

Karun @ British F3 KARUN CHANDHOK FINISHES SECOND

Snetterton, England – 21/04/03

India's **Karun Chandhok** followed up his win and 2nd place in rounds 1 and 2 of the championship Donington Park with a strong 2nd position in round 3 of the 2003 British Formula 3 championship held at the Snetterton circuit in Norfolk on Sunday.

A large Easter weekend crowd greeted the teams and drivers as they arrived at the fast 1.9 mile circuit, where average speeds over a lap exceed 175 kmh. Chandhok and the T-Sport team were going to Snetterton on a high as the new championship leaders. The opening 2 days of the weekend proved just how hard Formula 3 can be.



Karun explains “ *I have always gone well at Snetterton and last year it was one of my strongest circuits. I think I relaxed a little bit before the weekend and during testing and qualifying I got a pretty good idea of how difficult racing at the top level is if you back off just that little bit.* ” He ended the qualifying sessions with a 4th and 6th position on the grid.

Everyday is a different day in Motorsport though and the former Asian Formula 2000 and Indian National Racing champion knew that he had to dig deep and perform to stay in the championship points race. Chandhok talks us through race 1 “ *At the start, my team-mate Steven Kane stalled which meant that all of us behind him bunched up and I couldn't see the lights so I completely missed the start. There was total carnage all though the race, with cars going off all over the place. I've learnt from last year that points is the name of the game and my priority was to finish purely from that point of view.*” While others around him made mistakes, Karun moved steadily ahead and finished the 20 lap race in 2nd place to score **his 3rd consecutive podium of the season.**

Race 2 was always going to be harder work from a lower starting position but the Madras born driver fought hard with Justin Sherwood all through the race and finally got through around the outside into the “Esses” with only 2 laps to go to finish 4th.



Chandhok reflected on an incident packed eventful day “ *Today was all about damage limitation really after qualifying. I just couldn’t get a time out of it for some reason yesterday but I was really fired up this morning and wanted to score as many points as I could so that I don’t lose out too much in the championship race which at the end of the day is what it’s all about.*”

Team principal Russell Eacott said “ *Karun redeemed himself a bit today for qualifying. He knows more than anyone else now that to win championships you can’t afford to have an off day and I think in a way the test and qualifying this weekend was a good wake up call for him. He did a good job in the races and there’s no doubt about the fact that once it clicks for him in qualifying he’ll be a consistent race winner.*”

The next two rounds of the championship are at Croft in Yorkshire on the 4th of May

Race results :

Race 1 –

1. Ernesto Viso	30:38.121s
2. Karun Chandhok	+ 3.9s
3. Justin Sherwood	+ 14.4s
4. Steven Kane	+ 14.5s

Race 2 –

1. Steven Kane	36:39.545s
2. Ernesto Viso	+ 3.2s
3. Ivor McCullough	+ 3.4s
4. Karun Chandhok	+ 7.8s

Championship positions -

1. Steven Kane	65 points
2. Karun Chandhok	60 points
3. Justin Sherwood	38 points
4. Ernesto Viso	35 points