



**VICTORY LANE:** (From left) Group 'A' placers James Wansell of Mideast Shipping & Trading (third), Harry Conrad-Pickles of Braemar ACM (first) and Tom Evans of Seashore Shipbrokers (second).



**ON THE PODIUM:** (From left) Group 'B' placers David Cundy of Gibson Shipbrokers (third), Bertie Schiff of Sterling Shipbrokers (first) and Patrick Eckelmann of MPC Hamburg (second).



**PIT STOP:** Some of the shipbrokers take a break from the day's racing.

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# Adrenaline races as Mideast puts on action-packed day

Nick Roumpis **London**

Mideast Shipping & Trading celebrated its expanded footprint in London with an all-day event for UK and European shipbrokers and industry professionals.

What general manager Steve Wansell arranged for his colleagues involved a pretty intense rafting session followed by lunch and, in the afternoon, competitive kart racing.

The Lee Valley White Water Centre in Hertfordshire saw around 40 shipbrokers and executives pushed to their limits as they confronted the angry water.

Those who fell in more than once asked not to be named.

Besides UK-based participants, demolition cash buyer Mideast Shipping's event also attracted

visitors from other countries, including Germany and Greece.

Attending shipbrokers came from the likes of Clarksons, Howe Robinson, Braemar ACM, Sterling Shipbrokers, Ocean Shipbrokers and many others.

#### COMPETITIVE KARTING

Shipbrokers are competitive people and this was obvious during the kart competition at the Rye House Kart Raceway.

After two qualifying rounds, those who survived the risks of collisions and skids, made it to the final.

The two best groups competed in two separate races, with Bertie Schiff from Sterling Shipbrokers and Harry Conrad-Pickles of Braemar ACM winning the two finals.

Conrad-Pickles declined to comment when approached for a post-race interview by TradeWinds.

Tom Evans of Seashore Shipbrokers came second to Conrad-Pickles and the young James Wansell third.

David Cundy of Gibson Shipbrokers and MPC's Patrick Eckelmann also managed to get on the winners' podium alongside Schiff.

The first three drivers from each final race received their awards from Mideast Shipping managing director Shabbir Baig, who flew in from Dubai for the event.

After all the sporting activities, Wansell also announced that Mideast Shipping had received a full statement of compliance to recycle vessels on a strictly green basis through its joint venture with Shubh Arya Steel PVT.



**DOING THE ROUNDS:** Attendees take on each other during the competitive karting races.