



## MSA flies the flag at Party Conferences as David Cameron praises UK motor sport

The Motor Sports Association was again present at each of the three main political party conferences this year to raise the profile of motor sport and engage with MPs, Councillors, party members and other organisations.

And the MSA's campaign was further boosted this week when David Cameron specifically picked out this country's success within Formula 1 in his key note speech to the Conference.

"Do you watch Formula One?" said the Prime Minister on Wednesday. "Well whether it's the German Michael Schumacher, the Australian Mark Webber or the Brazilian Rubens Barrichello, they all have one thing in common – they drive cars built right here in Britain."

Earlier in the week a fringe meeting had been held in Manchester to discuss how participation in sport can be stimulated by a reduction in government regulation and how this can in turn lead to wider benefits, both social and economic.

Chaired by respected pundit Tony Jardine, the panel comprised Ben Taylor, the MSA's new Director of Development and Communications (see page 8), Andy Reed, Chairman of the Sport and Recreation Alliance, Gus Lewis, Head of Legal and Government Affairs for the Royal Yachting Association and Ben Wallace, Conservative MP for Wyre and

Preston North. The previous week, former Sports Minister Richard Caborn had joined the panel for a similar meeting with Labour in Liverpool.

"We were delighted with the turnout for our meetings," said Taylor. "Not only did we have a number of Lords and MPs in attendance, but we also had representatives from organisations such as Sky, Football Foundation, Lawn Tennis Association, Rugby Football Union and Formula One Teams Association.

"Perhaps the most significant demonstration of the progress that the MSA is making with getting its message to the top is that the Prime Minister this week cited motor sport as a shining example of the new economy he wants to build in Britain.

"The more that we can get motor sport recognised for its contribution both to the industrial and sporting well-being of the country, the better our chances of highlighting other important campaigns such as continued forest access and closed road motor sport."

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## Last call for BBC Unsung Hero awards

Nominations for candidates for the BBC Sports Personality of the Year Unsung Hero 2011 must be submitted by the end of this month.

The awards recognise special people who dedicate their lives to promoting sport in their community, taking no reward from it other than the pleasure of helping others to take part and enjoy their sport. This may be in helping an individual, team or teams, or perhaps being the driving force behind a sports club.

The search for the Unsung Heroes takes place across the United Kingdom and sees winners named in all 12 BBC English Regions plus Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. Each winner will go forward for final judging, when an overall winner is named at the BBC Sports Personality of the Year event in Salford on Thursday, 22 December live on BBC ONE. For more information, visit [http://news.bbc.co.uk/sport1/hi/front\\_page/14678879.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/sport1/hi/front_page/14678879.stm) to download an application form.

## Trials Committee rolls up its sleeves

When the Motor Sports Council's specialist Trials Committee was wrestling with the wording of a new regulation governing the position of a passenger competing in a Sporting Trials car, members decided to demonstrate what they meant before trying to draft the regulation itself.

Committee member and former MSA British Sporting Trials champion Duncan Stephens kindly brought his competition car to Motor Sports House in order for the members to be able to demonstrate, discuss and deliberate before agreeing on the new rule.



Chairman Nick Pollitt said: "We had had lots of discussion about what we wanted to achieve, but we needed to physically see what everyone meant before we could get the wording right!"

## National Motorsport Week to start with Goodwood and end with Grand Prix

Next year's National Motorsport Week (30 June to 8 July) will feature two of the most popular events on the UK motor sport calendar: the Goodwood Festival of Speed and the Santander British Grand Prix at Silverstone.

The grand prix dates were recently confirmed as 6-8 July 2012, while The Earl of March, patron of the Goodwood Festival of Speed, has announced that the world's largest celebration of motoring culture is provisionally scheduled to take place over the weekend of 29 June to 1 July.



