

# PORSCHE

## CARRERA CUP GREAT BRITAIN

### Welcome

23 March 2011

Welcome to the third issue of the Porsche Carrera Cup GB news update for 2011.

The new racing season is almost upon us and the stage is set for a fabulous season for the championship. The Snetterton test and media day was a great success and we are very grateful to all the teams for their hard work in getting the cars liveried in time. The grid will look tremendous.

Now it is full ahead for the opening two races of the season at Brands Hatch on 2/3 April.

**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: 3/2011

In this issue:

**Best ever Carrera Cup GB Season unveiled**

**SAS Redline top Carrera Cup GB test**

**Webster graduates to Carrera Cup GB with Redline**

**Denny returns to Carrera Cup GB with Parr Motorsport**

**Al Harthy unveils Carrera Cup GB campaign**

**Perfetti joins Motorbase**

**Butcher Confirms Carrera Cup GB campaign**

**Carrera Cup GB renews partnership with Sacred**

**News in Brief**



# Best ever Carrera Cup GB season unveiled

The best ever entry for the Porsche Carrera Cup GB was unveiled on Tuesday 22 March during the championship's pre-season test and media day at Snetterton. The entry for the coming season has both quality and quantity with more potential race winners than ever before, as an influx of new drivers join established aces like Tim Harvey (champion in 2008 and 2010), James Sutton (champion in 2007) and Michael Caine (runner-up in 2008 and 2010).

The new season will feature the introduction of the latest model 911 GT3 Cup, with all drivers competing in identical models of the stunning 450bhp car. This is the fastest car ever seen in the Carrera Cup GB and will ensure that the championship retains its position as the fastest one-make category in Britain.

Also new for 2011 is a race on the world-famous Nurburgring Nordschleife circuit in Germany on 25 June. The Carrera Cup GB racers will take part in the Porsche Carrera World Cup, an event that is designed to put as many as 200 911 GT3 Cup cars into action on the sensational 14-mile circuit in the Eifel Mountains.

As well as the battle for overall glory, the contests in the Pro-Am1 and Pro-Am2 categories and the Team Championship will be major features of the season as drivers and teams battle for a total prize fund of over £160,000. In addition, the overall champion, the Pro-Am1 champion and the team manager of the champion

team will have the use of a road-going Porsche 911 for a year.

While Harvey, Caine and Sutton are the established benchmarks, at least six other drivers start the season with race wins in their sights. Harvey and Caine have teamed up at Motorbase Performance, while Sutton and Michael Meadows are in the SAS-backed squad at Red Line Racing. Another strong contender from the Red Line team is 2011 Carrera Cup Scholar

Benji Hetherington, while the Team Parker Racing line-up has a new look this season with Richard Plant and Sam Tordoff to the fore.

Other returning teams include Celtic Speed, with Rory Butcher as their young hotshot and Lithuania-based Juta Racing with Jonas Gelzinis set to challenge for race wins as he builds on the experience of last season.

Among the Pro-Am1 and Pro-Am2 categories, a gaggle of rapid drivers will be challenging for the podiums with drivers like Ahmad Al Harthy, George Richardson, Steve Parish, Alex Martin, Andrew Shelley and series returnee Derek Pierce likely to battle for Pro-Am1. The Pro-Am2 field includes Celtic Speed duo George Brewster and Tommy Dreelan, Keith Webster, Tautvydas Barstys, Richard Denny and Swiss racer Daniele Perfetti.



MICHELIN

Mobil 1

keepmoving  
along intelligently

PIPER HEIDSIECK  
drink responsibly



SACRED  
GO-KARTS, RACE & CORSE  
www.sacredcups.co.uk

GoMotorsport.net

# SAS Red Line tops Carrera Cup GB test



The SAS-backed Red Line Racing cars of James Sutton and Michael Meadows topped the times during the major pre-season test day for the Porsche Carrera Cup GB at Snetterton on Tuesday 22 March.

