

Mansell sets new Silverstone best

■ Scott Mansell (right) was in sensational form at Silverstone in his Benetton Judd, formerly driven by French Formula One star Jean Alesi. (si)



MAGIC MANSELL Scott Mansell set a new Silverstone National circuit lap record of 47.404s (127.47mph) during last Monday's EuroBOSS race in his Benetton B197.

EXCLUSIVE

by **Rob Tanner**

Sports Editor

TAMWORTH teenager Scott Mansell made a sensational start to the 2004 Euroboss Championship.

The 18-year-old race ace won the opening round of the championship at Silverstone and set a new national circuit outright lap record of 47.404secs, at an average speed of 124.47mph, in his Benetton Judd, formerly driven by Formula One legend Jean Alesi in

'It may have looked comfortable but it was not'

1997.

Mansell, a former winner of the *Herald* Sportsman of the Year award, was in dominant form and beat last year's champion Klaas Zwart by 24 seconds, despite losing his clutch late in the race.

Mansell had actually recorded times that were almost two seconds within the record

during practise and it was no surprise when he qualified in pole position.

From the start of the race, Mansell dominated and within five laps, he had broken the outright lap record twice.

He opened up a huge gap from Dutchman Zwart and when he began to slow after his clutch gave up, he still drove intelligently to the chequered flag.

"We did not have the best set-up early in the day but it was right for the race and I am delighted to get my first win in BOSS," Mansell said. "I decided to go for it from the start and the tactic paid off.

"Although it may have looked comfortable it most definitely was not! I lost my clutch halfway through the race which decreased the temperature of the brakes and forced me to slow into corners.

"The Zig-Zag Mansell team did a great job and I dedicate this win to them and everyone who has made this possible, my family and friends and sponsors Zig-Zag and Drayton Manor.

"It is a bonus to secure the track record along with my first win and I can't wait for the next round at Donington, my local circuit."