"While these two high profile events will help us to put the spotlight on the UK's world-leading achievements, it's essential that we maximise the opportunity to engage with more people and encourage them to get involved," said MSA Chief Executive Colin Hilton. "Whether it's as a competitor at grass roots level, an active member of a local motor club, or a trackside volunteer, motor sport has so much to offer. There



are many opportunities in many different disciplines for those inspired and excited by these major events, and that's what National Motorsport Week is all about."

National Motorsport Week 2012 will build on the great success of this year's initiative, which shone a spotlight on motor sport with a range of activities, from open days at some of the country's top teams to novice taster days organised by motor clubs throughout the country (see *MSA News* July 2011 and *MSA* magazine autumn 2011).

## One month left to submit Renault Awards applications

Entries for the tenth Renault MSA Young Journalist and Photographer of the Year Awards must be sent to the MSA Press Office by 11 November.

The winners will receive their awards and cheques for £1000 at the MSA's prestigious Night of Champions ceremony in January. Candidates must have been aged 25 or under on 1 January 2011 and be able to demonstrate published work involving domestic UK motor sport.

Application forms are available by from [media@msauk.org](mailto:media@msauk.org)



## Record entry for RACMSA Rally of Scotland

This weekend's RACMSA Rally of Scotland (7-9 October) has attracted one of the most exciting entry lists of the Intercontinental Rally Challenge season, with the top eight drivers in the championship standings – including Peugeot UK's Guy Wilks – set for a high-speed battle on some of the world's finest stages.

A record 38 international entries – 26 from the IRC's top class – from 17 countries have registered for the event, which will feature live television coverage on Eurosport.

"We are delighted to have attracted such a phenomenal line-up of teams, drivers and cars," said Andrew Coe, Chief Executive of event organiser International Motor Sports. "This is fantastic news for all of our partners, the many local motor clubs and volunteer marshals and officials who play such a vital role in the smooth running of the event. And of course for the thousands of people – be they die-hard fans of the sport or casual observers – who will be attending the weekend."

Paul Bush OBE, Chief Operating Officer for EventScotland, added: "This year's impressive line-up of drivers clearly shows how highly regarded the Rally of Scotland is by the professionals. It's an endorsement of Scotland's credentials as the perfect stage for international rallying for drivers, spectators and also the many thousands of people who will watch this impressive competition on TV around the world."



Rally of Scotland.

The company will supply a fleet of four-wheel-drive Yetis, Octavia Scouts and Superbs to transport VIPs and rally officials from stage to stage.

"We are delighted to continue our involvement with the RACMSA Rally of Scotland by supplying vehicles to the rally officials for a third year in a row," said Robert Hazelwood, Director of Škoda UK.

## Škoda UK continues as official RACMSA Rally of Scotland vehicle supplier

Škoda UK continues this year as the official vehicle supplier to the RACMSA

## Motor sport action sees off threat to 14/28-day rule

The UK motor sport community has demonstrated how effective it can be, having played a significant role in dissuading government officials from recommending changes to planning regulations that could have caused significant damage to the sport.

In July the Department for Communities and Local Government released an issues paper regarding the way in which change of use of land is handled within the planning system. This included a review of the current 14/28-day rule (Permitted Development Rights – provision within planning legislation for temporary change of use) under which approximately 60 per cent of MSA motor sport permits are issued.

The MSA had urged its membership to respond to the consultation and ensure that the sport's voice was heard. Following the consultation, it was confirmed to the Land Access and Recreation Association (LARA) – of which the MSA is a founding member – that officials did not consider that there was any basis for advising ministers to amend the 14/28-day rule in any way that affects motor sport.

MSA Chief Executive Colin Hilton said: "We try not to mobilise the motor sport community too often, but it is encouraging to see the overwhelming response when there is a matter of significant national importance. It appears that almost half of the responses submitted as part of the consultation were from people involved in motor sport. This is the second time in ten years that we have had to explain to government the importance of this legislation; not just for motor sport, but also for village fetes, carnivals and other community activities."

