



Beating the odds

THERE was last-minute drama galore for motor racing star and boss of a Bridgnorth firm Mike Jenvey at Brands Hatch recently.

He'd planned to travel down to the Kent circuit on the Friday morning but then learned of a switch of times for qualifying which resulted in him missing most of a night's sleep. Then a coolant system crisis meant removing the engine in his formula Sports 2000 Duratec race car just a few hours before the start of the race.

But 34-year-old Mike swept all before him to record a memorable victory in only his second season in the top, 2000 class, and he smashed the lap record into the bargain. Quite a feat.

Blew up

Mike, managing director of Jenvey Dynamics at Stanmore, Bridgnorth, has achieved considerable success during seven years of racing.

This includes winning the UK Formula Vee championship in 2004 and 2005 and last year he was runner-up to Rick Johnson in the Sports 2000 tussle.

He drives a Gunn TS6 which has been considerably redesigned and improved by himself and his father, Richard Jenvey, a former racing driver.

The car's first outing this season was last month for testing when the engine blew up. Then the opening round at Silverstone on April 12 when he was 'helped' off the circuit and into the gravel trap while leading and with only three corners to go.

But last weekend at Brands Hatch Mike and his team managed to overcome



Racing driver Mike Jenvey of Bridgnorth

every hitch and obstacle to carry off the crown and Mike is delighted.

"I'm very pleased with the result," he said, "and then we discovered I'd broken the lap record so that was great."

The lead-up to the race was fraught as Mike completed three laps of qualifying before discovering the water temperature was off the gauge.

Qualify

Quick repairs were made and the coolant replenished, but the problem re-occurred. The engine was removed and the cylinder head gasket replaced.

Mike was pleased that despite the handicap of an over-heated engine he had managed to qualify for second on the grid.

After passing Rick Johnson for the lead going into Druids hairpin, it was heads down and give it everything - smashing the lap record on the way to the chequered flag.

The Sports 2000 event was a supporting race for the high-profile A1 GP series clash so it was recorded for Motors Television and Mike was privileged to be carrying the onboard camera. He was interviewed back in the paddock and the whole event will eventually be broadcast to an even wider audience.

Mike, who can't wait for the next round at Donington Park on June 6, says his ambition this season is to win the championship and he has invited anyone with offers of support for the team to get in touch.

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