

SCSA Update

September 2006

Magnaflow UK car feels the pressure

Latest SCSA encounter ends in disappointment for driver Mike Luck

Recurring fuel pressure problems on the racing car that Magnaflow UK is supporting in this year's Stock Car Speed Association (SCSA) Championship prohibited driver Mike Luck from finishing any higher than eighth overall in both races at Rockingham Motor Speedway in Northamptonshire at the weekend.

A number of company guests enjoyed a day of hospitality at the 'Oval Fest' meeting, including Magnaflow marketing director, Craig Lieberman – en route to the Automechanika Show in Germany – and the joint editor of Classic American and Japanese Performance magazines, Richard Nicholls.

However, the promise that Luck's Revolution Racing machine showed in the early part of both races, failed to translate in to results that would help the Midlander close the gap on Oli Playle in the race for the SCSA Championship title.

Luck's V8-powered machine had been struck down by fuel pressure problems at the last SCSA meeting and, in order to try and stop the problem from rearing its head again last weekend, his team fitted a new fuel pump before the first race.

For a time, it appeared that the new part had done the trick – Luck qualified 7th out of 13 cars for the first race. However, close to the end of the 35-lap race, the race organisers instigated a 'yellow flag period' after one of Luck's rivals suffered an unfortunate accident.

When the green flag was shown to signal the resumption of the race, Luck quickly realised his fuel pressure problem had returned. With a misfiring engine that was unlikely to cure itself, he was left with no choice but to continue to the end of the race – hoping that he didn't lose any valuable places in the final classification.

Luck's misfortune meant he completed the race in 11th place and one lap behind the eventual winner, Playle.

And it was a similar story the following day when Magnaflow UK managing director, Paul Tomlinson, and his guests arrived at the sun-drenched venue to watch the action from the main grandstand at the 55,000-seater state-of-the-art venue.

Fortunately for Luck, his fuel pressure problem only struck close to the end of the 36-lap second race. But



the sight of the experienced oval racer banging his hands against his car's steering wheel as he clung on to his eighth place was a sure sign of how frustrated he was at his result.

Speaking after the race, Luck said: "I just can't believe it! We thought we'd got to the bottom of the problem before we arrived here this weekend, but it looks like there is still a problem that's eluding the engineers in the team.

"It's strange that the fuel pressure problem only comes when we prepare to get back up to full speed again after a 'yellow flag period'. There's clearly something that needs sorting and it's frustrating because we started to show what we were capable of this weekend. Sadly, the results at the end of the races haven't been what we hoped for."

But despite his obvious disappointment, Luck has maintained his second place in the SCSA standings, with only two races remaining in the 2006 series – scheduled to take place at Rockingham on October 7/8.

Tomlinson shared in Luck's frustration but considered the weekend a success for the Magnaflow UK brand as a whole.

"We might not have got the results on the track but there was a big crowd here this weekend and I'm confident nearly all of them will have gone home with a better understanding of Magnaflow UK and our other performance brand, Nemesis UK," he said.

"Having our Toyota Supra, Nissan 350Z, and Hummer H2 show cars on display at the back of the pit garages was something that attracted a lot of attention and a large portion of the POS material we displayed was taken away. From that point of view, I'm of the opinion that the weekend was a big success and each of our guests had a great day out that I'm sure they'll remember for a while to come."

Race one results:

- 1 Oli Playle (Team West-Tec) 29 laps in 23m 39.39s
- 2 Paul Poutler (Steward Racing) +2.6s
- 3 Phil Weaver (Team Catchpole) +4.4s
- 4 Tony Hurdle (Revolution Racing) +4.7s
- 5 Shane Brereton (Team For-Trucks) +4.8s
- 6 Skid Carrera (CWS Racing) +5.2s
- 7 Lee O'Keefe (O'Keefe Racing) +6.1s
- 8 Martin Heath (M-Tec Racing) +6.4s
- 9 John Steward (Steward Racing) +7.2s
- 10 Duncan Gray (Team Networking) +1 lap
- 11 Mike Luck (Revolution Racing) +1 lap**
- 12 Keith White (CWS Racing) +2 laps

Race two results:

- 1 Oli Playle (Team West-Tec) 36 laps in 26m 03.07s
- 2 Tony Hurdle (Revolution Racing) +0.9s
- 3 John Steward (Steward Racing) +1.1s
- 4 Shane Brereton (Team For-Trucks) +3.7s
- 5 Skid Carrera (CWS Racing) +6.5s
- 6 Lee O'Keefe (O'Keefe Racing) +1 lap
- 7 Duncan Gray (Team Networking) +1 lap
- 8 Mike Luck (Revolution Racing) +1 lap**
- 9 Keith White (CWS Racing) +3 laps
- 10 Colin White (CWS Racing) +4 laps