

## CHANDHOK TAKES F3 CHAMPIONSHIP LEAD WITH FIRST WIN

Donington Park, England

06/04/03

India's **Karun Chandhok** scored the first Formula 3 win of his career at the opening round of the British Formula 3 championship, (Scholarship class) at Donington Park today. The win was followed up by a fighting 2<sup>nd</sup> place in Race 2, which now makes him the ***First Indian to lead an International Formula 3 championship.***



The 19 year old's weekend didn't get off to the best start when he missed the majority of the test session due to a clutch problem which resulted in him and the team guessing the set-up for qualifying. Qualifying started off on a positive note when Chandhok qualified 3<sup>rd</sup> for race 1. In 2<sup>nd</sup> qualifying 2, he struggled with an imbalance in the car and ended in 5<sup>th</sup> position on the grid for race 2.

Karun's start for Race 1 was stunning and he gained 4 places into the first corner, including making his way past 3 Championship class cars. On lap 3, race leader Ernesto Viso made a mistake and spun off, which pushed Chandhok into the lead of the race. From there on he drove consistently and maturely to finish the race ahead of a significant number of Championship class cars and almost 2 seconds ahead of Christian England. A delighted Chandhok said later ***"I'm really happy to have scored the first win. The team at T-Sport and I have worked really hard to get to where we are today and this makes it all worth it."***

In race 2, the Madras born driver lost ground when avoiding Christian England who stalled on the start line but was soon moving up the order, passing Justin Sherwood on lap 1 and then Ivor McCullough in a brave move around the outside at Redgate corner on lap 3. A lap later Ernesto Viso made another error, which resulted in the T-Sport duo Steven Kane and Chandhok moving up to first and second position, where they stayed till the end.

At the end of the weekend Chandhok gave his thoughts on being the Championship leader, ***"It's the perfect start to the season. After qualifying we thought that if we scored 2 podiums and some good points it'll be a good result for the weekend, but this is much better !!"***



***The car worked really well today and I have to thank all the guys at T-Sport who did a super job. For sure it feels good to lead the championship but there's still a long way to go with a lot of hard work yet to be done so we need to just be realistic and continue making progress as the year goes on. I have to thank all my sponsors – JK Tyres, Kingfisher, UCAL Mikuni, Rolon, ICSA and Parx without whom, today would not have been possible."***

**Results : Race 1** – 1. Karun Chandhok 22:10.325 2. Christian England + 1.9s 3. Steven Kane + 9.7s

**Race 2** : 1. Steven Kane 22:05.60 2. Karun Chandhok + 9.5s 3. Ivor McCullough + 10s