



Maurice Thomson Motors Ltd



Hi everyone,

I will be doing a quick newsletter after each round of the Production Race Championship that I am competing in this season to let you all know how the team is going.

Round 1 was at Pukekohe on the 2nd – 4th of November. We went to Pukekohe knowing we were going to be in for a tough weekend due to the long straights that the track has, favouring the more powerful cars in my class.

On Friday we got two test sessions of 15min each. During the first test session I only got in 4 laps because the inner cv joint collapsed during a half spin on the entry to Castrol leading onto the back straight. Fortunately we had a spare axle shaft which we were able to fit and have the car back up and running for the second test session. I got in a good number of laps in the next run and also put in the fastest time I have achieved on the track to date. 1:14.8 was the time and this was 1 second faster than in testing two weeks earlier.

Saturday was qualifying and Race 1. We decided I would go out in qualifying and do one fast lap then come in and save the car for the race. So I went out and did a 1:14.6 on lap 4. That put me on the 15th grid for the race. I got off to a great start in the race, passing two cars on the first lap. I was unable to hold off one of the Hondas down the straight; he just had too much power so I finished race 1 in 14th. Not bad for a first Tier 1 Race meeting.

There were two races on Sunday, one top 10 reverse grid and one full reverse with a 35 second head start for the Suzuki Swifts.

Race 2 on Sunday was dry and we had another good start going 3 wide into turn 1, wedged between two Hondas but I won that battle, and managed to hold them off for about 3 laps until I had a small brake lock up at the hairpin and turned the car around. A not so good end to race 2 but we were still there unlike some cars.

Race 3 was absolutely terrible with hail at one point down the back straight. This was the full reverse grid so I was near the front and got a blinder of a start leaving the cars next to me in my spray. We were all very slow, I was only lapping at 1:23 in the wet, but had a lot of fun with some big sideways moments. I only managed 21st in this race, due to it being called off 4 laps early when a Swift hit the wall on the mountain.

Next round is at Ruapuna on the 23rd – 25th of November.

Thank you all for your support and see you at the track.

Blair Thomson
Fiat Punto HGT Abath
Car # 30

