

PRESS RELEASE

November 2009
Immediate release

FESTIVAL FUN FOR RACING REVEREND

The Church of England's fastest clergyman, Revd Simon Butler, put in a strong drive in the Zetec final of the Formula Ford Festival to claim 8th place overall and a top 5 lap time.

The Kingdom Bank backed driver made significant progress with his cars set-up at the pre-event test session at Brands Hatch, which propelled his Vector up the field. Simon commented "We changed almost everything there is to change on the car in terms of suspension set up, and thankfully it seemed to work – the car was much more stable in high speed corners and generally much better."

After a good showing in his qualifying heat, and with some 30 Kingdom Bank guests cheering him on, Simon lined up on the grid for what proved to be a very short semi-final race. Having made a good start and gained several places off the line the Racing Rev received a tap from the car behind going into Clark Curve and ended up spinning into the gravel trap. With Simon's semi-final over before the end of lap one a back of the grid starting position for the final was inevitable.

Come the final the faster Pastor was fired up and ready to make up some places. After a good start however Simon fell back as a wheel bearing gave way. Simon explained "I suddenly felt a huge vibration coming from the left rear wheel, I knew it was either a wheel bearing failure or a loose wheel - I did a relatively slow lap and decided that the wheel wasn't going to come off, and so then started to push hard again". As the number 23 Kingdom Bank car ticked down the laps to the chequered flag Simon closed down the cars in front. A lunge up the inside under braking saw him move up a place as did a move around the outside at Clark Curve. Sitting in 8th place Simon attempted a pass around the outside of Druids Hairpin, but the 7th place car managed to fend him off and with just one lap to go Simon couldn't find a way past.

"Over-all it was an encouraging event" said Simon "although we struggled in the final with the broken wheel bearing we were still able to find some speed and came out well in terms of over-all lap times. My thanks go to Kingdom Bank for their support which has made this season possible."

On the back of his strong showing at the Formula Ford Festival the Racing Rev is looking forward to 2010...

Notes to editors

For further information, contact Chris Sheldon on 0115 921 7250.

Attached picture shows the Rev Simon Butler with a specially prepared promotional single seat racing car.

Kingdom Bank is a UK-based independent Christian bank with a 50-year heritage, providing a range of financial services to suit individuals as well as charities, businesses, associations and trusts.



 Kingdom Bank