

PORSCHE

CARRERA CUP GREAT BRITAIN

Welcome

17 August 2011

Welcome to the eighth issue of the Porsche Carrera Cup GB news update for 2011. After the Snetterton race weekend the championship is building towards a fantastic finish as we head into a busy run of four race weekends in seven weekends through September and October. I look forward to seeing everyone at Knockhill, which is always an exciting weekend!

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: Ben Walker

News update: 8/2011

In this issue:

New faces at Snetterton

Al Harthy goes to sea

Barker scores podium on Carrera Cup GB Debut

Flying the St Andrew's Cross

Sam Tordoff: promoting the family business

News in Brief

Provisional 2011 driver championship points positions



New faces at Snetterton



Three new drivers were welcomed to the Carrera Cup GB grid for the Snetterton weekend. Yucel Ozbek has replaced Andrew Shelley at Redline Racing after Andrew stood down due to business and family commitments. The Turkish driver, who has been racing with Redline in the GT3 Cup Challenge this season, did a couple of Carrera Cup races with the team last season.

Australia-based Brit Ben Barker has joined Parr Motorsport for the Snetterton and Knockhill race weekends. Ben, originally from Cambridge, is currently contesting Carrera Cup Australia and is using a break in the Australian calendar to race back in Britain.

The third new driver on the grid is Freddy Nordstrom, who was making his Carrera Cup debut with GT Marques. Nordstrom has raced extensively in one-make racing and will also contest the final races of the season at Silverstone in October.

Al Harthy goes to sea

Ahmad Al Harthy swapped his Carrera Cup car for the open waters of the Isle of Wight last week after being invited by Oman Sail to join its Extreme 40s sailing team as part of world-famous Cowes Week.

Becoming the 'fifth man', and adding some unique flavour to proceedings by wearing his race suit and crash helmet, the 29-year-old relished the chance to be part of the UK round of the Extreme Sailing Series, the fifth of nine legs on the 2011 calendar which began back in February in Oman.

Ahmad, a sporting ambassador for Oman Air and a keen water sport enthusiast away from the track, thoroughly enjoyed every minute spent on the sea and had a fantastic time helping to promote Oman

Air and his home nation as a whole at the hugely popular regatta.

"I'm so grateful to the crew of the Oman Air boat for allowing me to be their 'fifth man' at Cowes, it was an amazing experience and a very proud moment for me", he said, "Cowes Week is a renowned world-class event and it's been a dream come true being part of it.

"Sailing, like motorsport, is growing in popularity all the time back home so being involved in this event has been incredibly important to promote the tourism and business opportunities which exist in Oman. It was a lot of fun supporting the Oman Sail guys before they went out to race; I wish them the best of luck for the remainder of the Extreme Sailing Series."



Barker scores podium on Carrera Cup GB debut



Australia-based British racer Ben Barker was one of the stars of the Porsche Carrera Cup GB at Snetterton (6/7 August) when he scored an overall podium in his debut race in the championship.

"It was a bit unexpected," admitted Ben after racing to a remarkable third place in the opening race at the Norfolk track. "I thought I'd try and break into the top six over the weekend. So to finish third in the first race was brilliant. Fifth in the second

race was good, but we were chasing the car a little bit in the second race." Barker (20) joined Parr Motorsport for the Snetterton and Knockhill (3/4 September) rounds of the Carrera Cup GB during a mid-season break in the schedule for the Porsche Carrera Cup Australia.

"The main aim is to get my name a little more known back in Europe," said Barker. "It will also keep me on my toes for the Australian series when I return to Phillip

Island. In only my third year in car racing, I need to drive as much as possible; the more experience I get, the better driver I'll become.

"Overall, it was a fantastic weekend," said Barker. "We had fastest lap in the first race and we've shown we've got speed. It's my first year in Porsches so I'm still learning race craft and getting race experience. Hopefully we'll go to Knockhill and do even better."

Barker said that the GB and Australian Carrera Cups were both very tough at the head of the field. "The level of competition is very similar and everyone races really hard," he said. "I think there are more guys up at the front in Carrera Cup GB. In Australia the top seven are fighting for the championship, but here it's about ten. It's tough out there!"

Barker paid tribute to the strength of the Parr Motorsport squad and is now eager to get to Knockhill, where he won in the UK Formula Ford Championship. "Paul Robe and the guys at Parr make a great team and I get on well with them. We'll go to Knockhill with the same approach; work hard with the team and drive as well as I can. I've just got the Friday test to get my

head around Knockhill again. It's going to be super close and it will be key to get that perfect lap in qualifying."

