

## **Round Two : Anglesey 26<sup>th</sup> / 27<sup>th</sup> May 2007**

Well the wait was over, The New Anglesey Track was to see the Ford Saloons head to Wales for Round Two. After a Long week for Wealden Racing in getting cars prepared, which would unfortunately only see Craig Rainer make the long awaited trip to commence testing the new circuit and getting the car set up correctly for the weekend. A good Test Session was had by Craig who enjoyed the new circuit, but unfortunately late Friday evening news arrived that Steve would not be able to make the weekend as PJ Motorsport had found a crack in his Engine Block. Roger and Phil are still working hard to get the Fiesta's ready but finding this a slow process.

Sat Morning the weather was dry, but very windy off the coast of Anglesey and the Team were ready for Qualifying, Making sure he was first out onto the track to get a clear track before the remainder of the grid of 30 cars made there way out onto this new improved 1.55 mile track.

Everything went well for this 15 Minute session but this it was cut short due to another competitor going off in a dangerous spot and the Red Flag being waved. With a qualifying time a 1.18.50 saw Craig take 3<sup>rd</sup> Overall and 2<sup>nd</sup> in Class A2.

Mid Afternoon on Saturday would see an overcast day as the Ford Saloons lined up for the First Saloon Car race to be held at the new circuit at Anglesey. With the lights coming on the revs increasing and we were off, Craig tucking in behind Dave Matthias, with Ashley Bird along side into The Banking and Craig and Matthias were stuck together and chasing after Pole Man Steve Scott out onto Church and still nothing separated the pair, Craig was making sure Dave knew he was behind him - showing in both mirrors and waiting to make his move. Up into Rocket would see Dave get the better drive and making some space between the pair of them. Into the Corkscrew and Craig was back with Dave and chasing hard onto the Start / Finish straight would see Dave make some distance between them, Coming into Church Dave had now extended his lead over Craig to about 1.5 secs. Still chasing hard on the back straight and up into Rocket it was still 1.5 sec gap and knowing this was a 20 Mins race Craig was just pacing the race out and gently keeping the gap steady for the 2<sup>nd</sup> part of the race to make the chase. On Lap 5 would see a lot of Oil being thrown down on the track and making conditions up at Rocket and entry into Corkscrew hard for the drivers but both Craig and Dave Matthias were working well with this. Now approaching back markers, Craig was starting to put the pressure on and bring the gap down on Dave as he was making his way through the traffic. But Lap 7 would see Brian O'Connor come out of Church and slide on his own oil and off the Track and out of the race. The resulting waving yellow flag was unfortunately not seen by Craig on the outside of the track as he powered past 3 back markers - costing him a rare meeting with the Clerk of the Course! The Race was Red Flagged as Craig made his way into Rocket due to the position of O'Connor's car a total race time of 8 mins.

Final results were on count back giving Craig a 3<sup>rd</sup> overall, 2<sup>nd</sup> in class.

# WEALDEN **racino**

Sunday Lunchtime and Wealden Racing were awaiting for the 13:50 Race to happen. The Weather was Overcast all morning, blowing a gale force wind and trying to rain. Craig took the decision that he would run with Wet Tyres, which appeared to start a trend with 75% of the Grid swapping to Wets. The cars took the grid and the track and in the high wind it looked to be drying and would be a dry race, which could have proved the wets to be a bad decision! But too late for the Team to worry as the high note of engines getting ready for the green lights and the race was underway. Into the 1<sup>st</sup> corner and Craig had made a blinding start and was alongside Steve Scott in his highly powered Escort Cosworth and as the pair of them entered The Banking, Craig took the High line of the banking and chased alongside Steve neck and neck.

1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place men were now 2 secs ahead of 3<sup>rd</sup> place man Dave Matthias up into Rocket and Steve and Craig were side by side, exiting Rocket Steve's car hooked together and his extra power took over and he was now increasing the distance between them and once through the Corkscrew would see Steve really put the power down and leave Craig some 4 secs behind. Not a problem for Craig as Steve Scott is in Class A4 so not in direct competition. At the end of Lap 1 Craig was leading A2 with 2<sup>nd</sup> place Dave Matthias and the rest of the cars now along way behind. The weather was getting better as the race continued and Craig pulling out a greater lead on Dave Matthias, putting Wets on had worked!!

Half way and positions were still Steve Scott leading Class A4 with a fast Graham Wait cutting through the field and Craig nearly some 30 secs ahead of Dave Matthias and lapping back markers. Graham Wait then appeared in Craig's mirrors and would start challenging him for 2<sup>nd</sup> Place with a fast Terence Clark also in the distance aswell. Now Craig had work to do with fast approaching cars and wanting to hold position. For 2 laps would see Graham battle with Craig to get past and on the exit of the Start Finish and into The Banking would see Graham get past and now get on chasing Steve Scott. With Craig still holding onto the lead in Class A2 and Class B Terence Clark was showing good pace with his Fiesta Sti who was running Dunlop Dry Tyres. Craig, needing to save his wets as the track was now dry and not as greasy as when the green lights showed, let him pass. With 4 Mins left of the race Craig was catching now back runner of Class A4 Scott Matthias, looking to lap him, and could see Dave Matthias in the distance - who was obviously really struggling on his choice of tyres. Craig held his position and was to take the chequered flag just before the weather changed and the rain came - 1<sup>st</sup> in Class.

A good weekend was had by Craig Rainer and the Wealden Racing Team - shame that Steve, Phil and Roger could not be there. But a new Anglesey Track was raced on and will look forward to going back there next season. This weekend would see Craig take 2<sup>nd</sup> Class A2 on Sat and 1<sup>st</sup> in Class A2 on Sunday, which keeps the A2 Title Battle interesting.

Next Race will see The Team visit Oulton Park on Sat 30<sup>th</sup> June and will be racing on the Full Circuit.