



# TEAM PUGWASH



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## NORTHERN SPORTS & SALOON CAR CHAMPIONSHIP CROFT CIRCUIT ROUND 9 26<sup>th</sup> JULY 2009

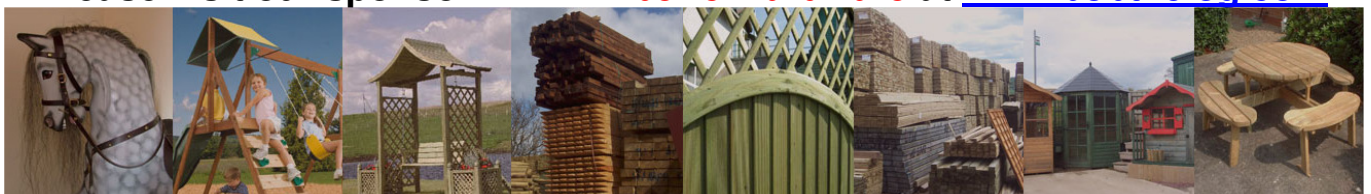
After not having a great qualifying session yesterday, my position on the grid was further down. Qualifying for the 2<sup>nd</sup> race was as usual judged by the 2<sup>nd</sup> fastest lap. This put me 3<sup>rd</sup> in class and 14<sup>th</sup> overall alongside David Swales Fiesta XR2 with Mick Starkey right behind us. We'd also leant a bullet cam off my mate Simon which we pointed backwards to get some rear footage.

The lights went out and I made a good start. I managed to out drag Swales going up to Clervaux. Once again I took to the inside and tucked in behind Ian Humpish's beetle. Like yesterday, the proved to be a duff move. I got boxed in and Mick Starkey and Gavin Lee who had started from the back after his gearbox blew yesterday, sailed around the outside of me. I took to the outside for Hawthorne's and managed to get passed Ian's Beetle.

I was now in a 4 way fight with Starkey from Lee from Armstrong in the class C rover and myself. Lee managed to get down the inside of Starkey into the hairpin and out dragged him down the straight to take the position. Coming out the chicane, Armstrong got a good run on Starkey and managed to pass him under braking heading into Tower. Starkey immediately fought back with all 4 wheels on the grass, this left an opening for me and I went alongside him going to the esses. Unfortunately I couldn't get far enough alongside and had to back out of it. I tailed Starkey around to the chicane where once again I managed to get a good run and take him under braking into tower. Meanwhile, Armstrong managed to pass Lee with a similar manoeuvre up ahead.

I gave chase to Armstrong and Lee who were going at a pretty good pace. They went side by side around clervaux slowing themselves in the process. This meant I instantly got onto the back of Lee. I chased them round for the next lap showing my nose where I could. Coming out the chicane I got a reasonably good run and was thinking about where I could have a go at passing but then suddenly, Lee slowed dramatically. I managed to avoid him and took the position with Starkey also moving up a spot behind me. Lee had missed 4<sup>th</sup> gear, I was a bit disappointed as I was up for a battle with the current NSSCC champion.

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Even though Armstrong isn't in my class, I quickly gave chase. I followed him for a few laps and was struggling to find where I could overtake him. However my time soon came, he went wide into the complex, I couldn't get alongside him but I managed to get a good run out and stuck to his bootlid down the straight. I slowly pulled out but couldn't get alongside but with clervaux fast approaching I decided to try under braking. He braked quite late but I braked later, I thought it was too late but the car got round and I took the position. Coming out the chicane, Armstrong got a better run and tried to get up the inside, I plonked the car in the middle of the circuit and braked late enough to keep him at bay. This turned out to be the last lap of the race.

I was over the moon with performance, I'd had a pretty strong race and was starting to take my overtaking chances a bit better. I once again finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in class and 11<sup>th</sup> overall.

Overall class D result:

- |                 |                 |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1. Paul Moss    | Citroen Saxo    |
| 2. Peter Dixon  | Honda Civic     |
| 3. Gavin Lee    | Ford Fiesta XR2 |
| 4. Mick Starkey | Ford Fiesta XR2 |
| 5. David Swales | Ford Fiesta XR2 |
| 6. Terry Wright | Rover 25        |
| 7. Daniel Mckay | Ford Fiesta XR2 |



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