King of Britain

The UK desert race

The event started on Friday evening with a night time prologue which is right up our street. 32 awesome cars lined up with the "Super-Seven" going last. The Super Seven run last on prologue and are the favourites for the event as voted for by all teams, but some were already in trouble after the sighting lap and Jaap Betsema had the misfortune of losing reverse gear!

With the average lap taking nearly 5 minutes we had to wait till gone 9pm for our start time. I was a little worried about the huge woops and standing water on the course, plus in Portugal I had trouble staying with the top runners on the prologue as I fought to learn this new car. But I needn't of worried, the flag dropped and the nerves disappeared as we charged into the night.



The next day we line up at the start and the track looked awesome, long sandy vistas with huge woops and wash outs, it was going to be fast, very fast.







Course Markings you Don't Ignore!

Disaster struck halfway round as I miss a gate and have to shunt losing valuable seconds. We charge on our Lazer lights showing the way as we break free of the woods and cross the finish at speed. We are surprised to find we have taken nearly 20 seconds out of our nearest rivals and it's good to know that I'm finally starting to tame this car.



Love nightstages





Fast course

A few minutes later and we are back on track, but after only a few hundred metres the belt jumped again! We limped to the pits and the crew did a great job changing a weak tensioner to cure the problem. We finished strongly but had lost an hour and ten minutes and were 25 minutes behind the leader.

That evening we left nothing to chance and checked and rechecked everything.

Spot on time the flag dropped and two cars every 30 seconds thundered from the line. We powered away in first place and never looked back. "Little Lady" is an angry bitch and she takes some holding on to as we cleared mile after mile with our Fox shocks working miracles over the heavy terrain. Our first 9 laps were storming but trouble struck on lap ten when we lost a drive belt. No problem, we are set up for this and dived out of the car to fix the problem.



Starting to learn her ways



Overtaking our teammate in the Maxxis stage

Next morning, we headed to the start line in third position believing we were 25 minutes behind the leader and 1 minute behind second place. As we travelled to the start we noticed our new alternator, only fitted the night before, was not charging and stopped at the live pit to make the change. We swapped it for another new unit and were horrified to find that this one was also not working!



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We stripped the old unit, packed the bearings with grease and refitted as fast as possible and arrived at the start line just in time.

The flag dropped once again and our LSX 454 engine delivered its 620hp to the sands of Bovington. A further 10 laps lay ahead and we had work to do. We quickly passed the lead cars and set about pulling back the time we had lost. There were some very fast cars on track and some not so fast.... But everyone we met were true sportsmen and soon let us pass with a quick toot of our horn.



This course has everything including MUD!

We slipped back to camp, showered and packed away waiting for the prize giving. Rumours were flying and none in our favour. Soon the prize giving started and we were elated to find we had won the Nightstage, fastest lap and fastest time through the King shock zone. We readied ourselves for the main result and were over the moon to find that Gigglepin racer Jerry Hunt had come 4th and Neville Cianter had secured 3rd place with a superb drive. That left two of us.



Launch Time

We charged around setting solid lap times that we knew few could ever match and were confident that we had the race in the bag. We finished first and sat back to wait for Emanuel Costa and Neville Cianter.

Emanuel crossed the line and soon we heard that we had made a mistake and he had actually started the day nearly 15 minutes ahead of us and that he had held on to the take the win by a minute and 40 seconds! We were gutted, but it was unofficial at this stage.



Oscar working to get the car ready for day 2



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Helder and I readied ourselves to be next on stage and could not believe our ears when Emanuel and Gerardo are called on stage in second place! Amazing! It turns out that the scores previously quoted were unadjusted and did not take into account the prologue score or starting position giving us the win by 6 seconds after 200 miles of racing!





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Building cars is not easy and to win two of our first three events is staggering! Thank you to all of our friends, family, fans, supporters and sponsors.

Also a special Thank you to the guys on track that made racing so enjoyable and especially to Neville Cianter who genuinely is a true sportsman.

Where next?

Now that's another story.....



Winners of the Nightstage, Fastest Lap and King Shocks Zone



Winners of the King of Britain 2016!

