



Solid run in Adelaide despite race one setback

GB Galvanizing M Motorsport

Preview Rnd #2 Australian GT Championship presented by Pirelli (Clipsal, Adelaide SA)

3 March, 2013

Despite never having seen the Clipsal 500 circuit prior to opening practice, nor competed on a temporary street circuit previously, GB Galvanizing M Motorsport team leader Justin McMillan was all smiles on Thursday afternoon post-qualifying, having turned the fifth fastest lap of the 3.219km venue.

“Have to be pretty happy with that,” he beamed afterwards.

After a top five finish during the opening round at Bathurst three weeks prior (another circuit the two-time Victorian State Series champion had never seen previously), McMillan was right where he wanted to be on the grid, behind two professional drivers, the reigning champion and two-time Porsche GT3 Cup Challenge champion, Roger Lago.

Sadly, whilst convinced he could run with Lago and learn from his Lamborghini ‘compatriot’, his solid debut run in Adelaide would come to a halt almost immediately in Saturday afternoon’s opening race.

“I got off the line behind Roger and Klark [Quinn], and as I went for the brake into the turn one-two chicane, there was nothing there,” he explained in mock horror.

“I got through the turn okay, but had to back off dramatically, because it was pretty dicey going into turn four. I got back to the pits unscathed and the boys explained a wheel speed sensor had failed on the front right, which took the ABS with it. We tried to get it to run a couple of times, but in the end we had no choice but to park it and replace it for race two.

“It’s pretty disappointing, especially the way things panned out in the end with the race and Roger taking advantage of the Safety Car to pick up second in the race, we should have been right there too.”

“What can you do,” team manager Josh Hunt shrugged. “Unfortunately, because everything runs off the one ECU, we ended up with other residual issues like the engine cutting out when the pit-lane speed limiter was engaged, and the ABS locking the right front wheel, stuff like that. It wasn’t an easy fix in pit-lane, so we effected repairs overnight and should be ready for race two.”

And ready they were, McMillan charging from rear-of-field to seventh, setting the sixth fastest lap of the race in the process.

“How much fun was that,” he laughed afterwards. “The car was fantastic, and it was just like Bathurst - the more laps I got, the faster I was, I’m just disappointed that we couldn’t get a start in the one-hour race because that would have been good series points, but it was a great recovery by the team, and the car was faultless today.





"I didn't have any dramas coming through the pack, but I was disappointed to be handed my pit-lane CPS [compulsory pit stop] time from yesterday, but regulations are regulations and that's the rules, but I was hoping to make it to the top six."

In the end, despite being the faster of the two, McMillan had to settle for seventh behind the Aston Martin Vantage of category owner Tony Quinn.

For the GB Galvanizing M Motorsport team, there's now more than two months until round three of the Championship on their home track - Phillip Island, May 24-26.

2013 Australian GT Championship presented by Pirelli - Qualifying [February 28]

01. 47. Christian Klien - Mercedes-Benz SLS AMG GT3 [CHAMP] - 1:20.6942R
02. 63. Craig Baird - Mercedes-Benz SLS AMG GT3 [CHAMP] - 1:21.0467
03. 1. Klark Quinn - Porsche GT3-R [CHAMP] - 1:21.8704
04. 23. Roger Lago - Lamborghini Gallardo LP560 GT3 [CHAMP] - 1:22.5962
05. 48. Justin McMillan - Lamborghini Gallardo LP600 GT3 [CHAMP] - 1:23.3225

2013 Australian GT Championship presented by Pirelli - Race One [2 March]

01. 63. Craig Baird - Mercedes-Benz SLS AMG GT3 [CHAMP] - 36-laps
02. 23. Roger Lago - Lamborghini Gallardo LP560 GT3 [CHAMP]
03. 1. Klark Quinn - Porsche GT3-R [CHAMP] - 35-laps
04. 2. Andrew Taplin - Ferrari 458 Italia GT3 [CHAMP]
05. 47. Christian Klien - Mercedes-Benz SLS AMG GT3 [CHAMP]
- DNF. 48. Justin McMillan - Lamborghini Gallardo LP600 GT3 [CHAMP] - 6-laps

2013 Australian GT Championship presented by Pirelli - Race Two [3 March]

01. 63. Craig Baird - Mercedes-Benz SLS AMG GT3 [CHAMP] - 21-laps
02. 1. Klark Quinn - Porsche GT3-R [CHAMP]
03. 47. Christian Klien - Mercedes-Benz SLS AMG GT3 [CHAMP]
04. 23. Roger Lago - Lamborghini Gallardo LP560 GT3 [CHAMP]
05. 2. Andrew Taplin - Ferrari 458 Italia GT3 [CHAMP]
06. 7. Tony Quinn - Aston Martin Vantage GT3 [CHAMP]
07. 48. Justin McMillan - Lamborghini Gallardo LP600 GT3 [CHAMP]

Australian GT Championship presented by Pirelli GT Championship points (after round two of six)

1. Klark Quinn (138 points), 2. Craig Baird (133), 3. Roger Lago (94), 4. Christian Klien (70), 5. Dean Koutsoumidis/Andrew McInnes (69), 6. Andrew Taplin (59), 7. Shane Van Gisbergen/Matt Kingsley (54), 8. Justin McMillan (51), 9. Peter Edwards/John Bowe/Allan Simonsen/Mika Salo (50), 9. Tony Quinn (50), 11. Jim Manolios/Greg Murphy/Ivan Capelli (37), 12. Simon Middleton/Darryl O'Young (30), 13. Steven Richards/Ross Lilley (28), 14. Tim Slade/Lee Holdsworth/Peter Hackett (26), 15. Mok Weng Sun/Matt Griffin (25), 16. Rod Salmon (23), 17. Craig Lowndes/Warren Luff (21), 18. Alex Roloff/Bernd Schneider/Thomas Jaeger (19), 19. David Russell/Peter Kox (16)





2013 Australian GT Championship presented by Pirelli - calendar

Rnd#1, 8-10 February - Bathurst 12-Hour, NSW

Rnd#2, 28 Feb - 3 March - Clipsal, Adelaide, SA

Rnd#3, 24-26 May - Phillip Island, Victoria

Rnd#4, 12-14 July - Sydney Motorsport Park, NSW

Rnd#5, 2-4 August - Queensland Raceway, Ipswich, QLD

Rnd#6, 8-10 November - Highland Motorsport Park, NZ

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