

Test Report

Driver: Ukyo Sasahara

Date: 22 Jan 2012

Day 1

Ukyo was very professional, listening to track notes and was well-prepared before driving the car. In the first session he was immediately on the pace with drivers who had already driven 3-4 days in a JK series car. This impressed everyone from the start.

In the second session he continued in the same way and was easily the fastest of the Rotax scholarship-winning drivers. During the third session he lost pace to our fastest drivers because he only had one set of new tyres over the two day test and we were saving them for the second day. In the fourth session Ukyo again matched the front drivers pace-for-pace on old tyres. Ukyo was already getting the maximum from the tyres and grip and was ready to get the maximum from new tyres the next morning.

Day 2

First session in the morning we started on old tyres for Ukyo to get into the groove. He asked what a good time would be on old tyres and was told low 2.14. He delivered exactly what was asked with a 2.14.1 which on old tyres is race-winning pace. When he returned to the pits we were in the process of putting on new tyres but had a problem with the car and he had to sit out the rest of the session. If he had gone out on new tyres we believe he would have been the fastest driver of the session.

The second session was Ukyo's first chance to go on new tyres. He was the fastest of the session but we feel he didn't get the maximum out of the new tyres. This is ok because most drivers on their first new tyre run are still in the 2.15's, however Ukyo was already doing 2.13.595.

Bear in mind pole position time at the last race was 2.13.090.

In the 3rd session Ukyo did a race run with a good string of consistent laps. The last session of the day was wet and was a good chance for the drivers to get a feel for a car in the wet and not worry about lap times.

Conclusion

Ukyo was massively impressive out of the box in his first test in a JK racing series car. His maturity and attitude towards his racing are great. Another great quality is his ability to listen and take in information. We found we only needed to tell him something once.

Ukyo also displayed amazing car control skills and can really throw and move the car around. We were also very impressed on the evening that Ukyo was due to leave (18th) that he came to the track to watch and learn and see if any chance presented itself to get into a car. Ukyo is a driver who is hungry to race and win. Because of these qualities he is a driver who deserves to be racing and if given the chance will do a fantastic job at the front of the field. Meritus wants to help make that happen!