

## **FINE NATIONAL SERIES DEBUT FOR BRENDON LEITCH**

Young Southlander Brendon Leitch made a fine start to his first national motor racing series campaign at Pukekohe Park Raceway, south of Auckland this weekend.



Driving his E H Ball/ITM Stealth Leitch, aged 14, scored a 6th place finish in the final race of the round to add to two tenth placings earlier in the weekend.

It was the youngsters first racing appearance at Pukekohe and his first national series start but he acquitted himself extremely well throughout practice, qualifying and the three races.

The highlight came in the final race when he drove to a fine sixth place behind a torrid dice featuring experienced Formula Ford drivers, Andre Heimgartner, Tim Vickers, Stefan Webling, John Whelan and Matt Williams.

The weekend began with the Invercargill teenager being taken off the track by another driver in practice on Friday leaving the team the job of replacing a corner on the E H Ball/ITM Stealth.

However Leitch was undeterred and the following morning he qualified the car in tenth place followed by a first up tenth placing over 10 laps later in the day. In Sunday mornings second race of the round he again finished tenth after being forced to spin the E H Ball/ITM Stealth to avoid t-boning another competitor who spun in front of him.

Then, in the final race of the round, the James Hargest College student gained several places in a hard fought and eventful race to finish sixth and gain seventh place overall for the round. He leaves Pukekohe seventh in the championship standings.

Leitch, just as his older brother Damon had done on debut at Pukekohe, enjoyed the fast 2.8 kilometre layout, rating it as a favourite along with his home track of Teretonga.

The next round of the championship is scheduled for Powerbuilt Tools Raceway at Ruapuna in Christchurch on 26-28 November.