



MIXED EMOTIONS FOR BASIL SHAABAN IN BRITISH F3 SILVERSTONE ROUNDS

Basil Shaaban, A1 Team Lebanon driver, competed in his second British F3 race weekend at Silverstone last week, with a mixture of emotions summing up his experience. The event offered testing conditions for Shaaban, which he relished on this challenging Formula One circuit, but in the end he was disappointed with the weekend's results.

In the practice sessions in the early part of the weekend Shaaban continued his development of the BRICC-sponsored Comtec Racing F3 car. In dry conditions on the Friday he was able to put some good mileage under his belt, and showed his potential by posting a very competitive time to put him 2nd within the National Class.

The first race of the weekend was wet and with all earlier sessions held in the dry, there was little time for changing car set up to the different track conditions and tyre requirements. The rain resulted in a lively race with numerous spins and incidents which finally brought out the safety car to retrieve a stranded car. At the restart Shaaban had his front wing damaged by a rival driver, which slowed his progress at the end of the race.

In the second race the weather had changed and the track was dry. Shaaban made an excellent start, but as he drove into Becketts, defending his line and looking to improve on his position he suffered oversteer which although he was able to catch it, he slid onto the grass. With all off-track areas still damp from the earlier rain the grass didn't give Shaaban any grip and left him gliding into the gravel and his race ended before it really began.

Shaaban said after his Silverstone experiences, "We showed our potential to be quick and achieved an improvement in our overall performance although this isn't reflected in our results. This summer programme is focused on developing racecraft and we're learning every weekend. At Silverstone our experiences in qualifying underlined our need to get on top of the car for these sessions. Overall, I had an exciting weekend and really enjoy all my time in the British F3 Series, but I'm disappointed that I didn't have the level of results that we deserve for all these efforts."

The next two rounds of the British Formula 3 International Series take place at Brands Hatch circuit, 26-27 August.

Ends.