

A Wet Weekend in Wales!

The Dunlop Great & British Festival ventured west last weekend for a Wet West Wales. Pembrey is a great little circuit but it rained for most of the weekend making the tyre choice a big factor in the races. Dawn was returning to the track of her first ever race when she was with Formula Woman racing Caterhams, she was back with a vengeance to race the boys too this time!

The weekend didn't start well, as Dawn arrived at the circuit she was greeted by the sight of a smashed up mini in the paddock and the driver with a broken ankle, proving just how quickly it can go wrong in the wet.

Friday track day practise was wet most of the day and the circuit refused to allow passengers/instructors so Dawn had to go it alone to re-learn the circuit. Another accident in the wet delayed the sessions and another ambulance was called!

Saturday practise was still wet and Dawn had some excellent lap times showing she had conquered her fear of racing in the wet, but a third accident brought practise to an end as car 10 rolled on the wet grass. Qualifying later in the day was still damp and her choice of Wet tyres proved to be very wrong as the track dried completely causing her to slide about, she ended up qualifying 11th on the grid.

Race 1 was late on Saturday and it stayed dry - a dreadful pull away saw Dawn right at the back before she crossed the start line but she found a gap and by the first hairpin corner she'd made up 4 places! A battle commenced between Dawn, car 10 Michelle Nixon and car 13 Nick Rochez, and it was the final lap before Dawn managed to overtake using the hairpin exit speed; although car 13's defence of his position was a little suspect it was a clean pass and Dawn finally finished 9th.

Race 2 Sunday morning was very wet - no discussion on tyres needed this time! A confident start by Dawn and the same battle commenced with cars 10& 13. The chase was on and Dawn managed to get passed Rochez after a few laps, then she made the same pass at the hairpin with Nixon, now she was chasing hard after car no 25 but try as she might could not find a clean passing opportunity. Dawn finished 9th again.

Race 3 was late on Sunday and it was finally a drying track, but only just. Dawn opted for dry tyres which turned out to be right but the first few laps were very slippery, the first corner was oily from the previous race and a big accident meant the safety car was deployed for about 5 laps, the restart saw most of the cars all spread out thinly making it impossible to catch many cars, but Dawn fought with car 35 and 33 for several laps and finally passed John Bates as he made a mistake and finished a creditable 7th.

With just 2 more races in the season Dawn now lies 8th out of 18 in class and 18th out of 46 in the challenge.

The final meet of the season is at Brands Hatch on 6th/7th October. Dawn is still searching for sponsorship and if you or your company would like to get involved for the 2008 season please contact Dawn at www.dawnontrack.co.uk

