

Successful Raceday for Thomas after lengthy rehab journey

Thomas Boniface has put the past 3 years behind him following a terrible road accident which left him with a Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) and facing some intensive hospital time and associated rehabilitation. After battling the odds in front of him, he has made a return to the racetrack behind the wheel of a Formula First race car, supported by Dennis Martin and the team at Sabre Motorsport. Thomas had some significant hurdles to overcome, mainly walking and fine-motor function before being cleared by Motorsport NZ to compete again. Throughout his relentless campaign of physical and mental rehab, the only focus the now 19-year-old has held is a return to the race car cockpit.

The team travelled to Manfeild Circuit Chris Amon over the weekend of 21/22 October to compete at OctoberFAST!, the first round of the NZ Formula First Championship. A tentative start for Thomas saw him qualify in 14th position. Race 1 was an opportunity to work forward and ease into competition again, after a long break away from the sport. Apart from a bad start, Thomas did a solid job and finished the race in 16th. However, this didn't meet with Thomas's own personal high standards, so a debrief was held to understand more about how to continue to improve.

A new day dawned on Sunday morning, and another start from P14 saw some passing of competitors and battles within the category. Across the stripe, Thomas improved one spot but importantly gained more confidence and speed. The final race of the day saw another start from P14 and some great battles with a few rookies in the class. At one stage, Thomas moved into 10th position with some great manoeuvres, finally settling for 12th place after some spirited fights with others.

After the final race, the look of satisfaction with his weekend's efforts was clear. Thomas was back in a racing car and competing, smashing goals in the same fashion as prior to his accident. Team Boniface Racing would like to thank everyone who have enabled him to compete again. The level of support for the team was amazing, and the planning for the future events has begun.

Welcome Kelvin Baker from Baker Vapour Blast to the family, great to have your support also.



Photo credit: Shots by TayB

