

## Suzuka Dream Cup 2003



### Aurora Report

Friday 25th July, 2003

The weather is improving. We actually awoke to sunshine and streaky cloud. Today was the first day of official events and the circuit pits would be full of teams unpacking their equipment.

We arrived at pit 1 to find that the TIGA team already had their two cars unpacked. Their main car looked a bit familiar. The last 40% of the surface was covered in Aurora solar panels. We had loaned these panels to TIGA after they were unable to finish their new panels in time for the Suzuka 'Dream Cup'. These loaned panels have improved the solar power for TIGA by more than 25% and brought them into contention for a second win.

Scrutineering was done most efficiently. The officials made every effort to get the entrants through the necessary regulations. We were number 3 in line and our two drivers were early for their registration and weigh in. Kon especially was desperate to register as high as possible and was taking on water right up to the scales. He managed to reach 68kg, just 2 kg short of the minimum. So for him it means an additional 2kg is to be loaded into the car. Damien was over 70kg and has some drying out to do.

The TIGA team showed us a big welcome and generously donated cases of drinks, boxes of eats, a rental car and the weights needed for ballast. We are hoping that they do very well. The Aurora pit is close to the scrutineering area and that meant we were able to see the other cars in detail. The second Osaka based solar car OSU is brand new. It is beautifully built, very light and powerful. This is one of the favourites.

The most interesting class is the Enjoy group. It consists mainly of high school teams which don't let practicalities stand in their way. They have great variety in shape, solar panel ideas and ingenuity. Many of their team members came to see the Aurora solar car and asked plenty of questions.



Dennis Negkas, the FIA representative and chief steward for this event paid us a visit. Georg Brasseur, also from the FIA in Europe, got to meet us and introduced us to his 14 year old daughter who was visiting Japan for the first time. We also re-acquainted ourselves with many of the officials and other team members who we remembered from last year.

We successfully passed all of our scrutineering tests and had time to re-examine the solar panel performance and settings. Jack and Paul just had to make more brackets and did also manage to practice more tyre changing.

By 6.30pm we were ready for the event party. We were given a good introduction and joined in the mandatory games. Jack again was the big winner in the can stacking competition, applying lots of lateral thinking to blitz the other competitors.

Tomorrow is race day! We have untimed practice at 8.00am, followed by official practice at 9.00am This will be the first opportunity for our drivers to complete the full course, out there with traffic and with most drivers trying their best to do a fast lap. We are ready to do our best.

### **Damian's Diary**

Today was the scrutineering day. I didn't even get in the solar car for the whole day. The drivers were weighed and ballasted. During the hour before I drank well over two litres of water. It was a bit of a struggle keeping it all in. Straight after the weigh in I was straight off to release the pressure. I weighed in at 74kg which was a bit higher than I expected but there was a lot of water in that. Today was the first time that there were other teams at the track with us so it was a good chance to talk to other teams and have a look at their cars. There were lots of interesting designs for solar cars including one with car speakers and a solar panel spoiler. Tonight we had a welcome party with the other teams, the spirit of the race is great and everybody wants to have fun.

I can't wait for the race tomorrow.

Brad says Hi Katie.

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