



**GAURAV DALAL & J D MADAN CROWNED THE
JK TYRE NATIONAL RACING CHAMPIONS**

JAPANESE FEMALE DRIVER KEIKO IHARA WINS RACE 2 OF FORMULA LGB

New Delhi: The finals of the JK Tyre National Racing Championship 2003 at the Sriperumbedur Race Track near Chennai witnessed some dramatic pulsating action right from the start. J.D. Madan going into this race with a one point lead in the drivers standings over Ayub Khan came out on trumps in both races of the saloon class and clinched maximum points for the race to the championship. In the Formula Maruti category it was Delhi lad Gaurav Gill who finished the race a fraction of a second ahead of Gaurav Dalal only to have Dalal come back strongly in the second race to walk away with top honors of the race and the championship. The Championship is being organized under the aegis of Madras Motorsport Club (MMSM) and is being presented by MARUTI SUZUKI.

With a total of as many as 18 entries in the Formula Maruti Category and 16 in the Saloon class it vindicated the organizers and sponsors commitment that this category is the breeding ground for racing talent in the country.

RACE REPORT - SALOON CLASS

Race 1 (10 Laps)

Race 1 in the Esteem category a grid lined up with 16 cars for the start of the race and Ayub Khan taking pole position in the qualifying laps held on Saturday, 20 November. This ten-lap race saw J.D. Madan riding on Ayub's ill luck shoot out into the lead. Ayub had a late take off the starting block and was pushed way down the field. J D put the pedal down to the mile never to give second place man Radha Selvarajan a chance, constantly building a commanding lead. He has blossomed into a fine mature driver and has proven that he is capable of soaking in the pressure that promises for a bright future in the sport. Coming in third place was Vikram Murthy and the novice award of the race went to Vetrivel.

Race 2 (15 Laps)

The second race in the same category saw pole holder Ayub repair his car just in time for the start of the race, but a cautious start saw him loose his lead to J D Madan on the first lap itself. Ayub finished the race coming in second and handed the championship to JD Madan who has proved to be a very worthy driver. Radha Selvarajan put in his consistent performance coming in third. The novice category award went to Shanmugam N.

RACE REPORT – FORMULA MARUTI

Race I

With 18 cars taking the starting grid in the Formula Maruti Category, it was all set for a very exiting afternoon of racing. With 3/100th of a second separating the first two Gauravs – Dalal and Gill it sure promised to be a thriller. Dalal trailing by 5 points to Sarosh needed to go all out if he wanted to lay his hands on the coveted crown. As expected both of them made the best of their good start and jockeyed for position for five laps before Gill made a brilliant move to put it past Dalal in corner 2 – the slow corner of the track. Gill never looked back after this and drove with a sense of determination to take the chequered flag, with Gaurav Dalal coming in second. Jigar Muni who drove brilliantly started in third, drove in third and finished the race in third. Sarosh a championship contender finished the race in a poor fifth place with a technical snag. The novice award for this race went to Varun Sharma.

Race II

Sarosh Hataria had a stroke of bad luck when his driveshaft popped out in the pit lane at the start of race 2. The pit crew fixed the part in a jiffy but as per regulations he was told to start the race from the pit lane exit. This turned out to be cruel blow to his championship chances. Meanwhile Gaurav Dalal who had only a point to make up on Hataria ran away to a facile win and won the championship for the first time. A fine and just result for Dalal and his team for all the hardwork and disappointments over the last few years. Gaurav Gill came in second with Amanpreet Ahluwalia finishing in an impressive third. The Novice award went to Sameer Ebrahim for this race.

FORMULA LGB

In Race 1 of the formula LGB all eyes were on Japanese driver Keiko Ihara who had been specially invited for this event by JK Tyre. With only twenty practice laps put in she stunned her competitors by qualifying in third position for the start of the race. Top honors of this race went Raj Virdan who is also driving in the Formula BMW series in Asia. A good drive saw Keiko come in second with karting and racing veteran Raymond Banarjee coming third. Race 2 was a good one for the only female racer on the grid in this category – Keiko Ihara put in a commanding performance running away with second race and opening up a huge lead over second place Gurunath Meiappan and third place Raj Virdhan. This category has created a tremendous amount of excitement and will be the one to watch out for in the following future championships.

OVERALL CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS

	CATEGORY: ESTEEM		CATEGORY: FISSME
1.	J.D. MADAN – 71	1.	GAURAV DALAL– 63
2.	AYUB KHAN– 56	2.	SAROSH HATARIA – 53
3.	RADHA SELVARAJAN – 45	3.	GAURAV GILL – 42

CONSOLIDATED RESULT SHEET FOR THE FINAL ROUND OF THE JK TYRE
NATIONAL RACING CHAMPIONSHIP 2003

Saloon Class - Race 1 (10 Laps)

Pos.	Name	Total Timings (Min:Sec)
1	J.D. Madan	12:55.668
2	Radha Selvarajan	13:01.502
3.	Vikram Murthy	13:04.005
NOVICE AWARD		Vetrivel
BEST TUNER AWARD		Karthik

Saloon Class - Race 2 (15 Laps)

Pos.	Name	Total Timings (Min:Sec)
1	J.D. Madan	19:21.885
2	Ayub Khan	19:26.489
3.	Radha Selvaraj	19:34.886
NOVICE AWARD		Shanmugam
BEST TUNER AWARD		Roopesh

Formula Maruti Race 1 (10 Laps)

Pos.	Name	Total Timings (Min:Sec)
1	Gaurav Gill	12:19.053
2	Gaurav Dalal	12:19.819
3.	Jigar Muni	12:33.258
NOVICE AWARD		
Varun Sharma		12:43.000
BEST TUNER AWARD		Venkat

Formula Maruti Race 2 (15 Laps)

Pos.	Name	Total Timings (Min:Sec)
1	Gaurav Dalal	18:13.851
2	Gaurav Gill	18:36.473
3.	Aman Preet Ahluwalia	18:50.886
NOVICE AWARD		
Sameer Ebrahim		18:57.102
BEST TUNER AWARD		Venkat

** END **