After competing in the Carrera Cup GB at Knockhill, Barker will return to Australia for round four of Carrera Cup Australia at the L&H 500 at Phillip Island, Victoria in mid-September.



Flying the St Andrew's cross



As big weekends go, the upcoming Knockhill weekend is massive for Rory Butcher. The local ace is having a fine season in the Carrera Cup GB and now heads for his home race weekend.

With a seat alongside Tommy Dreelan and George Brewster in the Celtic Speed team, you can't get much more Scottish and Rory has been doing his home nation proud in his debut season in the uber-competitive Carrera Cup GB. He's battling for Pro-Am1 glory and comes to Knockhill looking for his fourth win of the season.

"At the start of the year it was a bit of a shock how quick the guys were at some of the circuits," he says candidly. "It's been a very big learning curve. The whole team put 110% in and we chipped away. In the dry we've got it down quite a lot and we're closer in qualifying and on ultimate dry

pace. In the wet we are definitely there." His wet weather pace has been sensational and his performance in tough conditions at Oulton Park and the Nurburgring have been some of the best of the season. "It must have been experience of the Scottish weather that helped me out there. As soon as the rain comes down we have excellent pace!

"Most people expect me to do pretty well on my home circuit," he admits. "I work there every day and know the place very well. But this championship is so competitive that I don't think I have an advantage. Every time the guys come up to Knockhill they are on the pace within five or 10 laps. It's going to be really tough."

Rory has actually raced a Porsche here twice before with guest runs in 2008 and 2010. "This year I'm arriving at Knockhill after half a season in the car and I'm challenging for the Pro-Am1 title," he says. "It's absolutely superb to race on my home track. Knockhill is the home of Scottish motor sport."

Sam Tordoff: promoting the family business



As one of the rising young stars of the Porsche Carrera Cup GB, Sam Tordoff (22) is Porsche through and through. Like so many young racers, Sam started karting when he was just nine years-old. "Whatever path you choose to take in motor sport, you have to start in karting," he says. "It is such a good grounding in how things work and basic race craft. There is no better place to learn than on a kart track."

After a decade of success in karts he switched to cars. "I got to 19 and felt it was time to move on and we had two fantastic years in the Renault Clio Cup." Unlike many of his contemporaries, Sam didn't try to climb the single-seater ladder. "We were realistic in terms of finance," he says. "Getting to F1 takes awful lot of

backing and if you are not knocking on the door of F1 by the time you are 20 or 21, you're never going to make it. Sebastian Vettel won the 2010 World Championship and he's only a couple of years older than me."

Instead, he opted for a route that gave him the best chance of a long career in racing. "We always had a realistic view on motor sport and there is no reason I can't be racing Porsches for the next 10 years. I want my racing career to last another 10 years at least."

The progression from Clios into the Carrera Cup GB was a logical step, for the Tordoff family is a major part of Porsche's UK dealer network. Sam's grandfather Jack – now retired – set up JCT 600 as



the second UK Porsche dealership outside London in the 1960s.

“He was a successful rally driver in Porsches in his day and he won the Circuit of Ireland Rally in a 911,” says Sam with justifiable pride. “JCT 600 has now grown into Porsche Centre Leeds and we’ve now got Porsche Centre Sheffield and Porsche Centre Newcastle as well. The family is heavily involved in Porsche and it is fantastic for me to be representing that in the Carrera Cup GB.”

Sam’s father John now heads the business as Chief Executive of what has become a major automotive operation, with over 1500 staff. “We have 46 dealerships in total and it is growing all the time. I have a great respect for my father and my grandfather,” says Sam, who currently works at the Vauxhall dealership in Bradford.

Though he is an ambitious racer, Sam also sees his business future firmly within the family company. “Looking down the road, I’d love to take over from my father one day. I went to university and got an engineering degree and that showed I was serious. The important thing I was told when I was growing up was that being a racing driver was one thing, but I had to go and get a proper qualification. I was very much grounded in that respect. I still spend every day I’m not racing back at the office putting in as many hours as I can.”

In brief

A record crowd of 35,000 fans were at Snetterton (6/7 August) to see the first BTCC race meeting on the new 300 circuit. The massive crowds for BTCC weekends are a feature of the 2011 season and the Snetterton records comes after a similarly packed crowd at Oulton Park in June. Expectations are for another bumper turn out for the next event at Knockhill (3/4 September).



