



NEWSLETTER

Qualifying in the Wet – New Experience



Luke Continues His Championship Charge at Donington Park

The third meeting of the season took Luke to the iconic Donington Park circuit, where an unpredictable weather forecast promised to make the weekend particularly challenging. In the days leading up to the event, meteorologists predicted a damp and unsettled weekend, with a complex low-pressure system expected to sweep across the Midlands.

While the forecast looked ominous, closer analysis suggested there would be intermittent dry periods. The challenge would simply be determining when and where those opportunities would arise. Fortunately, Friday remained largely dry, allowing valuable track time for testing and preparation.

Experienced members of the paddock were quick to remind drivers that Donington can become especially treacherous when rain first arrives. Situated adjacent to East Midlands Airport, the circuit is known for becoming particularly greasy during initial rainfall due to deposits left by aviation fuel and airborne contaminants. It would prove to be an important lesson for many drivers over the course of the weekend.

Positive Progress in Friday Testing

Friday's testing session proved extremely encouraging for Luke and the team. Following a scheduled partial engine rebuild during the previous week, the car performed flawlessly throughout the day. Having first driven at Donington during a shakedown test back in March, this was only Luke's second visit to the circuit. However, the progress made since then was immediately evident. Consistent lap times were between three and four seconds faster than during his debut outing, demonstrating just how much confidence and experience he has gained during the opening rounds at Snetterton and Oulton Park. The combination of increased familiarity with the car, growing racecraft, and improved circuit knowledge resulted in one of Luke's strongest test performances of the season so far.

Qualifying in Challenging Conditions

Saturday morning brought dramatically different conditions as the heavens opened just in time for qualifying. While the torrential rain made conditions difficult, it also presented a valuable opportunity. Given the realities of racing in the UK, wet-weather driving was always going to become part of Luke's development this season. Experiencing those conditions during qualifying provided an ideal environment to learn without the added pressure of a race start.

Undeterred by the weather, Luke approached the session with maturity and confidence, steadily building his understanding of both the car and circuit in the wet. As the 15-minute session progressed, a drying line began to emerge, and although a late improvement opportunity was narrowly missed, Luke secured an impressive 15th position on the grid from a highly competitive field of 30 drivers.

Race One: Fighting Back Through the Field

The rain eased before Race One, allowing the circuit to dry. However, just as the cars assembled on the grid, another shower passed over the track, leaving a light coating of moisture for the opening laps.

In the excitement of the race start, Luke made a classic rookie mistake, briefly delaying his getaway by leaving his handbrake on. The error dropped him from his starting position to 23rd place by the end of the opening lap.

What followed was arguably some of the finest driving of Luke's career to date.

Refusing to dwell on the setback, he immediately focused on recovering lost ground. Displaying impressive pace and determination, Luke carved his way back through the field over the next six laps, rejoining the battle for positions inside the top ten.

As the race reached its climax, Luke found himself locked in a fierce six-car battle heading into the final chicane, with every driver chasing a coveted top-ten finish. In the congestion, he was squeezed out and forced to take evasive action, narrowly missing the opportunity to secure tenth place.

Despite the disappointment, he crossed the line in 14th position out of 30 starters—a remarkable recovery drive that showcased both speed and resilience.



Race Two: A Career-Best Finish



Starting 14th on the grid for Race Two, Luke made an excellent launch and quickly settled into a strong rhythm.

The race was run in dry conditions, but the hard-fought opening race had taken its toll on tyre performance. Careful tyre management became a key factor, and Luke demonstrated growing race maturity by balancing pace with preservation throughout the race distance.

Producing another consistent and composed drive, he ultimately crossed the finish line in 12th position, securing his best race result to date.

Championship Momentum Continues

Three race weekends into the championship, Luke's development continues to impress. Having established himself firmly at the front of the midfield group over the opening rounds, his consistency is now paying dividends in the championship standings.

The Donington weekend represented another significant step forward, combining improved pace, valuable wet-weather experience, strong racecraft, and a career-best result. Most importantly, it reinforced the progress that has been evident throughout the season.

As the championship moves into its next phase, Luke remains firmly inside the overall top ten standings and continues to build momentum with every outing.

With confidence growing and experience accumulating, the signs are extremely encouraging for the remainder of the season.



Interested in becoming part of the journey with us?

LJB Motorsport is actively seeking partners who share a passion for motorsport and want to support emerging talent. For sponsorship enquiries please contact:

Email: info@LJBmotorsport.com Phone: 07494 210941