



## **Thuxton BSB Swan Combi/British F2 Championship. Round 1:17th/18th April**

This weekend saw a complete change of events for the Simon Neary/Paul Knapton partnership, riding the 2010 LCR of Nick Crowe racing/ Team Dave Hudspeth carpets.

In free practice the team found themselves 0.3 of a second down on John Holden and Andy Winkle, but improved considerably during qualifying: to grab pole by just over 1 second from series leaders John & Andy.

After a few minor adjustments under the guidance of Nick Crowe, they went out to Race 1 and had a hard fought battle with the number one plated outfit of John & Andy with the lead changing hands five times in the first four laps. Simon & Paul had eventually opened a gap at the front on lap 8, when Simon had a high speed 360 spin caused by a worn out rear tyre enabling Holden to take the lead and win the race by some 6 seconds.

Still the team had earned themselves a solid second place, set a new lap record of 1.23:138, and most importantly notched up 20 valuable Championship points in both the Swan Combi, and the British F2 Yokohama Championship.

Race 2 started in the same manner as Race 1. John had lead off the line, but Simon had reeled him in and after breaking his new lap record by putting in a 1.22:871 on lap 5: the NCR/TDHC pairing had broke Johns tow. All chances of being caught by the man at the top of the points table were quashed, when on lap 6 of 10 John & Andy pulled out of the race with a mechanical failure.

This left Mr Consistency himself Roy Hanks & Dave Wells to come in second, with young guns Kershaw & Wislon to come home in third place.

All in all a successful weekend culminating with an initial lead in the British Championship and moving up to 3rd place in the Swam Combi, the 2010 campaign now seems right back on track after the nightmare weekend at Brands a few weeks ago.

Thanks must go to Nick Crowe for his guidance, the use of his LCR and all the effort made by the Crowe family to make the season happen. Also a big thank you to Stuart Neary for his assistance and everyone who make up Team Dave Hudspeth Carpets!