As teams and drivers mastered the new 300 circuit at the Norfolk venue, Sutton and Meadows set the pace. With seven-tenths of a second covering the top six drivers on the new 3-mile track, the pace-setters were an intriguing mix of

established Carrera Cup aces and exciting newcomers.

As drivers did new tyre runs later in the afternoon, Red Line was the last of the three big teams to send their drivers out with fresh tyres. Sutton and Meadows worked together, with Sutton running just ahead of his team mate to set the standard at 1m50.245s. With Meadows lapping 0.164s behind, it was an impressive display.

“We seem to be in really good shape,” said Sutton. “It was important to get a really good sense of what the car is doing and this bodes well for the opening races at Brands Hatch.” Meadows was equally pleased with the day. “It’s been close all through. James and I like a similar set-up and we found a lot of time on the new rubber.”

Third fastest, right on the pace of the SAS cars, was a massively impressive performance from Carrera Cup newcomer Sam Tordoff (Team Parker Racing). He set the overall pace for much of the afternoon session was only edged back to third by 0.382s in the final reckoning. To make it an excellent day for the Parker squad, fellow newcomer Richard Plant was sixth fastest. “That’s a good start to the year and I’m happy to be up with Tim Harvey and Michael Caine,” said Plant.

Having won 19 out of 20 races between them in 2010, Harvey and Caine clearly look to have a big battle on their hands this season and the Team Nationwide/Motorbase pair took fourth and fifth slots in the final testing times. “We’re pleased with the work we’ve done today, but I don’t think we got the best out of the new tyres,” said defending champion Harvey. Caine, meanwhile, lost a better lap on new tyres when his car ran low on fuel through Coram on a lap that was set to be around half a second better than his 1m50.887s

best. “It cut out coming out of Coram on my second flier,” reported Caine.

Making it a superb day for the Red Line team was seventh fastest and top Pro-Am1 time for Ahmad Al Harthy after a very impressive run. “I’m really excited to be back,” said the Omani racer. “We’re on the pace and that’s good for confidence.” Chasing Al Harthy in Pro-Am1 were Jonas Gelzinis (Juta Racing) and Rory Butcher (Celtic Speed), while fourth fastest in Pro-Am1 was a strong showing from Freddy Nordstrom (Parr Motorsport). Although Nordstrom is not yet confirmed in the entry list, his pace on his Carrera Cup debut was a major boost to both team and driver as they work to conclude a deal for the season.

Just ahead of Nordstrom in a fine tenth overall was Pro-Am2 pacesetter George Brewster (Celtic Speed). “Until last week I’d not sat in a racing car since last October, but it came right with the new tyres,” said Brewster. Leading the chase of the Scot in Pro-Am2 was championship newcomer Keith Webster (Red Line Racing). “That’s a good starting point; I was just getting to grips with the circuit,” he said as Steve Parish (Motorbase Performance) completed the top three in Pro-Am2. work with.”



## Webster graduates to Carrera Cup GB with Red Line

Keith Webster will be one of the new names on the Porsche Carrera Cup GB grid this season with Red Line Racing. The Hampshire businessman is stepping up from GT Cup in what will be only his second full season of racing.

Liphook-based Webster (44) only started racing late in 2009, but challenged for the overall GT Cup title last season. Now he faces a big jump forward into the Carrera Cup GB. "It's a huge leap," he said during his first full day of testing at Donington Park. "But it is going great and I'm pretty chuffed with initial progress."

Webster has joined Cleveland-based Red Line Racing, one of the standard setting

teams in the championship, and has backing from Sovereign Engineering, [marque1.co.uk](http://marque1.co.uk) and LAMP.

"This is totally different to what I've done before," said Webster. "I've not even done a standing start yet."

"Keith is progressing very nicely," said team boss Simon Leonard. "We've worked with him over the winter and I think he'll be a very strong contender for pro-am2." The team's lead driver James Sutton has been instrumental in helping Webster on his learning curve. "That has helped me understand the car," said Webster.



