

PORSCHE

CARRERA CUP GREAT BRITAIN

Welcome

17 April 2009

Welcome to the fourth edition of the Porsche Carrera Cup GB news update for 2009. I'm delighted to report that the opening race weekend of the season was a great success, with a superb grid of cars and some excellent racing. The effort made by all drivers and teams to get the season off to such a good start is greatly appreciated.

Now we move quickly on to Thruxton for round three and four over the weekend of 25/26 April. I look forward to seeing you there.



Marion Barnaby
Porsche Cars GB

For more information contact:

Paul Lawrence

Porsche Carrera Cup GB media co-ordinator

T: 01952 510382

E: paul@tfmmedia.com

Newsletter design: Helen Ford

News update: 04/2009

In this issue:

Gilham and Red Line work a minor miracle

McLoughlin to race at Thruxton

Wedding bells for Caine

First TV dates announced

Dean Smith joins Porsche Carrera Cup GB

Bridgman sets Thruxton pace in Porsche Carrera Cup GB



Gilham and Red Line work a minor miracle

The combined efforts of Tony Gilham and Red Line Racing got Tony's car ready to run again in short order after his accident in race two at Brands left the car needing a new bodyshell.

Faced with only eight days before the all-important pre-race testing at Thruxton, which included the Easter weekend, Tony and the team pulled out all the stops to get the car ready to run again.

With help from his sponsor Karl Chopra, Tony drove to Germany to collect a new bodyshell

and deliver it to the team's workshops in Cleveland. He left his home in Kent at 6pm on Tuesday and was at Stuttgart before the factory opened at 8am on Wednesday morning.

Once the new shell was loaded onto the trailer, he set off for the channel and got an overnight sailing to Hull, which left only a relatively short drive to Cleveland on Thursday morning. Then, all that was left was a 250-mile drive back to Kent, arriving early afternoon. The total journey was just under 2000 miles in less than 48 hours.

Meanwhile, up in the north-east, the Red Line crew set to building the running gear back into the new shell and worked through Thursday afternoon, all through Good Friday and finished the job on Saturday.

After spending Easter Sunday at home, they loaded up and travelled down to Thruxton during Easter Monday for Tuesday's test. Tony then repaid all the effort by setting the fastest pro-am1 time!



McLoughlin to race at Thruxton

Six years after his last major race, Ben McLoughlin will return to racing in rounds three and four of the Porsche Carrera Cup GB at Thruxton (25/26 April).

The former front-running GT racer is now a Porsche Driving Consultant and will race the VIP car at his home track of Thruxton, carrying

the colours of the Porsche Driving Experience Centre at Silverstone.

"It's a fantastic opportunity and I had no hesitation in accepting the invitation," said McLoughlin during testing at Thruxton on Tuesday (14 April). "I'm thrilled to be back out racing again; it's a proper car and to be racing under the Porsche banner makes it all the more special."

The Winchester-based driver started in karts and then progressed into Formula Vauxhall Junior and won in Caterhams before really making his mark in GT racing. His last full season of British GT was in 2002 when he led several races for Eclipse Motorsport. His last GT race was in 2003 when he won the Empire Trophy race at Silverstone with Piers Johnson and Shane Lynch. Since then, lack of funds has curtailed his racing, but McLoughlin would jump at the chance to return to racing regularly.

McLoughlin now works fulltime at the Porsche Driving Experience Centre at Silverstone. "I love the fact that I'm going to be racing a Porsche. This is a clean sheet of paper for me and I've got a lot of cobwebs to blow away," he said.



Red Line team boss, Simon Leonard.



Wedding bells for Caine

Maybe it's something in the food in the race centre, as there are now to be four Carrera Cup weddings this year. Team bosses Stuart Parker and Simon Leonard have already confirmed weddings in July, along with Team Parker Racing's Jules set to wed in December. Now Michael Caine is taking the plunge.

The used car salesman from Newmarket will marry Kim in Newmarket in early December, not long after celebrating his 40th birthday. 'Caine' says the wedding had to be close to home as Kim's dad is a farmer and he'll need to check on the cows before heading to the church.

Michael doesn't expect his Carrera Cup team to buy them a present, but if any one would like to take a Y plate Mercedes off his hands, he'd be very pleased, as he says it's been hanging around far too long.



First TV dates announced

The first dedicated television coverage of the 2009 Porsche Carrera Cup GB will start in the Motorsport UK programme on ITV1 on the night of Thursday 30 April and be repeated on ITV4 on the afternoon of Saturday 2 May.

