



## SHAABAN HAS FIRST TASTE OF TESTING WITH NEW BRITISH F3 TEAM



Basil Shaaban, one of the Middle East's top motor racing drivers, returned to the driving seat today at Brands Hatch, testing in a British F3 car with Comtec Racing. Shaaban recently concluded a deal to test and race for the Norfolk-based team, competing in the National class of the British F3 championship. Today also marked the public debut of Shaaban's F3 sponsorship deal with BRICC, the international road construction specialists.

Shaaban raced with A1 Team Lebanon in the inaugural season of the A1 Grand Prix series and will gain valuable experience from this F3 summer programme. The young Lebanese driver will continue the testing programme in the coming weeks ahead of his debut in the British F3 championship.

At Brands Hatch today in bright sunshine and scorching hot weather Shaaban completed over 70 laps of the 1.2 mile Indy circuit of this historic Kent racing facility. For his first run in the car, he used the opportunity to familiarise himself with the track and his new car. As he became comfortable with the handling of the F3 racer he was able to start pushing for quicker times and build his confidence. After nearly two hours of track time Shaaban had improved his lap times by over two seconds.

He said after the test, "This introduction to my new car and team couldn't have gone better. We used the time productively, working with my engineers to start learning more about the car and starting to develop the set up of the car and exploring its capabilities. I'm still on the learning curve of professional race driving and today I continued to gain the experience I need to move up it.

I really enjoyed driving the car today. It's very sensitive and responsive, having been well prepared by my team. As the day progressed we made some changes and I began to feel what the car can do. Even though we ran with a silencer, we still found enough speed to push the car and develop it."



The Comtec Racing engineers were pleased with Shaaban's progress, saying, "Basil worked very hard today. He was professional in his approach, settled down quickly into the test and we were quickly able to feel comfortable with him. He was able to provide us with good technical feedback in order to improve the car and we certainly feel that there is potential for us to race strongly in British F3 later this year."

Jonathan Lewis, Comtec Racing CEO added, "Basil made a good start with Comtec today, settling in and handling the car well. He drove sensibly, taking his time to appreciate the F3 car and its characteristics before starting to work with the engineers to make changes and develop the package. I look forward to moving forward as the season progresses."

Shaaban signed to drive for Comtec Racing following the team's acquisition of P1 Motorsport. Roly Vincini is Head of Engineering for the team and brings invaluable experience and technical skills which will be of great benefit to Shaaban, as he pursues his motorsport career. The team is planning to continue its race preparations with further testing later this month at Snetterton.

Ends.