

RICHARDS TEAM *MOTORSPORT*

Thorough preparation a key to Bristow's consistency

When Michael Bristow steps into the driver's seat of his TEX Onsite Ford V8 for the first practice session of the BNT V8s championship at the Powerbuilt International Raceway (Christchurch) on Friday 28th November he has the confidence that Richards Team Motorsport has prepared the car thoroughly for the race weekend.

Meticulous preparation is a key to the team's consistent performance this year and it has been borne out of necessity and experience from their campaigning over the last three seasons.

"We are prepared for every eventuality that may occur over the weekend" comments team manager Steve Richards. "The car is fully prepared at the team workshop (in Paeroa) before we go to the track and we have a complete set of spares ready to go."

Bristow has finished sixth overall in each of the first two rounds and is currently seventh in the championship, led by John McIntyre.

Plenty of spares are taken including an extra motor and gearbox which are both complete and ready to bolt straight in. In fact mechanically everything is taken to the track including shock absorbers and suspension. "The only thing we don't carry is a completely new body shell" says Richards. All replacement car panels are taken as well as all the tools required to fix any adversity.

What happens to the car after each race meeting?

The rear differential is taken out after every meeting and fully crack tested at the workshop. "At Pukekohe we were very fortunate as when we got back home and took the diff out she was ready to break. Michael had about half a lap left in her," said Steve.

They cannot do anything with the engine (as it is sealed for the season under current regulations) but the team looks for any fluid leakage. All fluids (brake, oil, cooler and transmission) are continually replaced, (even several times during the race weekend). A full spanner check takes place and brakes are fully inspected and replaced when necessary.

“With the preparation we do it is important for the driver to know that he has a great car going into the weekend,” says Richards.

A comprehensive and detailed approach has resulted in top ten results and the team will again aim to carry on this consistency at the Hampsta 200 at Powerbuilt Tools International Raceway this weekend.