

I wasn't sure what to expect from my first outing in a class 3 – particularly at a National round. What I did know was I would have a good car thanks to Hall Motor Racing and Elf Oils, and any errors would likely come from the driver. And that they did; I jumped (barely) the start of the first race and was sent to the back of the grid for the restart. Unbelievably, I came from the back of the grid to take the win. Needless to say I was pretty amped at the chequered flag if not a little shocked. The car handled similarly to my previous drive (561 – for sale) so I just had to adjust to the slightly wider body and additional power.

Come the second race, I was gridded at the rear of the field, but managed to clinch first place on the last corner and take the chequered flag. Two wins from two rear grid starts in my first two races in a class 3. Unreal I know, but that is what happened. This win wasn't without trouble: I got a talking to at the end of the race by the ORANZ Chief Steward for 'climbing' a car on a corner. Of course it was not intentional to 'climb' a car; it was just a racing incident, and I had nowhere to go.

In the third, I had the better of the competition, but it was my driving that let me down; firstly spinning out on a corner and dropping back to second, before getting it wrong again chasing back the lead when I popped the left rear off the rim when I hit a hole sideways. I finished fourth when another win was there for the taking.

In the feature we were the unlucky ones with the rain that had threatened all day finally arriving. The track became very hard to race on and without hand cuts on was extremely difficult. Started off the back of the grid and climbed to first place relatively quickly. But the rain didn't stop and I literally slipped back to second about two thirds of the way through the race.

All in all it was a great opener for me in class 3. Thanks to HALL MOTOR RACING and EFL OILS for their continued support.

It was also great to see the introduction of the junior mini trucks to the National Championship. It added a real sense of inclusion and family to the day and will no doubt create some of our sports future overall champions

Nick Hall