## John Wood receives top MSA accolade

The MSA has bestowed upon John Wood the title of Officier d'Honneur, in recognition of his outstanding contribution to UK motor sport.

John has been an MSA Steward for 10 years, and recently retired as an MSA Forestry Liaison Officer after 12 years of service. He is also commended for his enthusiastic work in Rally Officials Training, and for always being aware of the value of volunteers to motor sport.

Motor Sports Council chairman Tony Scott Andrew presented John with a certificate of appreciation and a commemorative clock at Loton Park last month.



## Discounted 'Truth in 24' tickets for MSA licence holders

The MSA has teamed up with *Motor Sport* magazine to offer MSA licence holders discounted tickets to 'Truth in 24 – an evening with Allan McNish and Tom Kristensen', hosted by the magazine in association with Audi UK at the Audi Quattro Rooms on 8 October.

The evening features a one-off UK screening of the documentary *Truth in 24*, which focuses on the Audi factory team's bid for victory at the Le Mans 24 Hours. There will also be a drinks and canapé reception as well as a Q&A session with the team, including engineers Howden Haynes and Leena Gade.

Tickets cost £112.50 (discounted from £125) for *Motor Sport* subscribers and £130 (discounted from £145) for non-subscribers. To take advantage of the offer, call *Motor Sport* on 020 7349 8472 and quote 'MSA'. For more information email [readerevents@motorsportmagazine.co.uk](mailto:readerevents@motorsportmagazine.co.uk)



## Euroclassic success

Last month's MSA Euroclassic took in eight days of non-competitive action starting in the French spa town of Contrexéville, before heading through some of Europe's most spectacular vistas and reaching as far south

as Rome. The journey then turned north through the rolling hills of Tuscany and finished in the historic town of Parma.

Other towns visited included Brescia, Bologna, Livorno, Perugia, Pisa, San Marino, Siena, St Moritz, Venice and Verona. There was also exclusive track time at four circuits, and stop-offs at the Mille Miglia Museum and the Museo Ferrari.

"The MSA Euroclassic is widely hailed as the premier continental tour of its type," said IMS Chief Executive Andrew Coe. "This year's journey will be a hard act to follow but next year's marks the event's 20th anniversary, so we are working on an outline route that starts in Spain and ends in Monte Carlo – the perfect place to celebrate 20 superb years of the MSA Euroclassic."

## Send your MSA81 Radios for servicing

The MSA is reminding holders of MSA81 radios that units should be sent to a recognised Radio Supplier for servicing if they have not done so since purchasing the equipment.

Some equipment will have been in use for the eight years since the switch from AM to FM, and the MSA is receiving an increasing number of reports of poor and under-performing radios at events.

Items such as the coax or antenna lead should also be checked; look for breaks in the outer insulation, water ingress at the antenna base and – especially with temporary installations – cable distortion where it is routed through door seals. Even the thinnest coax lead will become damaged, and as such should be treated as a consumable item and replaced regularly. Also check the antenna base's earth, which must be kept clean and is a primary cause of poor performance.

Mag mounts should be taken off periodically and cleaned, along with the vehicle's contact patch. Bolt-on mounts, such as gutter mounts, typically break the vehicle's protective paint to achieve a good earth, but that will quickly suffer corrosion and lose performance.

Finally, check the condition of your power feed. This must be a secure, fused fitting of suitably rated cable. Cigar lighter fittings are not ideal, but are often the best solution for temporary installations. Direct wiring with proper terminals and cable to the battery is optimum but – especially for temporary or semi-permanent installations – a fuse in both cables is strongly recommended, because accidentally reversing polarity during an installation will do permanent harm to the radio.

