

Suzuka Dream Cup 2004



Suzuka, Japan

30th July - 1st August 2004

Report 3 - Thursday 29th July

It started with a fine morning although the TV Weather Channel was tracking a nearby typhoon that promises heavy rain on Friday. All out of the hotel by 7.30 AM and at the track by 7.45.

The must-do achievement was to be ready at mid-day for the last practice session and a time to have Southern Aurora driver Derrick Rodgers his first real drive at the Suzuka track. This was also to be without a driver hatch fitted. Open air motoring.





Preparation of the new battery pack continued managed by Doug. A job to teach anyone patience as each battery cell of the total of 39 needing to be brought to its minimum setting before the whole battery pack could be charged for race day.

The motor with the dislodged magnet was quietly in Jack's hands, safely accomplished. Each motor has two magnet rings which if brought together face to face exert an attraction force of 1 tonne. Finger breaking attraction.



Remarkably, a local Suzuka company Mie Jushi made a replica head bubble from the smashed rebuild of our original and had it ready by 1.00 PM. Certainly a repair job needed before we face the scrutineers on Friday. A second bubble is expected from Australia tomorrow, FEDEX promised.



So in the 38 degree mid-day heat Aurora 101 convertible started the practice session for Derrick. An hour later the heat got the best of the motor controller's limits and we retired to the workshop to see how to improve the situation.



In went another motor to undergo cycling tests for acceleration and regenerative braking which ended after 30 minutes with a dislodged magnet. Jack the practiced fixed this one in record time.

A number of other teams arrived by late afternoon including our friends from TIGA. The pits will be buzzing tomorrow morning as the 78 entries for Suzuka 2004 present themselves to the scrutineers.

We are busy with major fixes and are hoping that the run of mishaps will be over. Still there are two more days before racing starts. We have just put a crack in the new bubble but the solar array is clean, the new battery is charging, the motor controller is working, we have had dinner and its mid-night.

