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Plato on top again as Goff surprises in FP2

March 29, 2014 Chris Ashby 2014, Andrew Jordan, Brands Hatch, BTCC, Jack Goff, Jason Plato



Jason Plato continued to set the pace at Brands Hatch, once again topping the times in free practice ahead of the Vauxhall Insignia of Jack Goff.

The opening ten minutes provided a flurry of drivers pipping each other to the fastest lap time with Plato taking control. An initial time of 48.724 was set by the double champion in his MG KX machine and



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went even quicker with a fastest time of 48.719. Showing the competitive nature of the series, 24 were cars separated by a mere 0.8 seconds.

Prior to a brief red flag caused by team boss Warren Scott visiting the gravel at Paddock, Goff had been getting faster and faster, ultimately setting a 48.731 on his final run as the flag fell. The Insignia driver picked up a maiden podium at the Kent circuit during the series finale last season and is looking strong to potentially adding to that tally if he keeps this pace up.

Reigning champion Andrew Jordan had momentarily moved into second in the closing stages before being beaten by Goff, a 48.760 his best time in the Pirtek Racing Honda Civic. Sam Tordoff cemented MG's speed in fourth, with Aron Smith showcasing the progress of Team BMR and the VW Passat, rounding out the top five.

Top rookie and Toyota was Tom Ingram, in the Speedworks Toyota, finishing a stunning sixth. A trio of champions, Colin Turkington, Gordon Shedden and Matt Neal were joined by Martin Depper to round out the top ten.

Rob Austin concentrated on race pace in P12, behind Mercedes driver Adam Morgan. Fabrizio Giovanardi could only manage 13th with his Airwaves team mate Mat Jackson hot on his heels. After some steering issues, Alain Menu finished FP2 in 18th having only completed seven laps around the 1.22 mile Indy circuit.

Ollie Jackson, who wasn't allowed to take to the track this morning due to failing the noise test, finally secured some laps, however some four seconds off the fastest time of the session. Chris Stockton once again continued his shakedown of the Chevrolet Cruze hatchback as did Rob Holland and Lea Wood.

Under the new track limits regulations, Hunter Abbott and Fabrizio Giovanardi fell foul of exceeding them. No punishment was handed to either driver as practice sessions are non-competitive. Glynn Geddie ran into difficulties too, stopping out on track spewing oil. His car was pushed back to the pit lane where United Autosports are now working on fixing the problem.

Low fuel loads and qualifying runs were the focus of some as the clock ticked down to zero. The all important first qualifying session of the season takes place at 15:40 – where all cars will run on base weight for the only time this season.

Fans can tune into the ITV website to watch a live stream of qualifying as well as following @BTCCrazyLive for regular updates from the track.

PHOTO CREDIT: Jakob Ebrey Photography

April 4/5 | **Brands Hatch Indy**
April 18/19 | **Donington Park**
May 9/10 | **Thruxton**
June 6/7 | **Oulton Park**
June 27/28 | **Croft**
August 8/9 | **Snetterton**
August 22/23 | **Knockhill**
September 5/6 | **Rockingham**
September 26/27 | **Silverstone**
October 10/11 | **Brands Hatch GP**

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