



21st May, 2008 - Newsletter

Dear All,

Croft 17th and 18th May, 2008

Race One

It was Eugene O'Brien and Neil Walker, who took the victory for Team O'BR/Perrys, car 221, in the first three hour race. Having being drawn 14th out of twenty-nine starters, Eugene made a flying start and was soon in the lead. However, the team was given a five second stop-go penalty for a few on track incidents, which was taken during Neil's stint. But, this did not deter him and he too had a superb session. As the race continued, Neil particularly, gained more confidence, which culminated in the team taking their first win of the season. They also set the fastest lap of the race, which was a 1:41.148.

Car 131, JPR-Frenchstone, took the 2nd spot on the podium, having being drawn from the random grid ballot on the last row. Steve Harris, Franck Pelle and Paul Rose drove consistently and stayed out of trouble to ensure their podium finish.

Race one, saw the 210 car of Trucks 2 Go drawn out of the random grid ballot towards the back of the pack. They managed to avoid the carnage of the incident at the start of the race, which consumed at least five cars, before turn one at Clervaux. This meant that Chris Hart, who drove for the first stint, managed to gain a staggering sixteen places before the end of the first lap. When the first mandatory pit stop window arrived, he handed over to team mate Phil Martindale in 4th place. The remainder of the race saw the duo stay out of trouble and although they were lacking in power out of the

corners, they eventually finished on the final step of the podium in 3rd place.

It was Mark Owen and Richard Ince who were awarded the 'Team of the Day' trophy. They were drawn 23rd on the grid, but managed to push hard throughout the race and finished in a strong 5th place. They also set the third fastest lap of the race with a 1:41.878, which was the icing on the cake for Team RAM, who had an excellent days racing.

Team Wintun's Dan Jones, Alex Ashby and Lance Robson won the 'Highest Placed JPR Rental Team' trophies and just missed out on a podium finish, with a 4th place, in car 101. Fun Cup regular Dan, teamed up with Fun Cup scholarship finalist Alex for the second time this season, whilst Lance was new to the team, having competed in the Fun Cup between 2002 to 2004.

Race Two

With the grid reversed, based on race one's results, car 221, Team O'BR/Perry's found themselves near the back of the pack. However, Eugene soon stormed towards the front and when Neil took over, he followed suit, setting regular lap times in the 1:41 bracket.

The end of the race was a tense period for the Team O'BR/Perry's pit crew, as they watched Eugene battle for the lead, with Paul Rose in the JPR-Frenchstone car 131. The pair fought nose to tail when Paul lost out to Eugene, as they entered the chicane side by side, with neither driver giving way, resulting in contact and Paul hitting the tyres, whilst Eugene had to

run onto the grass. This effectively ended JPR-Frenchstone's race as they had to pit due to steering damage, whilst Eugene managed to maintain his position.

Neil took over for the last stint from Eugene and held onto the team's thirty second lead, crossing the finish line in first place. Overall, the two wins made Neil's comeback after a twelve month break, more than memorable. The team also set the fastest lap once again, with a phenomenal 1.40.939.

In car 210, Trucks 2 Go, Phil Martindale and Chris Hart were on the pace in the morning warm up, after adjusting the car's jetting. With the grid reversed, they started near the back again, but quickly charged through the pack into 6th place, eventually reaching the leaders, where they had a great battle with JPR – Frenchstone for over an hour.

The collision between Team O'BR/Perrys and JRR-Frenchstone meant that Trucks 2 Go were handed 2nd place and it was here they stayed until the chequered flag was waved.

Car 214, Team Tiger's Ben Beighton and Chloe Noyce, finished in 3rd place, which was their first ever podium position. This was a fantastic result for the pair who have teamed up for the 2008 season, having raced in separate teams last year.

Car 101, Team Wintun, received their second trophy of the weekend. Dan Jones, Alex Ashby and Lance Robson were awarded 'Team of the Day', having finished in 7th place.

JPR Motorsport car 111, won 'Highest Placed JPR Rental Team'. Father and son Bruno and Gilles Debrus travelled from Belgium to compete at Croft and had a brilliant race to finish in 4th.

Croft Photographs

The link to all of the photographs from Croft is on the picture galleries section of our website www.funcup.co.uk. The direct link to the photographs is www.jemadams.com. If you wish to purchase any pictures from the Croft event please visit

www.photoboxgallery.com/jemadams. Here, you can buy pictures and create gifts from the pictures, such as mugs etc. If you would like to buy files of pictures for your own website use etc., please email Jeremy Adams at ja@jemadams.com.

TOMA Fund

A huge thank you to everyone who donated to the TOMA Fund on Sunday and to all those who helped make it such a special day in Jordan Thompson's memory and for his family and friends.

The total amount raised has not yet been finalised, but as soon as we are informed, we will post it on the latest news of our website www.funcup.co.uk.

ITV North East local news (North East tonight) were also at Croft on Sunday to film the fund raising for TOMA, during our grid walk. This was featured on the 6pm news on Monday (19th May). To see the feature please visit <http://www.itvlocal.com/tynetees>, click on local news, then latest news bulletin and select the North. After this, click on the bulletin dated Monday 19/05/08 and skip forward to around 16 minutes and 40 seconds.

A special thank you to Tim Wheeldon, who kindly donated a signed picture of Michael Schumacher's Formula One Ferrari, which was auctioned to raise money for the TOMA Fund. Dominic Jackson placed the highest bid of £2,500, which Jordan Thompson's family and friends were delighted with.

Croft TV Coverage

TV coverage from Croft will be on Sky Sport's Raceworld programme on the following dates:

Thurs 5th June - 6.30pm (Sky Sports 2), 10pm (Sky Sports Xtra)

Friday 6th June - 2am (Sky Sports 1), Midday (Sky Sports 3), 4pm (Sky Sports 3)

**Anglesey International – Exclusive
Testing, 13th June**

There will be a full day of exclusive Fun Cup testing at Anglesey International on Friday 13th June. This will take place from 10am to 5pm.

If you would like to book your car(s) in for this testing, please complete the attached booking form and email/fax it to Roxie, no later than Friday 6th June.

I look forward to seeing you all at Anglesey.

Kind regards

Roxie Marandi
Race Co-ordinator