

RICHARDS TEAM *MOTORSPORT*

Manfeild – it suits the V8s



Two rounds left, tenth in the championship and heading to one of his favourite circuits, young Michael Bristow is brimming with confidence.

“I really really like Manfeild. “ says Bristow. Having competed here in the V8 Development class he’s served his apprenticeship around this tight flowing circuit. “It’s got big banked turns that you can push the car into and get a lot of drive on the way out.”

This weekends round, the Fujitsu 200 is the penultimate round of the 2008-09 BNT V8s Championship. With six more races, three at Manfeild and three at the final Pukekohe meeting a fortnight later the fight is on to determine the top ten V8 driver’s and teams in this year’s championship.

There has been a six-week gap between the last round, the Southern 200 at Teretonga in January and the Fujitsu 200. It has been down to the kart track for Bristow to stay race tuned and ready. “ I’ve jumped back into the kart and have been doing as many laps as I can round the track. Our TEX Onsite team have a test at Puke this week to try a number of new suspension setups specifically for Manfeild.”

So what’s special about Manfeild?

“There are some good opportunities to pass as well as plenty of opportunities for the car in front to block. Also there are some fast turns where a driver can almost over drive the car into the turn and come out well. So it is a reasonably forgiving track.”

And what if it rains?

“It is a really good track to drive on in the rain. I’ve done a couple of races in the development series in the wet and gone really well.”

Bristow says that the TEX Onsite Team’s aim is to “..have a solid finish, keep out of trouble and get points on the board. I’d like to get into the top eight or even the top six but we won’t know until the Friday practice. We’ve found that this can determine were you are going to be for the

weekend.

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Hamilton race driver Kayne Scott holds a narrow 32 point lead over defending V8 champion John McIntyre, from Nelson, as 23 V8 competitors line up for the sixth round of the BNT V8s Championship at Manfeild on the weekend of 28 February and 1 March.

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