

NEWS BULLETIN 2016 – No. 5

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Anton shows Yorkshire Grit at Croft

Practice & Qualifying

Anton arrived at Croft circuit for Friday practice never having driven the circuit before, as by the time the Michelin Clio Cup Series visited North Yorkshire in 2014 he had already secured the Road Series Championship and therefore opted to sit out the round in order to save budget for the following season.

The first session was Anton's chance to learn the circuit, so the team opted for a conservative set up on the Clio. With some minor adjustments made the pace started to improve and towards the end of the second session, whilst pushing the limits, the Clio ended up in the gravel at the first corner, Clervaux. With no damage done the car was prepared ready for qualifying.

Saturday was overcast, but the temperature soon started to rise. With qualifying underway the session had to be red flagged just 10 minutes in, with a car off at the super fast Hawthorn Bend. With the session restarted Anton was able to complete a further 10 minute stint before coming in for new tyres. After heading back out onto track for another 5 minutes and with traffic spread all around the circuit it was felt that lap times had peaked, so Anton opted to preserve the tyres and wait out the final five minutes of the session in pit lane. The TerraClean Clio would start both races from 15th place on the grid.

Race 1

Race 1 took place on Saturday afternoon and as the lights went out Anton made a great start and gained two places straight off the line and started to settle into the race. At the start of the following lap the pack bunched up into Clervaux. With a mixture of cars sliding around and a little contact the PP Motorsport Clio picked up some light damage to the front end. As the race continued, Anton then spent a large chunk of it trading places with fellow Michelin Clio Cup Series graduate Ollie Pidgley. Contact at the hairpin resulted in damage affecting the steering on Anton's car so thereafter he completed the remaining race distance with the car pulling to one side. The race provided some fairly frantic action as Anton was twice run onto the grass opposite the pit wall by two different competitors. The checkered flag waved and Anton brought the TerraClean Clio home in 14th position. The team then set to work repairing the damage and after a debriefing with the driver, driver coach, team manager and technical team a set up change was made for Sunday's race.

Croft Circuit is just a stone's throw from the UK headquarters of TerraClean so the team hosted many of their management and dealers as again the crowds poured into the North Yorkshire circuit. In the trade area of the circuit the road going Renault Clio 220 Trophy supplied by Pentagon Renault in Lincoln was on display alongside the TerraClean trade stand, it attracted a large amount of attention with its race livery designed by World On A Tripod and applied by Allen Signs. The bright green AlloyGator wheel protectors also added its crowd pulling ability.

Race 2

As the team waited to be called into the holding area the threat of rain drew closer. The car remained on slicks and the first few spots of rain started to fall as the cars formed up on the grid in front of the ITV4 live cameras.

As the red lights went out it was another lightning start from Anton and he got through the scrum into Clervaux unscathed with three places gained. Double waved yellow flags came out early on as the stranded Team Pyro car of David Dickenson was removed from the gravel. Anton moved up into 11th position when race leader Paul Rivett fell to the back of the grid with a technical problem. By lap 5 the TerraClean Clio was at the tail of the main pack which had started to break away from the rest of the field. As the race reached

mid distance the rain continued to fall but still not heavy enough to warrant switching to wet tyres. At the end of lap 9 the mid pack had bunched together and was running three abreast, door to door down the start straight. Anton stayed at the back of the pack, avoiding trouble and looking to capitalise from a mistake. This paid off at the hairpin at the end of lap 10 with Rory Collingbourne going wide. George Jackson had closed the gap and Anton was now defending hard in the three way battle for 10th place. However Collingbourne managed to retake the position before the end of the penultimate lap. Anton finished the race in a neck and neck drag race with Jackson leaving the hairpin and crossing line just a tenth of a second ahead. With Collingbourne incurring a time penalty the TerraClean Clio was promoted back to 10th place finish.

Summary

The team now heads into a six week break from racing where the car will be overhauled before the Championship heads back south for the remaining eight rounds. The break will still be a busy period with the car already having been on display at the Lincolnshire Show followed by the Clio Sport Festival at Blyton Park, both with Pentagon Renault Lincoln. The team will then attend the Pentagon open day at the Renault Sport Lincoln dealership on Outer Circle Road on the 19th of July followed by the Kids Strut Classic & Performance Car Show at Waddington Playing Fields on the 24th before returning to battle in the Renault UK Clio Cup the following weekend at Snetterton.



The Terraclean/Pentagon Lincoln Clio goes wheel to wheel with Rory Collingbourne at Croft Circuit.

