

Kids in Berkshire Aubergine Room Trophy

The sky was blue as Max and I walked out onto Windsor Great Park at 6:45am on Friday 11th August 2006.

There was a cool wind blowing, the rabbits were having their last run before bed time and my mind switched to High Noon at The Aubergine Room, where contenders would be massing for the first Kids in Berkshire Aubergine Room Trophy.

Google had flagged it as the "PC Gaming Competition" of the UK summer.

Who would be sitting top of the tree at the end of the day? I'd only managed 2 or 3 hours practise all week but luckily Charlie had managed to cram in some quality training between social engagements! Off to Crowthorne to face those that dare to be contenders... we are greeted by Tim Doyle, theaubergineroom.com manager. The room is prepared and the plasma awaits the game of choice. Charlie gets in a spot of handset practise while we await the arrival of our contenders while I popped out and found a pie shop to ensure my energy levels were up. In the middle of a team talk, in walk our brave opponents - Terry and his 13 year old son Jamie. We swap pleasantries and choose 1 of 3 games able to handle 4 adrenaline-filled players... Project Gotham Racing 2. The Xbox is rebooted and the

42" Plasma with booster sound system kicks into life. The tension rises as we select our vehicles and prepare for the first race. We agree to run a practise lap as we're all new to the game... 5 minutes later, the game is on!

Race 1 – We're off to a flying start. Jamie takes an early lead, Charlie keeps in touch in second and the two older boys fight it out for 3rd spot.

Race 2 – Everyone changes cars but Jamie still holds on to the winning spot. Jon came through for 2nd, Charlie 3rd and Terry 4th.

Race 3 – Is that Jamie again, securing a win? Charlie back in 2nd, Jon 3rd, Terry 4th

Race 4 – Now things start to hot up as we're all improving. Terry, determined to finish up the table secures a solid 3rd place as Jon, in a Porsche careers all over the place! Charlie takes his first win, stunning Jamie into 2nd place.

Race 5 – It's neck and neck. 12 points each and one race to go. Can Charlie pull another out of the bag? Will Terry take Jon out again? Is Jamie hungry enough to keep Charlie at bay? All these questions and more are running around our brains as we prepare for the final count down... Jamie beats Charlie by 4 seconds and Jon comes back to 3rd...

It's a tie... 15 points each... there is no clear winner for the...

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We shake hands and agree to meet again for a future face off! Will you be there?

(Charlie then kicked Tim's butt and another grown up contender who was man enough to step up to the plate!)

Next date for your diary: Thursday 26th October – High Noon at www.theaubergineroom.com

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