



TEAM PUGWASH



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NORTHERN SPORTS & SALOON CAR CHAMPIONSHIP OULTON PARK ROUND 10 8th AUGUST 2009

The weather looked superb for round 10 at Oulton, a track a particularly like although I wasn't sure it would suit the civic or not. It has some long uphill drags which really suit the more powerful cars yet also has some tight twisty sections that suit the more nimble cars.

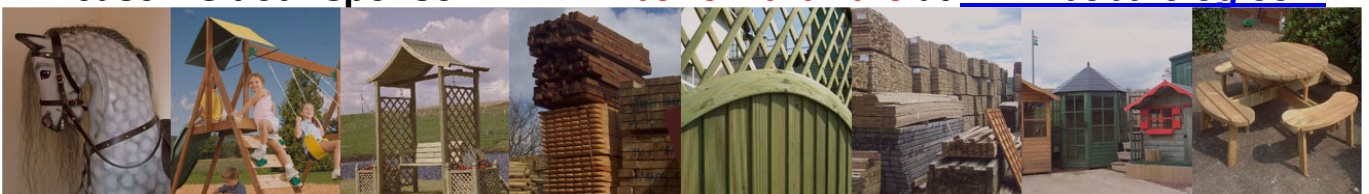
The two races were once again amalgamated into one which was good news for the drivers as we now got a free practice, a qualifying session and two races although the 2nd wouldn't count for points.

In free practice I got a lot of clear track. I managed to quickly catch David Swales in the fiesta and we started to have a good battle. I got alongside him heading into lodge corner, I braked a bit early but let off the brakes to stay alongside. Unfortunately I must have forgot to re-apply the brakes as I went very wide onto the grass. I caught him again going around island and passed him into shell oils. I quickly pulled away and set the fastest time in our class for the free practice session.

I managed to get in the queue early for qualifying and was behind Paul Moss. I followed him around a lap until pulling the same manoeuvre on him heading into shell oils. He tailed me through the rest of the lap, I could see he was quicker so I pulled over on the straight and let him pass. I then set about giving chase for the rest of the session and managed to keep up. At the end of qualifying I had got 2nd fastest behind Paul Moss and a good 1.5 seconds in front of the fiesta's of Gavin Lee and Mick Starkey. I was very pleased with this, it was probably my strongest qualifying session yet.

Onto the race, the weather was still very good and I was feeling confident, no nerve's at all. The lights went out and I got off the line very well. Paul in the saxo I think bogged down a bit and I managed to get alongside. However when changing from 2nd to 3rd I missed a cog, only for a brief moment which allowed him to get away again and the others to catch up. Unfortunately as we went into the 1st corner I got tagged from behind by Mick Starkey's fiesta. This spun me round and I went backwards into the tyre's. I got out the car and had a quick look at the rear end, it didn't look pretty but it looked like it could limp back to the pits.

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I pulled it back on circuit and started to crawl back to the pits. The car seemed to feel ok so I built up a bit of speed and to my relief, the car still handled pretty good. I decided I might as well finish the race, I would get a 7th in class out of it at least and salvage some points. I carried on round to knickerbrook where I spotted Dan Mckay's fiesta parked up. He had also been in the wars bumping the barrier. Unfortunately his front wing had bent cutting into the tyre which meant he couldn't carry on. I was up to 6th at this point and quickly catching Helen Allens XR2i which I passed heading into druids.

So, all in all a bit of a bum day, but the 5th place finish meant it wasn't a total loss. Roll on Cadwell!

Overall class D result:

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Paul Moss | Citroen Saxo |
| 2. David Swales | Ford Fiesta XR2 |
| 3. Gavin Lee | Ford Fiesta XR2 |
| 4. Mick Starkey | Ford Fiesta XR2 |
| 5. Peter Dixon | Honda Civic |
| 6. Helen Allen | Ford Fiesta XR2i |
| 7. Dan Mckay | Ford Fiesta XR2 (DNF) |



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