

TEAM FOUNDS RACING

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

Round 4 - Race Report for the Eastern Airways International Sidecar Championship from Croft Circuit, nr Darlington

Round 4 of the Eastern Airways Sidecar Championship saw teams travel to the North-East, to the Croft circuit, near Darlington.

After steadily improving results and a 9th place finish at Silverstone, the new team with Mark Cox in the chair, was steadily taking shape.

The Team arrived at Croft on the Thursday evening amid a torrential downpour, which true to form stopped abruptly once the awning had been erected. At least this was in plenty of time to settle down in Ben Birchall's truck, with a few beers to watch the England Euro game !! (and to experience young Tom cooking lasagne for tea !!)

Following the drama of the previous evening, and a good night's sleep, the Team awoke to a growing paddock, with race trucks arriving and awnings being established, and yes, glorious sunshine.

Friday.....

The two free practice sessions on the Friday afternoon would be used to set the bike up and for Mark to learn the circuit, with Chris having previous Euro Cup experience in 2000 at Croft. Both sessions went well, with lap times steadily falling. The second of the two sessions saw the Team lapping in the low 1m:31s bracket, even after making repeated pit stops to adjust suspension settings.

Saturday.....

The weather for Saturday was forecast torrential rain. Thankfully, it remained overcast for the morning, which enabled all the Teams to complete the single qualifying session in relative dry conditions. Chris and Mark consistently lapped at 1m:31s and then broke into the 1m:30s slot towards the end of the session, just as the rain started and the track became wet. This cut the session short by about 5 mins, with no-one deciding to venture out on intermediates or wets.

On analysing the times afterwards, 0.5secs covered from 7th to 14th place on the grid, and although the boys felt they had lapped fast enough to improve on previous times, they found themselves at the wrong end of the grid, down in 14th.

The race on the Saturday evening would be run over the full distance of 12 laps, in wet and raining conditions. Chris knew it would be difficult to move through the field from 14th on the grid, but pushed hard for the first part of the race. After numerous incidents, spins, in desperately wet conditions, the Team came home in 13th place. Chris has never professed to enjoy the rain, but this time felt some newfound confidence in the bike / passenger, that will hopefully benefit the Team for future wet races.

All the Teams attended a Barbeque with live music, kindly organised by Sportscom, which saw all the sidecar paddock participating on the Saturday evening. This was a great boost to morale amongst the Sidecar Teams, in what has been a difficult Championship season so far.

Sunday.....

Well the weathermen aren't always correct, but this time they were spot on with the forecast and Croft was once again basking in glorious sunshine, which was predicted to last until showers in the early evening.

The organisers provided the opportunity for the Teams to participate in Taxi-Rides before practice and racing started. This was a great opportunity for some of the Team supporters, who could experience a short "racing" lap of the Croft circuit. Good memories hopefully for all those involved !

The race in the afternoon would again see the same grid positions, but run in dry and warm conditions. After a poor start from the 6th row, Chris and Mark had an uphill battle to get back through the field, which saw them in a 5 way dice for 11th. After 6 of the scheduled 12 laps, Mike Ibbotson / Steve Wilson spun, at the head of the group and were collected by Gary Horspole / Jay Miller and Stu Woodard / Paul Knapton. Both Chris, and Steve Norbury / Scott Parnell took avoiding action, with Chris and Mark narrowly missing an excursion into the adjacent Onion field. The race was stopped, with thankfully none of the Teams hurt.

The 7 lap re-start saw Chris and Mark once again battling with Woodard, Norbury and Andy Laidlow / Pat Farrance, with the boys ending up finishing in 11th place and securing more points. Webbo / Woody took the win, with Reeves/ Reeves second and Richard Gatt / Paul Randall, a well deserved 3rd. The weekend results leave the Team joint 11th in the Championship.

The Team were reasonably happy with the overall result and performance of the weekend, taking into consideration the weather conditions and the two part second race. Hopefully both Chris and Mark are still enjoying and building a good relationship, with better results and tracks to come.

A big thanks to all the friends and family, who came and supported the Team over the weekend, hopefully everyone enjoyed themselves ! We are off to Knockhill later this week, for the next round of the Championship, which will be run alongside the British Superbike Championship. Following Knockhill, we have Brands Hatch, UK and Assen, Holland – World Superbike rounds.

Keep up-to-date with information at www.sidenet.co.uk and at www.teamfoundsracing.com (which will be updated in the near future – honestly...ed !!)

Best Regards

Des Founds, Team Manager
for Team Founds Racing



Team Founds Racing, 60 Marshlands Rd, Little Neston, Neston, England, CH64 OSW
Tel : 0151-336 5375 or 0151-339 4115 Fax : 0151-922 4514

