

RICHARDS TEAM *MOTORSPORT*

Solid result for the TEX Onsite team under atrocious conditions

What can only be described as “trying conditions” all weekend it was a solid positive result for the TEX Onsite Ford Falcon driven by Michael Bristow at the Fujitsu 200 held at Manfeild Park, Fielding over the weekend. Bristow finished seventh overall for the weekend and holds eleventh position in the BNT V8’s championship.

When Sunday dawned fine after an arduous day in the rain on Saturday teams anticipated an easier days racing. This was to prove wrong as light to moderate showers seemed to pepper the meeting at the most unexpected times making it difficult for teams to choose the right race set up. The only consolation being that all teams were in the same predicament.

Bristow seemed to have carried on positively from Saturday’s seventh in race one to hold sixth position in race two late Sunday morning. This slipped away as the car starting to creep backwards through the field finishing twelfth.

“We ran out of brakes with about ten laps to go,” explained Bristow, “and this caused the tyres to go off as well, so by the end of the race it was getting difficult.”

Starting fifteenth in the full reverse grid race three Bristow was up to eleventh coming out of turn one straight after the rolling start in wet conditions. Previously in these conditions a major “off” by several cars would have been expected but the field seemed to have reached a new level of experience and maturity.

However the slippery wet track did provide a challenge as several competitors spun off, the worst being Paul Pedersen who missed the Esses, going straight ahead and narrowly missing the flag marshals post. What he did hit was a car trailer used to carry cars from the circuit and this it duly did after the field had been red-flagged (stopped).

At this stage Bristow was up to ninth and faster cars were coming through the field from the rear. McIntyre took his third win for the weekend while the TEX Onsite Ford finished a credible tenth.

“It was a pretty actioned packed race really. We had a good car but a bit too much wheel spin out of the hairpin, which probably hurt us a lot. However tenth is a good result.” Said Bristow. “What was really good was that the car was consistent all the way through the race (20 laps).”

The team now prepares for their final encounter of the season in two weeks time at Pukekohe Park, Auckland. Just eleven points separates positions 9-11 so the team head away with the aim of finishing in the top ten