

Kester Cook

CSCC Tin Tops, Mallory Park – Saturday 1st August

We qualified in 6th place with a time of 53.190 amongst a grid of 21 cars. The Ford Focus on poll qualified with a 51.994.

Qualifying was dry, the car handled well although it was hard to get in a few good clear laps due to the number of cars out on a relatively small circuit.

The weather stayed dry, warm and sunny. I had a good start to the race, moving from 6th to 3rd place by the end of the first corner – a long sweeping right hand bend. The top three pulled quite a gap within the first lap with the Ford Focus of Paul Mensley increasing his lead from both myself and the 2nd place Peugeot.

I gained 2nd place from the Peugeot around lap 4 at the end of the back straight then maintained position until the pit stop. They performed a better stop and jumped back into position 2, leaving me 3rd. I chased hard out of the pits and re-took 2nd position after quite a battle with the Peugeot. We had door mirror contact (I folded his in!) just on the braking zone on the hairpin.

An opportunity to fight for the lead of the race appeared when the safety car was deployed for a large oil deposit covering virtually half the track. I found the oil a little too late and almost ended my race in the gravel.

The re-start after the safety car ignited my futile battle for 1st with the Focus who was just too fast! Within 2 laps the Focus had pulled a gap of 1.7 seconds, I just could not catch him.

I was very pleased to finish the race 1st in Class and 2nd overall.