## New clothing products available

The MSA's official clothing supplier, Link Up Ltd, has added a new Regatta Jacket to its range at an introductory price of £36 each:

[http://www.linkupltd.com/msa/product\\_info.php/cPath/25/products\\_id/189](http://www.linkupltd.com/msa/product_info.php/cPath/25/products_id/189)



## Derek Tye, 1942-2011

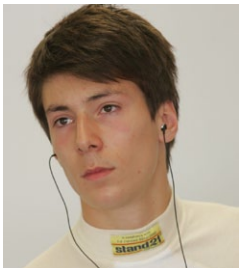
The MSA is saddened to report the death of former MSA Executive Derek Tye last month.

Derek spent his early career in the press office of RAC Motoring Services in Pall Mall, with his career evolving alongside the RAC Competitions Department as it

moved to Belgrave Square and became the RAC Motor Sports Association, which he joined in 1987.

He was responsible for print management of the year book, event programmes and all associated advertising, and was integral to the press accreditation system for events such as the RAC Rally, the British Grand Prix and the Veteran Car Run. He also organised the annual Night of Champions prize giving ceremony. After leaving the MSA in 2002 he continued to work for the governing body for a few years in a consultancy role.

The MSA sends its condolences to Derek's wife, Jane, his children Gavin and Amanda, and his wider circle of family and friends.



## MSA nominates Lynn and Williamson for FIA Academy

The MSA has nominated Team UK drivers Alex Lynn (pictured top) and Lewis Williamson (pictured bottom) to be considered for the second intake of the FIA Institute Young Driver Excellence Academy.

The FIA Institute will now collate all the nominations from the various National Sporting Authorities before choosing 30 finalists to attend a selection event in Austria in November, from which 18 will be chosen to join the programme.

Lynn, aged 18 from Essex, has dominated Formula Renault UK this year and with two rounds remaining has already equalled James Matthews' 1994 record of 11 wins in a season.

Williamson, aged 21 from Sutherland, won the McLaren Autosport Award at the end of 2010 and has this year progressed into the GP3 Series, memorably winning the British Grand Prix support race at Silverstone in July.

MSA National Race Coach David Brabham said: "This year has been only the first for Alex and Lewis on Team UK, but both have already demonstrated the maturity and focus needed to take the next step in their development as potentially world class athletes. They will be vying with some of the world's best young drivers for a place on the FIA programme, but I am sure that they will acquit themselves well."



## MSA Coaches visit Malta for RTP delivery

The MSA Academy was called overseas for the first time last month, when MSA Coaches Greg Symes and James Wozencroft delivered Performance Master Classes to 19 young drivers in the Maltese capital, Valletta.

The workshops were delivered by the MSA in its capacity as an FIA Institute Gold Standard Regional Training Provider, on behalf of the Malta Motorsport Federation (MMF).

The MSA Coaches ran seven classes: Maximising your potential as an athlete; Goal setting and planning; Creating your winning team and communications; Sponsorship; The racing parent; The safety of motor sport; and Anti-doping.

"What started as a dream 14 months ago is today a reality being lived here; the First MMF/FIA Institute Performance Master Class sessions for young drivers," said MMF President Tonio Cini.

Symes added: "This has been the first opportunity to combine our competitor development pathway, the MSA Academy, with our work as an FIA Institute RTP. The drivers were extremely passionate about the sport and their own development and really engaged with the classes we delivered."

The following weekend Wozencroft joined fellow MSA Coach Duncan Tappy and Team UK graduate Adam Gould to deliver Performance Master Classes to karters at the Brands Hatch BTCC meeting. Team UK racer Alex Lynn and Racing Steps Foundation driver Oliver Rowland were also on hand to offer advice and show the karters around their Formula Renault machines.





## Blomqvist and Lynn in running for top motor sport award

Team UK's Tom Blomqvist and Alex Lynn are among the six nominees for this year's McLaren Autosport BRDC Award, the winner of which will receive a McLaren F1 test, £100,000, BRDC membership, Puma racewear and a TW Steel watch.

