



### Pittards first endurance race ends in impressive class win

David Pittard has continued his impressive transition into sports car racing with another class win and P2 overall in Sports 2000, again in a new car and in his first ever hour long endurance race.

Having completed a late deal to drive for race car manufacture MCR alongside regular driver Peter Williams, Pittard headed to the Wiltshire based circuit of Castle Combe on the Thursday before the race hoping to gain some pre race testing. With the car he was to race on the Sunday not arriving till the weekend, David was lucky enough to grab a quick 20 minute session with another MCR team mate, and quickly set about establishing the front running pace. By the end of the session, Pittard had completed just 7 laps but had managed to set a lap that saw him top the time sheets, and came away from Castle Combe confident as always of the race ahead.

"After testing Thursday and going quicker than regular MCR driver Patrick Sherrington, a strong result was defiantly on the cards at the weekend. Even though the car I was going to be racing was different to the one tested on Thursday, I was confident that with a bit of track guidance there was certainly some more time to come."

As the circuit opened on Sunday morning ominous grey clouds greeted the Brunel University student, but luckily the track would remain dry for the duration of Qualifying.

"Qualifying started well with Peter going out first and was P2 whilst running in new brake pads and disks, which was a strong start. I jumped in the car for the first time for my part of qualifying and gradually built up my confidence with the different car. After running P1 for the majority of the session, I was disappointed to be knocked off top spot right at the end, but P2 was still a good starting point."

With a short gap in the programme before the race David set about ensuring he was in peak physical condition for his first ever endurance event, as well as making sure he and his team mate had a clear game plan for the compulsory 4 minute pit stop strategy.

As the skys remained clear, the team decided that Peter would take the first stint and line up on the front row of the grid, with David taking over just before the half way mark of the 1 hour race. With no tyre changes allowed, Pittard would be faced with the much harder task of handling a car with considerably used tyres!

After a good start and following a consistent stint, Pittard's team mate was running in 4th place albeit a lap down on the leading pack as he entered the pits for the driver change. With a podium result still up for grabs, David set about reeling in the leaders and gaining as many places as possible inside the remaining 30 minutes.

"At the start Peter drove well to lap consistently in P4, which set us up nicely for a top 3 result. I felt my own performance was a little too relaxed at the start of the stint as I wasn't quite happy with the set up which worsened throughout the race, but I pushed to the limits of the car to lap as quickly and consistently as I could."

Pittard's pace was impressive considering it was evident that he was having to battle with increasingly worsening front tyres. None-the-less the Letchworth based race ace was able to set lap times faster than that of the race leader, and closed in on the front runners.

"I reeled in P3 by 30 secs, and caught P2 driver and regular front runner Mike Jenvey, however they were still a lap ahead following the pit stops."

With the clock ticking down it looked like Pittard would have to settle for 3rd place, but the race had one last sting in its tail as the P2 placed car suffered from suspension failure, catapulting Pittard into second place.

"I saw the suspension fail, and knew that this was my chance to take P2. From then on it was about pushing as hard as I could and try to put pressure on the leader. However by the end of the race the front tires were considerably overheating giving me massive understeer which was loosing me time through the corners, so I decided to ease off and settle for 2nd"

With the flag dropping, Pittard brought his MCR car home in second place overall, and secured with it the D2 class win in his first ever endurance race, rounding of an impressive performance by the Hertfordshire based driver.

"Overall I really enjoyed the weekend. The car was really fantastic to drive with the extra power and grip levels very similar to SPEED Euro series cars and Radical SR3's, and to be as quick as 2 consistent front runners in my first time in the car was also a positive."

"Another positive was my own fitness and stamina which held up fine even though I raced almost double what I normally do, which I was pleased with. The car set up frustrated me massively by the end of the race as I felt I couldn't show my own raw pace but with such a short time in the car nothing could have been done."

"Massive thanks to Clive and Cindy from MCR for this opportunity on Thursday and Sunday, and Peter Williams for an excellent drive and letting me share the car with him. Also thanks to Podium PR, Herts Business Support Scheme, Baileys travel, GDSP Risk Analysis and Garden House Hospice for all their continued support, without which none of this would have been possible."

David is seeking additional sponsorship for his 2012 Championship campaign. Any companies or individuals wishing to support a British rising star should contact David direct on +(44)790 380 9212

Keep up to date with all of David's racing at [www.pittardm-sport.webs.com](http://www.pittardm-sport.webs.com)

Follow him on twitter @pittardmsport & facebook/pittardmsport

For more information on MCR Race Cars please visit [www.mcracecars.co.uk](http://www.mcracecars.co.uk)

To support David in his London to Brighton charity bike ride please visit [www.justgiving.com/PittardM-Sport](http://www.justgiving.com/PittardM-Sport)

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For further information and media enquires please contact: Podium PR on +44 (0)845 5196 046 / [info@podiumpr.com](mailto:info@podiumpr.com)