

# **RICHARDS TEAM** *MOTORSPORT*

## **Super Seventh for Bristow**

A super result for the TEX Onsite team in race one of the BNT V8's at the Fujitsu 200, at Manfeild Park. Michael Bristow finished a strong seventh in a fast car, taking advantage of those in front who fell off a wet track.

While wet conditions prevailed all day the team had finished a disappointing eleventh in qualifying. "We had a great car in the dry practice on Friday then the conditions changed. We hadn't anticipated a much higher grip level when we bolted on the new tyres for the second qualifying session and the car stepped out a little and wasn't as fast as we thought"

There are three qualifying sessions for the BNT V8's. The first involves all cars, which fight for the top twenty spots. A second session determines the top ten fastest while the third determines their grid positions.

The team's fortunes changed when tenth qualifier Andy Knight did not start race one because of an engine change. Bristow took up the tenth grid spot and was immediately up to eighth coming out of turn one.

An ensuing battle with Paul Manuell saw him drop back to ninth. Both were elevated up two positions when Angus Fogg and Paul Pedersen tangled and fell off the track.

Up front it was pole sitter Craig Baird leading from Andrew Anderson. This all changed when Anderson came off bringing out the yellow flag and then a red, which brought the cars around to stop on the start finish line while his car was extracted from turn 7.

It seemed to turn pear-shape for Baird after the restart as he dropped several places down the field with a gear selection issue, allowing McIntyre to inherit the lead. Bristow was now sixth but the field had bunched up at the restart and with only three laps left he had to defend against a hard charging Adam Brook who got past at the last turn. McIntyre won from Andy Booth with Baird third.

The result was a triumph for the team. "It was a good result, one that we were after. We got a good start and slowly worked through the field while others went back, and fell off the track," commented a satisfied Bristow after the race.

Sunday sees the second and third races of the weekend where the weather is expected to be warmer and dry.

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