



Dear Supporters

APRIL 2010 NEWSLETTER

Some days you just never want to end, well that was the feeling I had during my test drive in the Canterbury Motor Racing School Formula Renault on Tuesday 13th April.

I arrived at the track first thing in the morning to have a seat fitting, adjustments made to the pedals and some tips from Andy on how to drive the car and what to expect. His advice was great but I was still a little nervous, thinking it was almost the equivalent to Jamie Whincup jumping out of the V8 Supercar and into the Vodafone McLaren Formula 1 car a month ago, instead a Fourteen year old who has only done three months of Formula Ford and hopping straight into a world class, 200hp, wings and slicks racing machine that most F1 stars used as a stepping stone to their Formula 1 careers.

Once I was happy with my seating in the car, we jacked it up off the ground and warmed it up, when up to temperature I started running through the gears familiarising myself with the sequential gearbox, which means you pull the stick towards yourself to up shift and away to downshift and only using the clutch to go down the gears.

Not long after that and it was time for my first run in the car. My first attempt to launch the car was not successful, but the next was. Heading out onto the track I fed on the power, not knowing who was more nervous me or Andy? As tyres came up to temperature, I pushed a bit harder. It was everything I expected and more, the down force and grip the car had was magic. I tried using my Formula Ford brake points but the brakes were too good even with the extra speed I was carrying which resulted in me over slowing for some of the corners. I was driving inside my comfort zone as the whole point of the exercise was to learn and gain experience in the car.

By my 12th and final lap I banked a low 1 minute 27 second time, only three seconds off a competitive time. Not bad considering I only had a handful of laps. Andy was impressed with my efforts and happy said he was happy to let me drive the car again. Thanks a lot Andy for trusting me and giving me the opportunity.

On Wednesday the 14th I flew up to Auckland for the Hamilton 400. It was a midday flight so it allowed me to spend some time with my uncle in Auckland. The next day he gave me a ride down to Hamilton. Not long after I caught up with Suzuki Swift Sport Cup racer Marc Spring who I was helping out for the weekend.

It was awesome being in pit lane for the Swift Cup races. Standing outside V8 Supercar teams like Holden Racing Team and Team Vodafone was a cool atmosphere to be in.

It was a brilliant weekend, meeting all the people involved in the Swift Cup class that I really want to race in next season. I enjoyed working on the cars and learning new things. I also got to meet the Swift Cup Scholarship sponsors Castrol. One of the marketing managers even gave me a tour of the Paul Morris Motorsport pit which was mega.

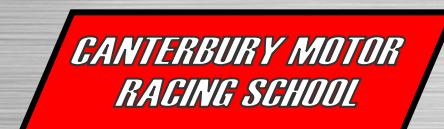
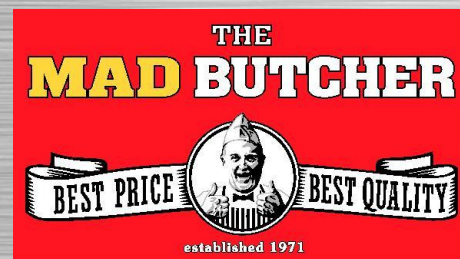
Thanks to everyone involved in the Swift Cup for a great weekend.

Best regards,

Tom Barker



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