

## 24<sup>th</sup> September 2007 - Liam makes sensational race debut in Spain

Liam McMillan made a sensational overseas racing debut at the weekend, when he finished all three races in the final meeting of the Spanish SEAT Supercopa series at the Circuit de Catalunya near Barcelona. In hot and sunny conditions, and in front of a huge crowd that had also come to watch the DTM race, the 17 year-old driver from Wisbech near Peterborough finished 13<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> in his Maxtreme-prepared SEAT Leon Cupra – in a capacity field of 44 cars.

Liam travelled to Spain with Tom Boardman, the 23-year old former SEAT Cupra Champion from Forton in Lancashire, who finished 3<sup>rd</sup> overall in last year's Supercopa series. The young British drivers worked well together, and after a good test session around the Catalan Grand Prix track on Friday, Liam qualified 33<sup>rd</sup> and Tom 13<sup>th</sup>. Liam's ability to lap consistently fast was to prove a big advantage during the races, as some of the local drivers could record a fast single lap in qualifying, but could not repeat such good lap times over a race distance.

Liam made a good start on Saturday's opening race and overtook 18 cars on the opening lap on his way to finishing 13<sup>th</sup>, while Tom came home 9<sup>th</sup>. The two remaining races took place on Sunday, and whilst Tom's car suffered from overheating, Liam's car continued to run perfectly.

Liam finished 12<sup>th</sup> in Race 2 (Tom was 6<sup>th</sup>), but lost ground during the third and final rolling start. Nevertheless, he raced extremely well to end a fantastic first race weekend abroad in 15<sup>th</sup> position, while Tom came home in 10<sup>th</sup>.

Liam said: "It was a brilliant weekend and a wonderful experience. Everyone in Spain made us feel so welcome and they couldn't have done more to help us. My car ran faultlessly all weekend, we didn't have a single problem with it. The racing in Spain is very hard – at the rolling start in the third race, everyone was pushing each other and the car behind me was right on my rear bumper pushing me forward. The start of the third race was the only part of the weekend that caught me out; in the UK, you can't overtake during a rolling start until you've crossed the start line, but in Spain once the green light above the gantry comes on the race has started. This happened way before I crossed the start line and it took me by surprise and I lost a bit of ground, but I fought back and was happy to finish all three races. It was a great experience to race with so many other cars and I was really pleased with the opening race in particular. I've never overtaken so many cars in one lap in my life – you rarely get the opportunity to race in a big forty-four car field and I really enjoyed it."

Liam's car will now be prepared for the final two rounds of the Blaupunkt SEAT Cupra Championship, which take place at Thruxton in Hampshire on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> October.

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