

BLMRA go to Germany Again & Win

Report by Mark Akeroyd

The invite to Rasicross Team B1 was received, and 5 intrepid drivers decided to enter to Race the weekends events for 2023.

Saturday was a 90 minute endurance race and Sunday was a series of four sprints - points awarded for final positions but like the world Championship - heat A get more points than B etc

All of our mowers were in the super standard class, Paul, Karl, Stu, Dean & Colin. With Tricky & Pat as mechanic support



Everyone arrived on a beautiful hillside in the woods north east of Cologne in a place called Brunglinhausen on Friday afternoon. Pits were setup and my caravan was setup to the side as the support vehicle.

The mowers were rolled out and work commenced to get them setup for the race. A trip to the Supermarket for supplies and odd flavoured beers was completed.

Team B1 had spent a lot of time and expense to provide a range of amenities such as food, drink and music for the event and it all began on Friday night.



Standing round the beer trailer with its barrels and beer taps it didn't take long to get into the party spirit. I had my bed on site but the rest of the crew had been provided sleeping accommodation in the local football changing rooms. Unfortunately some had to sleep in the showers, the shower heads were electronic and seem to have minds of themselves. A bag and bed got a bit wet. Not helpful when you returned to get some sleep. The party music stopped at around 5am I understand.

I didn't actually notice as there was a generator running all night just across from my bed which drowned out the music 😞

The next day was scrutineering done by the Rasicross organisers visiting the pits, actually not a bad idea and certainly it appeared to proceed smoothly - then it was practice and qualifying.

The main race started at 18:15 - so this was to be a race partially in the dark and lights were required – the race finished at 21:30 local time and we almost had a BLMRA driver win, unfortunately Karl had an issue with his Carb and had to visit the pits which lost him laps and he came in second one lap behind the winner Leon. Stu came 6th, Dean 9th, Colin 24rd & Paul retired.



Prize giving was held up in the event area when again food was eaten, must admit choice of two types of Bratwurst not very exciting but the pulled pork was very tasty and the curry sauce not too hot. Lots of friet's with Mayo though 😊

Then the beer flowed, and the Euro dance music started, fires in huge braziers were lit and the crowd of races and public was a sight to see. Many hours later everyone retired to bed to get ready for the sprints on Sunday. Music didn't stop until 6am but I didn't notice that as I fell asleep as I hit the bed.

Nursing a few sore head's the guys got stuck into sorting their mowers whilst I and others sorted breakfast. Racing started at 11 am

Out of the group Dean appeared to have got a measure of the track and was flying - winning all his heats , there was talk regarding getting away early by skipping the last round, to make sure they got the Chunnel train in good time but as the day progressed it was looking very likely that he could take the win . So, the decision was taken to pack up everything except Deans and Stu's mowers so they could enter the last race. Dean was going to get out in front and Stu was going to protect his position. The race started, Dean dropped to second place behind Leon but under the trees at the top hairpin on the second lap he surged round and took the lead. By taking the corners inches from the

round bales he started to pull out a lead and as the Lawnbug didn't miss a beat he crossed the line as the winner of the Sprintrennen Superstandard Class.



But time was now getting crucial, so as soon as the race finished the mowers were loaded in quick fashion, they changed and drove off to catch the train. It was 16:25 and they had 7 hours to do it.

I had already decided to not rush and so was going to stay an additional night and travel through the day on Monday. This was fortuitous as I had the privilege of accepting the trophy on behalf of Dean.

Afterward there was another party – more beer, food, and music. I decided to retire at a reasonable hour but believe it still went onto 3 am. Must admit the Rasicross guys know how to party!

I am glad I stayed as the trip back on Monday was a pleasant smooth journey arriving home at a reasonable time.

The location is stunning, the drive is very long but the welcome and friendship of the Rasicross Team B1 means I would love to return for another crazy weekend.

