

Jon Watt (S04-15) wins on Britcar debut

Last weekend, local 20 year old racing driver, Jon Watt, won both of his races, on his debut in the Britcar series. We covered Jon's signing to drive in the Dunlop Britcar Endurance championship less than a month ago but not even Jon expected such a debut performance.

Driving a 450 Horsepower BMW M3, Sponsored by Mintex, Lakeside Hire, Morris Oil, NGK and Autoglym, Jon qualified 1st in Class and went on to win said class in both of the subsequent races.

His qualifying performance was up against stiff competition. The BMW Jon drives puts him in Class 4 of the championship. This fiercely competitive class contained rivals such as the ex-BTCC Audi A4 driven by old school friend **Alex Day (Year 13 pupil)** and the SEAT TCR driven by professional British Touring Car Championship driver's Rob Austin and Stewart Lines, despite this Jon's good qualifying performance meant he would start both races ahead of the competition.



In the first race, which is 50 minutes in length, Jon started well and led his class from lights to flag.

In the second race, the victory would be much harder fought. Several competitors had changed to brand new tyres for this race, whereas Jon would be starting on his by now much older tyres. An old tyre is often 3 or 4 seconds a lap slower than a new tyre.

A good start meant Jon led the Audi of Alex Day, but only just, and they battled intensely often running side by side. The BMW had a slight advantage on the straights but the Audi on new tyres was faster through the corners. The battle continued for 30 laps until Alex made an early pitstop while Jon pitted two laps later. However, the battle was not over, as to keep the racing close, the championship employs success penalties.

Each time a driver wins a race they get penalty seconds added to the pit stop. After what felt like an agonising wait for his 15 second success penalty, Jon was able to re-join the race, still just in the lead and the pair eventually crossed the line with less than a minute between the two cars.

Afterwards Jon said he was “thrilled to have had 30 laps or so of the most intense racing, right on the limit, I had to give everything to stay in front” and when asked about the day as a whole said he was “absolutely ecstatic with the result, I’m leaving the circuit today in the joint lead of the championship and with two class wins, you couldn’t ask for more!”

The next round of the championship is at the prestigious Silverstone Grand Prix venue on the 12th May.

You can keep up to date with Jon's racing across his Facebook (Jon Watt- Racing Driver), Twitter (@JonWattRacing) and Instagram (@jonwattracing)

