



## Another successful Raceday at Manfeild in Formula First (1/2/3 December)

Round 2 of the NZ Formula First Championship provided a perfect opportunity for Thomas Boniface to continue on his path to a full recovery and a return to his racing dreams. After a highly successful outing behind the wheel at Rd 1 of the Hi-Q Components NZ Championship, Thomas had more challenges over this race weekend, with hot and dry weather on Saturday followed by heavy rain and a wet track on Sunday.

The test day on Friday was tinged with frustration and a lack of car speed, however the team found the issue and repaired it prior to qualifying on Saturday morning. The session was the best performance from Thomas since stepping back into a race car, smashing his PB by 3 seconds, and qualifying in P12.

A significant area of improvement was the race starts, Thomas starting the car well all weekend. In Race 1, a mid-race incident with a slower car who missed a gear out of the hairpin meant a damaged nose cone and a spin to avoid an accident. However, Thomas regained composure and drove back to 13th after losing a lot of time. Race 2 was another great start, but a spin at the highest part of the circuit on Lap 2 involved a trip to the large sand trap and driving back onto the track and another 13th placing.

A new day on Sunday morning brought heavy rain and slippery conditions. For the first time on a sodden track since returning to racing, anxiety levels were high. Wet conditions have always suited Thomas's driving style however, and this race did not disappoint! A brilliant start saw the #67 car make 6 placings into turn 1 and things were looking very fast until a slight mistake in the braking area for turn 7 saw him drift back to last place. However, he put his head down and drove back to 11th across the line. The final race of the day saw another fantastic start from P12 and some more great battles. A mature drive with no major mistakes saw Thomas across the line in 10th, his best finish from the 7 races so far.

A very satisfying weekend. Thomas was back in a racing car and gaining skill and confidence at every corner of the Manfeild circuit, smashing goals similar to before his accident. Team Boniface Racing would like to thank everyone who has been supporting along the journey to enable him to compete again. Merry Christmas to all, enjoy the holidays, drive safely on the roads and let's see what 2024 brings!



Photo credit: Jarod Carruthers Photography



Photo credit: Donna Boniface