Stephen Jelley’s pace in the Carrera Cup this season has earned him other racing opportunities on his free weekends. He was invited to join the Trackspeed team for to race its Porsche 911GT3R in rounds of the British GT and International GT Open Championships, both at Brands Hatch. Stephen has also seen racing from another side when he joined race commentator Ian Titchmarsh during the British Grand Prix weekend.

Euan Hankey was back racing at Snetterton after his mammoth qualifying accident at the Nurburgring. His Parker with Juta

entered car had been re-shelled after the accident when, fortunately, the engine and gearbox survived undamaged. Virtually everything else had been replaced.



Pro-am2 title contender Keith Webster spent the weekend before Snetterton taking part in a charity cycle ride to Paris in aid of Help for Heroes. “I’m fitter than I’ve ever been,” he said. He has already raised over £4000

and would welcome donations to www.justgiving.com/keithwebster2801

Jonas Gelzinis is the latest driver to benefit from Michelin’s on-going support of the championship by winning a set of tyres at Snetterton (6/7 August). Jonas, racing for Juta Racing, left at Snetterton with a 48-point lead in the Pro-Am1 category, which is his prime aim for the 2011 season.



The next programme in the dedicated television coverage of the 2011 Porsche Carrera Cup GB will be broadcast in the Motorsport UK programme on ITV1 on the night of Sunday 21 August and will also be shown on ITV4 on Saturday 20 August. Round 10 of the season at Snetterton, the opening race of the day, will feature at 8.55am on Saturday 20 August on ITV4 and at 2am on Monday 21 August on ITV1.



Oly Mortimer, the driver to beat in the Porsche 911 GT3 Cup Challenge is aiming at a graduation into the Carrera Cup GB next season. “That’s 100% my plan,” said the 27-year old from Edinburgh, who has won multiple one-make saloon car titles. Former racer David Kerr is currently running Mortimer’s ex-Tommy Dreelan car from his Tynecastle Garage in Edinburgh.



Provisional 2011 driver championship points positions

After round 11, Snetterton 7 August 2011

1	Stephen Jelley	186
2	Michael Meadows	177
3	James Sutton	174
4	Euan Hankey	134
5	Richard Palnt	113
6	Jonas Gelzinis	106
7	Sam Tordoff	84
=	Michael Caine	84
9	Rory Butcher	71
10	Tim Harvey	66
=	Ben Hetherington	66
12	Ahmad Al Harthy	49
13	Derek Pierce	42
14	Ben Barker	29
15	Alex Martin	25
16	Kieran Vernon	22
17	George Richardson	20
18	Daniele Perfetti	13
19	Michael Leonard	6
=	Andrew Shelley	6
=	Richard Denny	6
21	George Brewster	5
22	Freddy Nordstrom	1

Pro-Am1 category

1	Jonas Gelzinis	121
2	Rory Butcher	73
3	Ahmad Al Harthy	51
4	Derek Pierce	43
5	Alex Martin	25
6	George Richardson	20
7	Daniele Perfetti	13
8	Michael Leonard	6
9	Freddy Nordstrom	1

Pro-Am2 category

1	Keith Webster	85
2	George Brewster	81
3	Andrew Shelley	74
4	Richard Denny	66
5	Tommy Dreelan	55
6	Steve Parish	49
7	John Taylor	48
8	Tautvydas Barstys	26
9	Yucel Ozbek	18

Provisional 2011 team championship points positions

After round 9, Nurburgring 25 June 2011

Pos	Team	Total points	Scoring drivers
1	SAS/Redline	351	Meadows and Sutton
2	Parker with Juta	320	Hankey and Jelley
3	Team Parker Racing	197	Plant and Tordoff
4	Nationwide/Motorbase	172	Caine and Harvey/ Vernon
5	Redline/Oman Air	115	Al Harthy and Hetherington
6	Juta Racing	106	Gelzinis and Barstys
7	Celtic Speed	76	Brewster and Butcher
8	Dextra/J&D Pierce by Parker	67	Martin and Pierce
9	Parr Motorsport	41	Denny and Leonard/ Barker
10	Motorbase Performance	12	Perfetti and Richardson
11	Redline Racing	6	Osbek/ Shelley and Webster
12	GT Marques	1	Nordstrom

PORSCHE

**CARRERA
CUP
GREAT BRITAIN**