## Denny returns to Carrera Cup GB with Parr Motorsport



Australian racer Richard Denny will return to the Porsche Carrera Cup GB this season with Parr Motorsport. Denny, a Senior Vice President at global satellite telecommunications operator Inmarsat, made his debut in the championship last year following a first and successful racing season in 2009 in GT racing.

"I'm really looking forward to returning to the Carrera Cup this year", said London-based Denny. "2010 was a bit of a baptism of fire for me, as the Carrera Cup is so very competitive. We also missed the last two rounds of the season, but I feel far better prepared for this season. The gym has become my second home and I feel far more physically and mentally ready for the racing this year. I can't wait to get out in the new car! Due to work commit-

ments I was in the US when the car was delivered so my first test will be the media day on the new layout at Snetterton. I'm ready though and can't wait to get out on track against my old rivals and some new ones."

Parr Motorsport team principal Paul Robe said: "I really think Richard will be a much more complete driver this year. The second year in any championship is always better as you get the consistency. This year we'll have the new car of course but Richard has been out in a 2008-model 911 GT3 Cup already this year and he's setting competitive times. All in, Richard has worked hard and I think we'll be surprising a few people this year."



# Al Harthy unveils Carrera Cup GB Campaign



Omani racing driver Ahmad Al Harthy has confirmed that he will return to the Porsche Carrera Cup GB Championship this year thanks to the continued backing of some of the Sultanate's largest and most prestigious businesses.

At a specially arranged press conference in his home city of Muscat in mid-March, the 29-year-old's outstanding portfolio of sponsors for the coming season was re-

vealed. Al Harthy will continue his role as Brand Ambassador for each prestigious commercial partner:

- Oman Air increases its commercial involvement as full title sponsor for 2011
- Telecommunications company Nawras continues its support for a second season
- National Bank of Oman, the Sultanate's second largest bank, reconfirms its backing
- Brand Oman, Ministry of Sports Affairs and Ministry of Tourism all continue their support

Following on from a tremendous debut season of sports car racing in the Carrera Cup GB last year, where he scored six podium finishes on his way to fourth overall in Pro-Am 1, Ahmad will return this year with Red Line Racing.

"I'm absolutely delighted to be able to confirm my return to the Porsche Carrera Cup GB this year. It's a fantastic championship", he said. "I have to thank Oman Air, Nawras, National Bank of Oman, Brand Oman, the Ministry of Sports Affairs and the Ministry of Tourism for their amazing support. Without them I wouldn't be racing and I wouldn't have the privilege of flying the flag for Oman."

# Perfetti joins Motorbase



London-based Swiss racer Daniele Perfetti will contest the Porsche Carrera Cup GB this season with Motorbase Performance. Perfetti brings experience from racing Renault Clios and the Porsche Carrera Cup in Italy, but this will be his first season of racing in the UK and he will be new to most of the tracks on the schedule. "I went to a lot of UK track days about 10 years ago, so I know some of the tracks. But I have to learn everything from scratch."

Perfetti says that he is already fitting in well with the Motorbase team, where he will be able to learn from team mates Michael Caine and Tim Harvey. "I feel at home with the team from the start," he said.

"I moved to London recently so it's nice to race here. Motorbase is a local team and it has many good customers, so it must do a good job," Perfetti, who will contest the pro-am1 category.



# Butcher confirms Carrera Cup GB campaign

Rory Butcher is targeting the pro-am1 category in the Porsche Carrera Cup GB, after confirming that he will contest a full season in the championship with Celtic Speed.

The young Scot, who has twice impressed in the Carrera Cup at Knockhill, is the latest major name to confirm a full campaign and he will race with the Scottish team in what he hopes will be a two-year programme, moving into the pro category in 2012.

"The Carrera Cup is a great move towards where I want to be as a professional sports and GT racer," said Butcher, who celebrated his 24th birthday on 16 March. He started karting at the age of eight and raced motorbikes as a teenager before switching to cars at his local Knockhill track in 2005. Since then he has won championships in Formula Ford and won the Kent Formula Ford Festival in 2009. In 2008, he made his Carrera Cup debut in the VIP car at Knockhill and took two fifth places. Last summer he had a one-off outing with Celtic Speed at the Scottish track and claimed two top six finishes overall in a pro-am2 car.

