

Karun @ British F3

Karun finishes third in Scotland

Knockhill, Scotland

12/05/03

India's Formula 3 star **Karun Chandhok** finished 3rd in round 7 of the championship held at Knockhill in Scotland. Later in the day he retired from round 8 following a collision with Ivor McCullough.

Strong winds of close to 100 Kmh welcomed the Formula 3 circus to Knockhill on Friday for the test sessions. Karun had a fairly strong run to 3rd place, 3 tenths of a second behind team-mate Steven Kane and less than a tenth behind Ernesto Viso.

In first qualifying on Saturday morning the 19 year old took his time building up to the pace and with just 3 minutes of the session to go put in a storming lap of 47.824 seconds to end up just one tenth of a second shy of his Kane who claimed pole position. Second qualifying didn't go quite as well for Chandhok who crashed with 6 minutes of the session to go.



He describes what happened *“I was just building up to a big push towards the end of the session just like I had in first qualifying but when I got to the first corner I wasn't able to engage 4th gear and when it did finally go into gear the differential locked up and just sent me spinning backwards into the barrier. We were lucky that atleast I managed one decent lap before the crash which put us 3rd on the grid.”*

Race 1 started strongly for Karun when he moved up the order on lap one. But from lap 2 onwards he lost time with what he described as **“cold tyre graining”**, before a mistake at the chicane on lap 17 meant that Ernesto Viso got past into 2nd place. Karun describes his race *“The start was quite good and I got ahead of 2 or 3 of the championship class cars at the first corner but from there on for some reason it just felt like there was a lack of grip in the car and it was quite difficult to drive. I made a mistake and went wide, off the circuit at the chicane on one lap, which allowed Ernesto a chance to go past. From there on I just drove to finish and take the points for 3rd place.”*

Race 2 was a slightly disappointing affair for the Madras born driver wherein he was bumped off the circuit by Ivor McCullough who made an over-optimistic bid at the hairpin resulting in the Indian's car ending up in the gravel trap.

Karun reflected on his weekend saying, *"In racing you will always have good and bad weekends and unfortunately this wasn't one of our better ones. Atleast we came away from it with one podium and some points from Race 1. Knockhill is a circuit where you have to be very aggressive and really muscle the car around which suits some drivers more than others. For sure it suited Steven more than me. I'm just looking forward to Silverstone. The team and I were quick there last year, and it's a circuit which I really enjoy, so I hope to be back on top there. "*



With the championship now moving to the Silverstone Grand Prix circuit, there's no doubting that the T-Sport driver who is supported primarily by JK Tyres in association with Kingfisher, Rolon, UCAL, Amaron and Parx will be desperate to put one over his team-mate. Rounds 9 and 10 at Silverstone will be held on the 25th and 26th of this month.

Results :

Round 7 -

1. Steven Kane 21:49.057s
2. Ernesto Viso 21:55.899s
3. Karun Chandhok 22:01.192s

Round 8 –

1. Steven Kane 17:06.818s
2. Ernesto Viso 17:10.415s
3. Christian England 17:23.210s

Championship standings –

1. Steven Kane 120
2. Ernesto Viso 93
3. Karun Chandhok 92