

2012

THE VOICE OF BRITISH MOTORSPORT
**MOTORSPORT
NEWS**

Ford
fiesta junior
championship

Race report 003 for: Rounds 5 & 6 – Donington Park 19/20 May 2012
- By Ford Racing UK

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Introduction



Where is the summer weather when we go racing? It has either been chilly, windy or wet, or a combination of all three. The new drivers are coming soon. Jack Mitchell served strong notice of intent this weekend with a withering turn of speed straight out of the box. Impressive stuff! We also welcomed James Manning in his superbly presented Fiesta ST. James was instantly at home in his 'office' and made the car perform well around this tough track.



The opportunity to drive on the full Grand Prix track at Donington is a rare one indeed. The circuit is tough and demanding on professional competitors, so we were keen to see how the young Fiesta Junior drivers would cope. The prevailing conditions were not ideal, but with their usual aplomb they all coped magnificently as they got to grips with the near three mile tour.



Johnny Herbert took time out to chat to all the Fiesta Junior drivers and went on a track tour to give some hints. Thank you Johnny, for your great guidance and good luck to you for the season.









For timing results please go to www.fiestajunior.ms and navigate to Latest News – Donington Information – timing results.

Qualifying



Some spectators took to the air to get a better look at our 'junior touring cars'!! A Ryanair jet taking off from East Midlands Airport.



Race 1



This was to be an eight lap battle with six strong and determined entries out to impress the watching Supersport drivers; many household names in motorsport. On pole was Jack Mitchell from teammate Charlie Ladell. Ladell must have now realised the potential of his peers and with a qualifying time some 1.782 seconds off the Poleman must have wondered how he could make up the deficit. However, behind them was the magnificently repaired

ST of James Ross. True credit to the Daniels Motorsport team for getting the car looking and performing like a race car after the gentle Ross roll on Saturday. Ben Wilcox, Aiden Moffat and James Manning were next.



Red lights out and off they went into the first bed with Ladell leading then out of the pack came Wilcox with a great move inside a wide lining Mitchell and this line also saw Moffat through for third. Fantastic racing out of the box. Moffat had a tank slapper through Craners but kept his foot in and calmly steered the car back on course. Running through to the end of lap 1 then and the order was Ladell, Moffat, Mitchell, Wilcox, Ross and

Manning. Oh dear, the crossing of the line for the second lap saw Moffat grabbing at gears and Mitchell slipped by the offside and off. Mitchell had sight of the leader but also had a red ST in his mirrors. Both Mitchell and Moffat were up for getting in touch with Ladell.

The start review seemed to show that James Manning had been incorrectly lined up on row two. Oh well!

On to the end of lap 3 and Mitchell was still third from Moffat, Wilcox, Ross and Manning.

Lap times were interesting. Lap 6 saw the fastest race lap set by Mitchell with a 1'53.918 with Ladell responding on lap 7 with his quickest – a 1'54.459. Both Ross and Manning set their fastest laps on lap 8 (the last one) whilst Moffat set a 1'56.114 on lap 3. Wilcox's quickie was a 1'56.902 on lap 7.

The lap positions now were set into history as the chequered flag announced Charlie Ladell home for the win with Jack Mitchell second and Aiden Moffat third.



Race 2



This race must go down as one of the best and closest race finishes that has been seen for many years in motorsport. Jack Mitchell pressed Charlie Ladell hard from the start and the racing was very touchy feely in places but nevertheless dramatic. If anyone ever needs to find out what club racing in juniors is all about then watching the race action on MotorsTV in the