There will be an assessment day in November at Silverstone, where the judges will be BRDC President Derek Warwick, BTCC champion Jason Plato, DTM driver Jamie Green, McLaren engineer Mark Williams, commentator Ian Titchmarsh, and Autosport's Kevin Turner and Marcus Pye. The winner will be announced at December's Autosport Awards.

"It's a privilege to have been nominated for the second year in a row," said 17-year-old Blomqvist, whose maiden German F3 season ended early with a back-breaking incident at Lausitz, following a win and two poles. "It would be hugely beneficial to my career if I could succeed my national quad team mate, Lewis Williamson, as the winner of this prestigious award."

Meanwhile Lynn, 18, said: "It's an honour to be in the running. Being on Team UK has helped me to maximise my potential, which will hopefully put me in good stead for the award assessment." Lynn has one hand on the Formula Renault UK trophy ahead of the upcoming season finale at Silverstone.

## Another victory for Evans and Edwards

A storming victory in the final event of the season was not enough for Elfyn

Evans and co-driver Andrew Edwards to claim the Dulux Trade MSA British Rally Championship, but winning the International Rally Yorkshire cemented their second place and concluded and a very successful season for the Welsh pairing.

It was Evans' second win of the season, following victory on the Pirelli International Rally. "We led from start to finish but had a bit of a hiccup with a spin on SS5 which lost us a little bit of time but we managed to claw it back," he said. "Congratulations to David Bogie; he's a worthy champion and I can't be too disappointed with second place in my debut season for the team."

Jakob Ebrey Photography



## Sims makes guest return to F3

Alexander Sims will return to the Cooper Tires British Formula 3 International Series this weekend at Silverstone in preparation for his third assault on the Macau Grand Prix. Sixth in GP3 this season, Alexander is looking forward to his return to Europe's most competitive stepping stone to single-seater success: "I needed to do an F3 race in order to qualify for Macau, but I haven't driven an F3 car for a year so there are no expectations – I'll wait to see what happens and plan to enjoy the experience."

## First in class for Hunt in Australia

Harry Hunt was the top two-wheel-drive runner on Rally Australia, finishing ninth in the Production World Rally Championship category.

"We lost a bit of time on the first day due to trouble with water splashes, but overall it was a really good event for us and a great result," said Hunt. "I'm now looking forward to the RACMSA Rally of Scotland this weekend; obviously the stages are amazing, the event is really well run and the support from the fans is brilliant too."





Widening participation and raising awareness of motor sport around the country, particularly among young people

## Join the Go Motorsport campaign

There are many ways for you to play your part in encouraging more newcomers into all areas of motor sport:

- Direct anyone interested in competing, volunteering or visiting a live motor sport event to the 'Go Drive', 'Go Help' and 'Go See' sections of the Go Motorsport website, [www.GoMotorsport.net](http://www.GoMotorsport.net)
- Help us to set up a visit to your local school by emailing the relevant contact details to [info@GoMotorsport.net](mailto:info@GoMotorsport.net)
- Promote the initiative by running Go Motorsport decals on your competition car. A selection of free decals is available from [info@GoMotorsport.net](mailto:info@GoMotorsport.net)
- Include Go Motorsport advertisements in your event programmes. Artwork is available from the 'downloads' section of [www.GoMotorsport.net](http://www.GoMotorsport.net)
- Establish web links to the Go Motorsport website where relevant or possible.
- Distribute Go Motorsport and Let's Go Karting promotional materials. Flyers, pencils, DVDs and other materials are available from [info@GoMotorsport.net](mailto:info@GoMotorsport.net)

## Go Motorsport at the National Motorsport Show

This year's National Motorsport Show – Motorsport UK – at the Ricoh Arena in Coventry on 5-6 November is being run in association with Go Motorsport. East Midlands Regional Development Officer (RDO) Richard Egger will be manning the Go Motorsport stand at the show, and all clubs, societies, and associations are being offered free floor space. For more information visit [www.motorsportshow.co.uk](http://www.motorsportshow.co.uk) or email [info@motorsportshow.co.uk](mailto:info@motorsportshow.co.uk)



## Marshals win NMW McLaren visit

A group of marshals enjoyed an exclusive behind-the-scenes tour of the McLaren Technology Centre after winning a National Motorsport Week competition hosted on the Go Motorsport website.

