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HYPECREATIVE

Brands Hatch Indy Round 2

It was all eyes on round 2 as we headed to the Brands Indy circuit, 1.2 mile lap with 6 corners. The aim for this round was the podium after a hard fought 5th at Donington from 23rd on the grid.

With the weekend set out over 4 days it was going to be a long weekend but 4 days at a race track couldn't be better for me.

FP1- With a dry track it was time to get into the swing of things and get some laps under my belt around the 1.2 mile circuit. Although Brands Indy is only 6 corners it can be very challenging to find time so having the bike working 100% for me is crucial.



Similarly to Donington this session was about feeling the suspension and focusing on areas where myself and the bike can be improved. Traditionally, I've struggled in the last sector at this track so this one area I focused on my lines and how I get could get the bike to work better to help me. Throughout the session I made some pit stops to discuss with my crew chief, Garry Hayes, about the bike in which he went on to make some set up changes. This is a good exercise also because it gives him an understanding of what the bike is doing and also what I am looking for. As the session came to an end I finished the session in 5th with a 48.3 second lap. This session was a good start for the weekend and it gave us plenty to work with.



FP2- After a good de-brief from a productive FP1 we had some things to experiment with in this session. I was looking for a bit more edge grip and for the bike to turn a little better in the tighter corners, for example; turn 2 (Druids). There

were a few things Garry had done to achieve this and immediately I could notice an improvement but I just needed that little bit extra, more feel is the way I would describe it. After another pit stop we had

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improved the bike once again and then I cracked in to the 47s. My confidence was growing and my weak sectors were improving. With 10 minutes of the session left I was P1 and clicking off consistent 47s. I finished the session fastest and was very happy with my consistency.

Qualifying- Two successful practice sessions under our belts and it was full steam ahead in to qualifying. I had a good feeling with the bike so I was looking forward to seeing what I could do. We started the session on a scrub tyre from



the FP with the plan to come in with around 15 minutes to go for a new rear. So on the scrub it was just about getting comfortable and setting myself up for crucial part. 16 minutes left and I was in for a new tyre. With that put in with rapid speed by my team, it was go time! In my head I wanted that pole position so I pushed hard for it. I did 3 fast laps back to back but each one I made some tiny errors which cost me time, I could feel I was trying too hard. This messed up my rhythm slightly and affected my laps so I qualified in 3rd with a 47.7 second lap. This was still good as it was my first front row of the season.



Race- 22 gruelling laps ahead starting from the front row. A good start was vital to make a good race. As the lights went out my jump was good and I held my position in to turn 1. In to turn 2 was clean and then in to turn 3 someone lunged up the inside and then nearly crashed which messed my

rhythm up. The front two had made a gap at the end of lap 1 so I had eyes set on clawing that back. After a few laps the leaders had come back to me and I could figure out where I was stronger and weaker than them. I was losing a lot of time in to turn 3 (Graham Hill bend) so this was one area I focused on throughout. My strong point was the last sector which was confidence boosting for me. It was a hard battle all race but the bike was working well and I really enjoyed the bar bashing for 22 laps. Throughout the race I got the fastest lap with 47.6 second lap which is a personal best for me. At the end of the race I crossed the line in 2nd which was a good result and good points haul which bumped me up to joint 2nd in the championship. Tasting champagne for the first time this season was rewarding but now I just want more.

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On Thursday the 20th of April we went to Oulton Park for a test day where we worked through some different set ups for next weekend. We have a few minor things left to try in free practice sessions but I am looking forward to it and aiming for another podium.

I just want to say a big thank you to all my sponsors for making it all possible this season.

