

Unlucky again ! The 2003 British Touring Car Championship Rounds 9 & 10, Rockingham.

Following on from their bad luck at the previous round at Silverstone Synchro Motorsport headed to pastures new as the British Touring Car Championship moved to a new venue, Corby's Rockingham Motor Speedway.

Free testing: Having fitted a new engine during the break the team set about performing the necessary checks on the first outing to ensure all was well. The initial results were favorable and James then set about testing the car on the new track. Some changes were made after the first session to improve the handling but it was soon evident that all was not well with the car and an early retirement from the session saw the team having to change the engine following a component failure.



Free Practice 2 : Having worked late into the night the team were confident that the car would be set up correctly for the free practice sessions and would looking forward to making up for lost time on the previous session. Both sessions went well with some respectable times being set and James gaining confidence in the car and how to drive the track

Qualifying : Took place under hot sunny skies and after a fraught 20 minute session James would guarantee himself 12th spot on the grid, behind Hilton Cup rivals Gavin Pyper in 10th and Rob Collard in 11th.



Race 1 : A reasonable start from the line saw James staying with the main pack and with both rivals Eaves and Breese falling due to an incident it left Collard Pyper and James to pick up the fight. James was following factory backed Chilton whilst trying to hunt down rivals Pyper and Collard when the team elected to make their compulsory stop on lap 11. A quick turn around by the pit crew saw James emerge from the pits ahead of the factory backed Paul O'Neill however there was concern over the engine temperature. James continued to set respectable times until lap 17 when an oil leak onto the exhaust caused a fire resulting in the fire extinguishers going off and filling the car with foam. That was the end of the race and the team could only look on in disbelief wondering what caused the fire. There would be a lot of work to do before the following race to ensure that the car was ready.



Race 2 : The team put in a lot of hard work to clean the car following race 1 and also understand what had gone wrong. In a last minute effort James made it to the end of the pit lane just before it closed however there was a lot of smoke evident as he pulled out. It became apparent early in his formation lap that all was not well with the engine and James returned to the pits for a check over however the damage had been done and the team would record their first "did not start".

For more information, check the team website: www.synchromotorsport.com





Synchro Motorsport would like to thank the following partners:

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