The 20 volunteer officials, from different backgrounds and with experience ranging from a few months to decades, were welcomed to the state-of-the-art facility in Woking, Surrey, where they gathered around Lewis Hamilton's title-winning MP4-23 for a group photograph.

"All eight UK-based F1 teams ran competitions on the Go Motorsport website during National Motorsport Week, giving members of the public a rare chance to see behind the closed doors of a modern grand prix team," said Go Motorsport co-ordinator Jonathan Gill. "McLaren was keen to reward some of the dedicated marshals who work so tirelessly to make motor sport possible, so that particular competition was only open to those volunteers registered with the MSA. The feedback from the winners of all these competitions has been amazing and we are grateful to the teams for making this possible."

Volunteers are vital to all forms of motor sport; if you or anybody you know would like to get involved, visit the Go Help section of [www.GoMotorsport.net](http://www.GoMotorsport.net) or head to the British Motorsport Marshals Club website at [www.marshals.co.uk](http://www.marshals.co.uk).



## APPOINTMENTS

### **Ben Taylor** **Director of Development and Communications**

After eight years working for the MSA as a consultant, Ben Taylor has joined the organisation full-time in the newly-created position of Director of Development and Communications.

In his new role, Ben will assume responsibility for the MSA's participation drive – Go Motorsport – as well as the driver development activity of the MSA Academy and Team UK. He will lead the MSA's Public Affairs campaigns and continue to progress the overhaul of the MSA's Communications that in recent years has created the new MSA magazine, newsletter and Company Report.

"I'm delighted to join the MSA in an official capacity," said Ben. "In the past few years, the governing body has created its Whole Sport Plan for the development of the sport and made great strides with many new initiatives. It is a signal of the MSA's commitment that it is now bringing the management of these programmes in-house and it offers an exciting opportunity to really drive the sport forward."

Ben will be supported in his role by MSA Communications Officer Tim Swietochowski and MSA Academy Co-ordinator Greg Symes, and will continue to work closely with MSA Performance Director Robert Reid.

### **Allan Dean-Lewis MBE** **Director of Training and Education**

Allan Dean-Lewis MBE has been promoted to a new role as Director of Training and Education. In addition to MSA's current national training programme, Allan will lead the new global initiative which has resulted from MSA's appointment as an FIA Institute Gold Status Regional Training Provider. Allan will be responsible for the commercial development and day-to-day management of these overseas training programmes.

"I am delighted to take up this new role," said Allan. "It highlights that training is seen as an important part of the agenda for maintaining safety and it sends out the right message to our volunteer officials and marshals without whom the sport could not operate. The MSA is rightly proud of its success in this area and we will continue to develop the skills of other ASNs through the Regional Training Provider programme."

Allan will continue to be supported by Jennifer Carty and is joined by two new consultants. Alan Page will be based at Motor Sports House three days a week focusing on Officials' Training, while Louise Goodman will be using her international contacts to promote the MSA's new FIA Institute Gold Status training services to our colleagues in other ASNs around the world. Sue Sanders completes this group, continuing her consultancy role both with the new international programmes and with volunteer officials' training.

## JUDICIAL

### **Fortec Motor Sport**

Two Appeals were brought before the Court by Fortec Motor Sport against decisions made by the Stewards of the Meeting of Round 7 of the Renault Formula 3.5 Series at Silverstone on 21st August 2011.

The decisions related to Car No. 7 driven by Alexander Rossi and Car No. 8 driven by Cesar Ramos, which were excluded from Race No. 2 for "non-conformity with wheel nuts threads".

