

Brady Kurtz is the 2012 U16 Australian Speedway Solo Championship. He was unbeaten all night and he held it all together in the biggest test of the night, the A Final.

In the heats there were straightforward round one wins to Jake Mitchell (SA) and Max Fricke (VIC). Kurtz (NSW) had to work hard for his win. He came off a slow start to pass a couple of riders to take the lead on lap two. Jack Holder (NSW) was another who didn't have it all his own way. He was pushed hard by Lawson Walters (NSW) before he opened a gap on lap three.

Walters has shown considerable improvement in the last few months under coaching from Ben Shields.

Round two winners were Jack Norman (SA), Walters, Kurtz and Fricke. Fricke made the best start in his heat to get the jump from Holder who lifted his wheel off the start line and lost momentum. Holder attacked all the way round but could find no way past.

Kurtz's win came following a restart. Max Croker (NSW) was in second place when he was hit from behind by Brody Eves (QLD). Eves hit the wall forcing the race stoppage and was excluded from the restart.

Denny Cox (NSW) has shown good form in club meetings but was having a bad run tonight. A round two DNF was followed by a DNS when he stalled as the tapes went up at the start of his round three heat.

Croker was also having difficulties at the starting tapes. He seemed to be anticipating the starts. He would move then stop at the tapes just as they went up.

Round three wins to Fricke, Holder, Ben Cook (NSW) and Kurtz. Cook was fortunate as the race leader Norman came in too fast on lap 2, lost control and went infield to retire. Kurtz's race was again the highlight of the round. He had a comfortable lead and Walters was in third place behind Zaine Kennedy (QLD). Walters tried on every lap to make a pass on the inside. At last he surged under Kennedy into turn 3 on the last lap and came out ahead to claim second place.

Croker made a better start in round four to finish a close third behind Walters and race winner Cook. Kurtz and Fricke lined up in the next heat but it was a bit anti-climactic as Fricke was caught in third place behind Norman. By the time he got past Kurtz was too far ahead to challenge. Cooper Riordan (VIC) won his heat but the excitement was behind him Zach Cook (NSW) dropping from 2nd to 3rd then hounding Boyd Hollis (NSW) all the way. Cook took back 2nd place on the last lap.

Holder was the last round four winner.

Kurtz was uncompromising in his round four win. He muscled his way between two riders to take and hold the lead on lap one. Wins also for Riordan and Ben Cook. The last heat began well for Walters who made a good start ahead of Fricke. Under pressure, however, Walters fell at the start of lap 3 handing the win to Fricke.

The B Finalists were Ben Cook, Walters, Mitchell and Riordan. Cook made the best start and led from Walters, Riordan and Mitchell. Walters again made an inside pass at the end of lap 2 to take the lead and win to go into the A final.

The A Finalist were Kurtz, Fricke, Holder and Walters. When the tapes went up the riders bunched and Fricke and Holder went down. It was all four back and when the tapes went up again the same thing happened, Fricke and Holder hit the deck. Holder was a little slower getting up. All four back

again. On the third start Kurtz and Fricke were slightly ahead of the other two. This time Fricke came down, was adjudged the reason for the stoppage and was excluded. He made his case to Clerk of the Course Trevor Dare who then spoke to referee Dave Mills. The exclusion was upheld. Dare calmly explained the situation to Fricke who accepted the decision with good grace and sadly walked back to the pits.

The fourth time the tapes went up it was Kurtz and Holder who bumped together through the first turns. This time they all stayed upright but Holder lost momentum and dropped a length behind. He then had to contend with terrier Walters who hounded him all the way to the finish.

Kurtz has now finished his time on 125cc speedway bikes with an emphatic win. He moves onto 350s for the forthcoming Australian championship before going to Denmark to ride in the U16 80cc league with club Herning. He has had several offers of rides in the National League in England where, at fifteen years old, he is eligible to race a 500 and consider that for later this year. He will be able to race the 500 in Australia when he turns sixteen in September and is planning to return to England for the 2013 season.