Now, he goes into the 2011 season with a permanent slot at Celtic Speed. "We're got



a strong package together. For this season it will be good to start in pro-am1 and then look to move up next year," said Butcher. "The Carrera Cup is the best place to get my name about and my aim for this year is to win pro-am1. But it's going to be tough."

Butcher will enjoy on-going support from team mate Tommy Dreelan. "Tommy has been a big support to me and I owe it all to him," said Butcher. "He has supported

my career for the last five years and I hope to help the Celtic team establish itself towards the front of the grid. It's going to be a very competitive season but I'd like to be able to fight it out with the pro drivers, especially at my home track of Knockhill."

Tommy Dreelan and George Brewster will both contest full seasons in the Carrera Cup GB, racing alongside Butcher in the three-car squad from Celtic Speed. With all

three drivers from north of the border and the team based in Montrose and headed by Scot Alan Keith, this is a strongly Scottish team.

Both Dreelan and Brewster have competed in the Carrera Cup GB since the middle of 2009 and will chase the Pro-Am2 title this season. In 2010, Brewster was one of the title contenders in the category and missed the title by just two points after a very strong and consistent season.

Aberdeen-based Dreelan, who originally hailed from Ireland, only started racing late in 2005 and has since raced extensively in Porsches. Edinburgh's Brewster, meanwhile, raced karts as a youngster and then returned to the sport a decade ago, racing first Caterhams and then Porsches.

"We're looking forward to a full season in the Carrera Cup," said Dreelan. "With Rory in the team we've got someone to chase now and that should be a big help with the data as well."



# Carrera Cup GB renews partnership with Sacred

The Porsche Carrera Cup GB has renewed its association with Sacred to provide teams, drivers and guests with gourmet coffee throughout the coming race season. Sacred will be the supplier of coffee in the Carrera Cup race centre, which is home to over 300 people on busy race weekends.

Tubbs Wanigasekera and Matthew Clark formed Sacred in 2005. Now six years and over one and half million great coffees later, Sacred now has six locations in Central London and a reputation for being one of London's favourite café experiences. Sacred will be opening its next location in autumn 2011 at Westfield Stratford shopping centre and transport hub for the 2012 London Olympic main stadium gateway.

Last year Sacred opened its newest location in Covent Garden. Locations that now include Westfield London shopping centre and Carnaby Street have helped Sacred grow into one of London's finest gourmet tea and coffee brands. It has been voted as one of the top five cafes, four years running by Time Out London, and singled

out as a brand to watch by The Times. More details are at [www.sacredcafe.com](http://www.sacredcafe.com) "I am delighted to continue support for the Porsche Carrera Cup GB with my gourmet coffee brand Sacred," said Wanigasekera. "Having been involved in the BTCC in the past as a team member and driver manager, it's wonderful to return as a sponsor for the 2011 season. It's a great opportunity for our brand to be associated with Porsche, as we share similar values on excellence and quality."



## News in brief



Tommy Dreelan recently tried his hand in a rally car when he partnered his mate David Gillanders in the course car for the Malcolm Wilson Rally in the forests of the Lake District. Tommy shared driving duties in the Ford Focus World Rally Car and said he was blown away by the car's performance. But Tommy says he has no plans to swop from racing to rallying.

series, and is now one of qualifying series for membership of this famous club. Top four overall finishes in the Carrera Cup will now count towards BRDC membership applications and current members like Tim Harvey and Michael Caine can now score points towards the prestigious end of season Silver Star award.



Early May is going to be an exciting time for the Motorbase Performance Carrera Cup squad. Team boss David Bartrum will celebrate his 50<sup>th</sup> birthday on 6 May, just after the Thruxton race weekend, and that is about the same time that Michael and Kim Caine are expecting their first child.

The Carrera Cup GB has now been recognised by the British Racing Drivers' Club as one of the most important national race

