



KARTER Matt Griffin with some of his impressive trophy haul (above, s) and at the wheel of his Covkartsport race machine (top right, s)



Matt sweeps rivals aside to land coveted karting title

By Phil Simpson

KARTER Matt Griffin didn't let the weather stand in his way at the Covkartsport Junior Championship.

In atrocious conditions, the 15-year-old swept aside all before him to land the coveted title.

And it was made all the more sweet by the fact that it was his debut in the competition.

Matt, who attends Ribblesdale High Technology College, scooped top spot in the seven-race event, which culminated at

Daytona Milton Keynes last month.

Consisting of three races, the weather forced each one to be reduced from eight laps to five.

But Matt revelled in the conditions, fighting his way from 13th on the grid to third spot.

Sixth place on the grid for Race Two saw him catapult up to second after a good start, but with the main championship challengers behind him, he could settle for the runners-up berth.

And despite starting fifth in the final race, it couldn't have gone much better.

Matt watched in delight as

the pair collided with each other in the opening corner, and after the race had been stopped, he came through on solid yellow flags to finish second and grab the title.

And he collected his prize, the John Gill Trophy, at the Covkartsport presentation evening at Stoneleigh Deer Park Golf Club near Coventry.

Despite this being Matt's debut year in the outdoor karting scene, he has previously done three seasons on indoor tracks.

And his aim is to compete in the World Rally Champi-

onships, and follow in the footsteps of hero Petter Solberg.

And he is going all out to achieve that feat in the quickest time possible.

The Wiltshire racer attends a number of one-to-one personal tuition sessions at the Silverstone Motorsport Academy.

That builds up to being able to complete a four-day race intensive course when he hits 16, in June next year.

The course is aimed at giving Matt the skills to attain the MSA National B Competition Licence, and also allow him to compete in a single seater race.