event much more affordable.

There are plans for another go-karting afternoon for later in the year at Thruxton circuit which boasts an outdoors 1.1Km track with 65mph karts featuring digital readouts for lap times. Hopefully we will get a decent turnout and nice weather for the outdoors circuit.