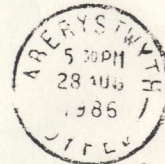


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Tim Davies

Tim crashes out

Tim Davies' Formula 3000 debut at the Halfords Birmingham Superprix proved to be an up and down experience after finding out that handling Formula one cars in the rain is no easy task.

Davies opened his account in encouraging fashion in the untimed warm-up with 17th fastest time and a minor accident to remind him of the unforgiving nature of street racing.

Progress continued in the first times session which saw him qualify for the 6th row of the grid but while most of the teams found considerable improvements in the second session, Davies and the Opar Bennetts crew could only record a fractionally better time and he was bumped back to the penultimate row.

But with only 26 starters out of 40 entries he had already done enough to leave several illustrious names on the

sidelines including 2 of his Formula 3 rivals Dave Scott and Ross Chever amongst the cars that failed to qualify.

On Monday prospects looked brighter for the Selflock team as Davies powered around at 103 mph in race trim to record 17th fastest time in the warm up, but as soon as that session ended torrential rain began to fall causing further delays to the over ambitious programme as the Formula 3000 cars went for a further 30 minute warm up.

Speeds were considerably reduced with Davies lapping at a circumspect 75 mph

Electrical failure caused further delay as the starting lights failed and Britain's newest road race was eventually started the old fashioned way with a flag, only for the track to dissolve into a blinding spray.

Accidents were inevitable and Davies went out early after trying to pass

Frenchman Marcel Tarres who spun and crashed into Davies car.

Davies said: "I could see I was quicker around the corners so I had a go at him and just as I went to pass he spun. In those conditions you dare not put your brakes on but whatever I did I could not avoid him."

The race was eventually stopped after 25 laps and runaway leader Luis Sala of Spain was declared the winner.

Although it may not have been an auspicious debut Davies performance in fact was a good one considering his lack of time in the car, the severity of the circuit and the fact that the car had failed to qualify in the hands of its previous driver.

Where Davies goes from here is another matter for having tasted Formula 3000 racing he is quite likely to want some more, if he can find the sponsors.

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