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## Norris holds on to win Round 1 of GBR Series

🕒 9 May 2016 👤 Neil M 📁 Alpine Skiing 💬 0



Kieran Norris held off a second run charge by one of the rising talents in British Slalom racing, Robert Poth, to capture the win in Round 1 of the Ambitions GBR Indoor Series. Norris took the advantage in the first run and then Poth pushed him close on the second run. Euan Kick took third overall. Sam Carson and Thomas Rascagneres, two racers making great improvements this summer on the indoor scene, took fourth and fifth.

The 2016 Ambition GBR Series, Round 1, attracted some of the top racers all looking to put a marker down for the summer. Euan Kick is the zero pointed racer for the season and after a tough winter, he was looking to show just what he is capable of. The British Ski Academy and

Glasgow Ski Racing racer was joined on the start list by Robert Poth, the British Junior Slalom Champion as well as Kieran Norris who raced in the World Cup Slalom races at Kitzbuehel and Schladming last season for Ireland. Add a number of the British Children's team to the start list and you had a strong field! Great to see.

Norris put down the marker on the first run with the only time under fourteen seconds with Euan Kick the best of the rest and ahead of Poth. The constantly improving Sam Carson was in fourth leading a group of racers all close together. No let up or advantage was unearned. This was a competitive field.

A much improved second run from Declan Huppach saw him put himself in a competitive position but he was unable to stay in the lead for long as Owen Vinter grabbed the lead. Thomas Rascagneres then edged into the lead, swapping places with Olly Farr when the Manchester based racer had a disappointing second run. Farr slotted in just behind Rascagneres but ahead of Vinter.

Oliver Weeks, a racer that has earned plaudits from coaches around the country this summer for his great performances, was the first to blink and he dropped down the field after making a mistake on the second run.

If Rascagneres thought he would hold onto the lead for long, he had not factored in the determination that Carson has. Carson posted a faster second run time to go into the lead by four tenths.

Next up were the big three.

Poth was not overly happy with being in third and battled his way down the course to set the pace, going into the lead by just under a second. This showed Carson and the rest just how much they have to raise their games by to race at the top end of the race. The pressure was now on Kick to match the time set by Poth.

Kick is a strong racer yet was just that little bit off with his timing down the short course and while he had held a lead of five hundredths on Poth from the first run, Poth's explosiveness at the start resulted in him carrying his speed to the end and a faster overall time. Kick dropped down behind Poth in the overall standings.

Norris raised his game last season to race in two World Cup races but there is a huge difference in GBR Indoor races and a World Cup race: Other racers see Norris now as a racer to aim for in their own personal progression. A lead of 0.34 seconds from the first run was considerable but with Poth having charged the second run, nothing was granted.

Norris was slower on the second run yet had enough in reserve to hold onto the win and take an early lead in the 2016 GBR Indoor Series. There is a long way to go.

The age groups were won by: Oliver Pollitt (Under 14); Owen Vinter (Under 16, 7th Overall);

Sam Carson (Under 18, 4th Overall); Robert Poth (under 21, 2nd Overall); Kieran Norris (Senior, Race Winner) and Matthew Ingle (Masters).

### GBR2016 indoor1 male results

Picture – Kieran Norris on his way to winning Round 1 of the Ambition GBR Indoor Series at Manchester – credit Racer Ready – all rights reserved

  

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