

Final scene is a real tear-jerker for Josh

MOTORSPORT

Lewis Beales

A jubilant Josh Files clinched the inaugural TCR German Saloon Car Championship in style after a dominant victory to ensure he claimed the title – having led the series from the opening round.

“To win the championship by winning the race is the best feeling you can have and I was a complete cry baby and I had tears coming down my face with two laps to go,” admitted an emotional Files at the finish.

The weekend had started well for the Poringland racer, who claimed top spot in qualifying for the opening race with Harald Proczyk, Files’ only title rival, in fourth place.

The race was held on a damp

surface, but Files made light work of the tricky conditions and easily led away from pole and was never headed to secure the crown.

“Race one was tricky as it started raining just before our race and the circuit was damp with us on slicks,” explained Files.

“I got a really good start, but my team-mate made a better one – but he gave me some room which was nice of him.

“The car was unbelievable and we were doing times almost as quick as in qualifying. For that reason I was able to pull away and I don’t want to say that it was easy but it kind of was.”

To help matters, Proczyk made a poor start and fell to seventh before being forced off the circuit.

It was fortunate that Files had clinched the title before the final race as he was knocked out of contention

by his team-mate in the second event.

“I got an amazing start and was up to fifth by turn one,” said the new champion. “My two team-mates were on the inside of me and made contact with each other and it sent one of them into me so I never made it past turn one.”

“We all got a little bit drunk after clinching both the team and drivers championships. It is such a good feeling for everyone involved,” said Files who hopes to remain with the team and Honda in both the German and TCR International series next year.

Dan Zelos rounded out a character-building Renault Clio Cup campaign with a brace of 11th places at the final round at Brands Hatch. The Dereham sixth form student secures 18th place overall and fifth in the Graduate Cup, for newcomers, in a season which promised more but delivered less.