

TEAM FOUNDS RACING

World Championship Sidecar Racing Team # 17
England
www.teamfoundsracing.com

Round 3 - Race Report for the Eastern Airways International Sidecar Championship from Silverstone World Superbikes

After the tight and twisty circuit of Mondello Park, the Team were looking forward to the fast flowing track of Silverstone and racing like last year, at one of the high profile World Superbike rounds.

The build up to Silverstone could not have been more difficult for the Team, with a hectic schedule to complete preparations after returning from a short trip to the Isle of Man TT Races. This was coupled with on-going passenger problems. Chris had secured the services of Loren Jackson, prior to Mondello Park, with Silverstone to be the first race for the duo. Unfortunately work commitments prevailed and Loren has decided not to race after all this season. After some last minute phone calls, Chris was fortunate to contact Mark Cox in the Isle of Man, who was there passengering for Alan Schofield ! Mark would travel back from the Island with the Yokohama boys and meet the Team at Silverstone..... well this was Plan 32(b) : part (ii).....and thankfully it worked !!

With a change of team personnel for the weekend, The Team arrived at Silverstone Thursday lunchtime and established the camp complete with hospitality tent, to entertain the sponsors who were due to arrive later in the weekend. Although the paddock location for the Sidecar Teams was remote to the main Superbike Paddock, this provided the Teams with plenty of opportunity to create a highly professional paddock environment, which on the whole was successfully achieved, and commended by the SBK organisers.

Friday evening Practice.....

The practice schedule would be challenging for all the Teams, with two - thirty minute sessions, back to back. With new rubber-on all round, Chris and Mark took a few laps to settle into a rhythm. Unfortunately, part way through the session, the throttle twist grip came loose and Chris found himself struggling to accelerate. Some excellent work in the pits to re-clamp the twist grip, by Chief Mechanic "PG" allowed Chris and Mark to grab 10th place on the final lap of the first session.

The Team worked swiftly in pit lane between sessions to rectify the make shift throttle assembly, and had to drill-out the throttle body, utilising tools from an adjacent Supersport Team garage...Thanks !! The 30 min interval soon disappeared and the throttle was still not secure so the boys lost 10 mins from the session. Undisturbed, Chris and Mark maintained 10th spot with a 2:05:67 minute lap, some 7 seconds behinds Steve Webster's pole sitting time.

Although suffering from tyre problems aswell, the Team where pleased with the qualifying position, as this was the first time that Mark and Chris had ridden together and knew they could lap faster in the



race.

Race 1 – Saturday evening.....

After what seemed an age since qualifying, the Teams assembled for the first of the two races. Chris and Mark had talked tactics and knew what they had to do to secure a good finish. Now unlike previous races, it looks like Chris finally eradicated his “duff” starts at Silverstone, and from the 5th row maintained track position and where away behind Bill Philp and Stuart Muldoon, in 10th position. Unfortunately this didn't last long !, and going into the chicane on the first lap, Messrs Woodard and Peach decided to rub fairings, with Chris and Mark coming off worst and narrowly avoiding the grass. Demoted to 15th, the pair then set about chasing down the bikes in front. One by one Chris gained position after position and lapped faster with every lap. At the end of the race the boys where 1.5 seconds behind Stuart Woodard at the flag and a creditable 9th place. “I worked hard for that one” Chris gasped at the end of the race, and was delighted with the faster lap times, and a personal best on the last lap.

Race 2 – Sunday evening.....

Sunday was a relaxing day and provided the opportunity for the Team to spend time with some of the sponsors who had been invited to Silverstone and hopefully enjoyed the warm welcome at the Team Founds Hospitality tent. Chris and Mark kept focused throughout the day and when the race finally came round the Team where ready for it.

Again an excellent start from the 5th row, saw the Team maintain 10th spot for the first lap. Again the Team where involved in a tussle with Woodard / Knapton, (and Brian Peddar), and just when it looked like Chris would get his second wind, Chris suffered loss of feeling in his brake leg. This resulted in lap times dropping a second a lap and the pairing lost the tow from the two in front. Still pushing hard, the team consolidated the position and still finished a healthy 10th.

The two results now see Chris and Mark in 9th place overall in the Championship standings. With many people to thank for all the help over the weekend, the first has to go to Mark Cox for standing in at short notice, and subsequently helping to secure two good results. Mark has also agreed to passenger at Round 4 at Croft !

A big thanks also goes to Margy and Alan for all the catering and hospitality, and to the Team (Sarah, PG, Martin and Estelle) and to all our Sponsors for their growing support and enthusiasm throughout the weekend. The Team are looking forward positively to Croft and hope that Chris and Mark can continue developing together and netting some more good results. Watch out for future press releases for both Chris and Alan, and keep up-to-date with all the action at www.sidenet.co.uk and at www.teamfoundsracing.com.

Look forward to seeing everyone at Croft, where hopefully I will be making a long awaited appearance !!

Best Wishes

Des Founds, Team Manager
for Team Founds Racing





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