The Motorsport UK series, which has been extended to hour-long programmes for 2009, will cover all of the Carrera Cup GB action this year and the first two races of the season at Brands Hatch will feature in the opening programme.

Motorsport UK will be broadcast as follows:

Thursday 30 April at 1am on ITV1 (exact time to be confirmed)

Saturday 2 May at 1.30pm on ITV4

Tuesday 5 May at 5pm on ITV4

Viewing figures from Motorsport UK in 2008 showed a typical total programme audience of over half a million viewers. Motorsport UK can also be watched at itv.com and is available for viewing for 28 days after the initial broadcast date.

Meanwhile, a tremendous bonus for the Carrera Cup GB came when round two at Brands Hatch was broadcast live on ITV4 during the extensive programme that features live coverage of the HiQ MSA British Touring Car Championship. In around 40 minutes of live coverage, the whole race was screened and race winner Tim Bridgman joined presenter Steve Rider immediately after the race for a live interview.



Dean Smith joins Porsche Carrera Cup GB

Dean Smith confirmed a late deal to join the Porsche Carrera Cup GB for the opening races of the season at Brands Hatch and is set to contest at least the first half of the season. One of the brightest rising stars of British racing is running with Red Line Racing and both team and driver hope that they can extend the deal to a full championship campaign.

The 21-year old racer only concluded the deal on Wednesday before Brands and only met the team for the first time ahead of Friday's test sessions. "It was a bit late in the day, but we looked at all the options and this opportunity came up with a great team," said Smith.

Team boss Simon Leonard is delighted to have such a strong young racer to complete his four-car team. "It is fantastic news that

Dean is racing with us," said Leonard. "We're all really excited about getting him on board. I think he'll be a credit to the team and will be right on the pace."

Smith, from Wolverhampton, has been racing karts since the age of 13 and later won the Formula BMW title in 2005 before finishing second overall in the 2007 Formula Renault Championship.

In 2008 he raced in the Formula Renault Euro-cup and contested two races in the Porsche Carrera Cup VIP car at Rockingham. In his first experience of racing a powerful GT car, he was quickly on the pace taking a best result of fourth and setting fastest lap in the second race.



Bridgman sets Thruxton pace in Porsche Carrera Cup GB

Tim Bridgman again headed the time sheets for the Porsche Carrera Cup GB after official testing at Thruxton on Tuesday 14 April ahead of rounds three and four of the championship at the Hampshire track over the weekend of 25/26 April. Meanwhile, Tony Gilham set the pro-am1 pace.

Bridgman (Team Parker Racing) set the pace in both of the day's sessions at the high-speed track, posting a best lap in the afternoon session of 1m14.643s, an average speed of over 112mph. At the fastest point on the track, the approach to the Club Chicane, the 911GT3 Cup Cars are reaching more than 165mph.

"Everything was fine, so it's a case of job done," said Bridgman. "We're ready to

race," he added, following his double victory in the opening two races at Brands Hatch earlier in April.

However, Michael Caine (Motorbase Performance) also had reason to leave Thruxton in confident mood after setting the second fastest time of 1m15.013s without using any new tyres. Unlike all of the other leading drivers, Caine spent the day on used tyres even though he thought he was on new tyres when he set his best lap in the afternoon.

"I seriously didn't know. I thought I was on new tyres, but I knew the car didn't feel as good as it should have done," admitted Caine. "So that's a very good lap on old rubber; the team did a great job on set-up."

Just behind Caine was Tim Harvey (Red Line Racing), at one of the reigning champion's favourite tracks. "I'm happy with the car," said Tim. "I didn't quite get the best out of the new tyres," said Harvey, after finding traffic on two of his three optimum laps on new tyres.

Tom Bradshaw and Jake Rosenzweig both had good days for Team Parker Racing to end the testing fourth and fifth fastest. For both drivers it was only their second experience of the Hampshire track. "There is so much more grip on the new tyres here," said Bradshaw. Right with the pace of Bradshaw and Rosenzweig were Dean Smith and Lewis Hopkins from Red Line Racing, with Winchester-based Hopkins coming to terms well with his local track on only his second ever day at Thruxton.

The battle to be top of the pro-am1 times was just as close, with Gilham (Red Line Racing), Glynn Geddie (Team Parker Racing) and Robert Lawson (JHR) covered by only a third of a second.

"It got better once I knew my way around," said Thruxton newcomer Geddie, while Lawson was tackling Thruxton for the first time in a Porsche. "It's just a question of pushing the boundaries a little bit each time," said Lawson.