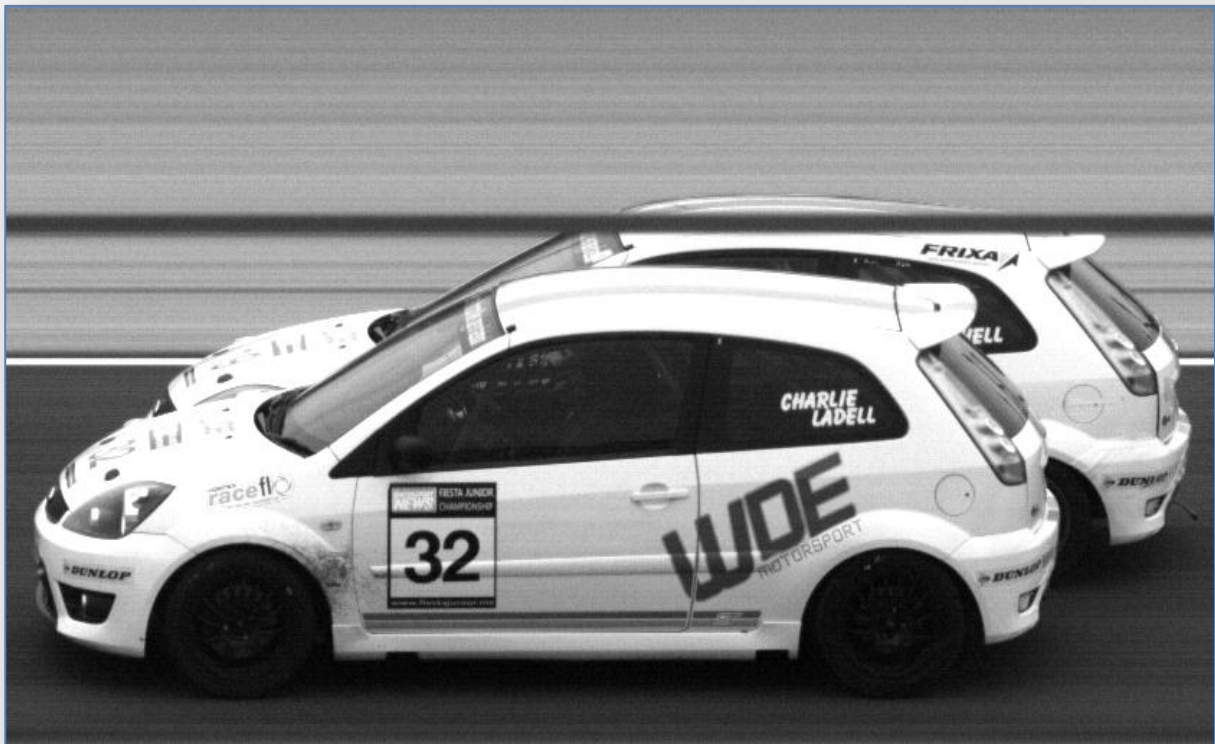
subsequent programme will answer all the questions and tick all the boxes as to why Fiesta Junior is fast becoming the championship of choice for young drivers. Attacks in Autosport on whether Fiesta Junior is needed in motorsport was well and truly answered in this instance and just illustrate all that is good with our package. It must be good as one team owner (who shall remain anonymous) who has had cars in the Ginetta Junior for the past few seasons has had enough and is nearly finished building a Fiesta ST for our championship. Who needs to get concerned about articles in magazines when we have that as a response? Bring it on!

As the red lights went out the whole field got off ok. Front the passenger seat (in his video) we got a great view of the start. Unfortunately, a gear selection problem saw Wilcox rapidly overtaken by Moffat who shaded Ross towards Redgate corner. Into and out of Redgate for the first time of asking then. The order Ladell, Ross, Mitchell and Wilcox then Moffat and Manning. The exit saw Mitchell positioned into the start of the Craner curves on the inside as he drew alongside Ross then cleared him for second... Quite soon the field strung out until a thrust down the inside by Moffat forced Wilcox to take to the grass.

Lap 3 and Wilcox put some pressure on Ross and closed entering Redgate and still down to the old hairpin where perhaps thinking of the off on Saturday (?) Ross went wide and this



saw Wilcox into 3rd. Up front Mitchell took the battle to his leader and pressed hard whilst the order behind remained constant. The last stage of the race was out of our sight but it was close as we believe a contact between Mitchell and Ladell resulted in the narrowest of margins win for Charlie Ladell. Jack Mitchell was 2nd with James Ross 3rd having disposed of Ben Wilcox on lap 5.



A close finish then? – This second and final race of the day. Charlie Ladell just pipped Jack Mitchell by 13/1000ths of a second. The closest finish in a junior race anywhere in the world ever??

Ford Fiesta Junior Championship points table 2012

Points remain provisional subject to any judicial procedures

NAME/ROUNDS	ALL ROUNDS LESS TWO TO COUNT																		
	R1 SILVERSTONE	R2 SILVERSTONE	R3 SILVERSTONE	R4 SILVERSTONE	R5 DONINGTON	R6 DONINGTON	R7 DONINGTON	R8 CANDLER PARK	R9 CANDLER PARK	R10 ROCKHAMPTON	R11 ROCKHAMPTON	R12 BRANDS Hatch	R13 BRANDS Hatch	R14 Snetterton	R15 Snetterton	R16 BRANDS Hatch			
NO.	CLASS	Total	07/04/11	08/04/11	29/04/11	29/04/11	20/05/11	20/05/11	03/06/11	03/06/11	01/07/11	01/07/11	04/08/11	04/08/11	02/09/11	02/09/11	28/10/11	28/10/11	
Charles LADELL	32	FJ	102	14	1	16	1	16	1	16	1	16	1	16	1	16	1		
Jack MITCHELL	19	FJ	84	12		14		13		14	1	14	1	14	1	14	1		
James ROSS	4	FJ	67	13		12		9		9		9		9		9			
Freddie LEE	51	FJ	57	16		13	1	14		13		11		11		11			
Ben WILCOX	88	FJ	55	dnf		9		11		12		12		11		11			
Aiden MOFFAT	43	FJ	54	11		8		dnf		10		13		12		12			
Louis MILLAR	6	FJ	23	dnf		11		12		dnf		10		10		10			
Bobby THOMPSON	9	FJ	21			10		10		11		11		11		11			
James MANNING		FJ	20			10		10		10		10		10		10			
Alfonso SKRICZKA	8	FJ	10	dnf		10		dnf		10		10		10		10			
Aiden NPCRESS		FJ	0																



This is how the professionals did it!

Championship race points may be seen at www.fiestajunior.ms

Report by Ford Racing UK with big thanks and a special mention to Colin Kelsall for additional photographs.

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