It was the Appellant's case that there had been no modification of the wheel nuts, and that they had simply been used repeatedly and had been subjected only to "wear and tear".

It was the opinion of Michel Cruquet and Elio Ramos (the Commissaires Technique for Renault Formula 3.5 Series) that the wheel nuts had been machined so as to remove the first few threads.

The Appellant produced further wheel nuts which it said were acquired new and subjected to repeated usage on a jig subsequent to the Silverstone event, which had resulted in the effective removal of the first few threads in each wheel nut, this being entirely consistent with the condition of the wheel nuts which were sealed at Silverstone.

The Formula Renault 3.5 2011 Technical Regulations state that "scrutineering may consist of comparing the part to be checked against a similar new genuine Formula Renault 3.5 part". The Court had wheel nuts which were accepted as new genuine Formula Renault 3.5 parts. Even a cursory visual inspection of these parts showed that there are nine threads within a new wheel nut. A similar inspection of the wheel nuts that were the subject of these Appeals showed that each had no more and sometimes less than seven threads.

On that basis the wheel nuts were not consistent with a new genuine part. The Court accordingly found that this was sufficient to justify the decisions made by the Stewards of the Meeting, and the Appeals were dismissed. The Court ordered that the Appeal fees were forfeit and the Appellant would pay £1,000 toward the cost of the two Appeals.

### **David Gathercole**

The National Court convened to consider as to whether further action should be taken against Mr D A Gathercole regarding an incident which took place in the pit lane at the Silverstone Classic on 24th July 2011.

After hearing verbal submissions from Mr J Champkin, representing Mr Gathercole, and the Court viewing a short DVD of the incident, the Court orders that no further action should be taken in this matter but reminds Mr Gathercole of regulation H1.3.

*These are summaries of the findings of the National Court. Full findings will be published in MSA magazine.*

# MEET...

Go Motorsport Regional Development Officer and MSA Academy Consultant **Tom Gaymor**

**This month former racer Tom Gaymor reflects on the injury that changed his life, and discusses why it's important for the MSA to lead the development of British motor sport**



## When and why did you become interested in motor sport?

My granddad was the doctor for the DPR sports car team, so when I was about 11 I went along to an FIA GT race at Silverstone as a guest. And of course when you see, smell and hear live motor sport it's hard not to get excited.

## When did you first get behind the wheel?

I joined the In Kart Club at Sandown Park soon after the Silverstone trip, and then did some four-stroke karting for a few years. When I was 17 I won the Elf Fast Track competition, the prize for which was a year in Formula Renault Campus in France, so I went to live in Le Mans for the year.

Then I came back to the UK, and with my French ties I signed to race in Junior Formula Ford for Haywood Racing in a French Mygale chassis. I finished second in the championship, beating drivers like Mike Conway, Clivio Piccione and Ruben Carrapatoso.

## What brought your driving career to an end?

I signed up to do Formula Renault V6 with David Price, and one day during testing I had a fairly minor crash. I was in quite a lot of pain, so I assumed I must have trapped a nerve. Unfortunately it turned out I had undiagnosed Spondylolisthesis of the lumbar spine, which meant that the bone wasn't formed properly and so when I suffered the impact it had just crumbled away. I had to have



reconstructive surgery, with metal framework inserted and bone grafts from my pelvis, and after that I spent six months indoors rehabilitating.

## How did you get back on track?

Deborah Tee, whose company MPA Creative runs the Go Motorsport project, offered me the chance to become the South East Regional Development Officer for Go Motorsport. On the back of that, I met MSA Performance Director Robert Reid, who asked if I would be interested in becoming an assessor on the Advanced Apprenticeship in Sporting Excellence programme. In turn, that led to my becoming involved with other aspects of the MSA Academy, such as the Performance Master Classes.

## You work on both sides of the MSA's development arm: Go Motorsport and the MSA Academy. Why do you think it's important?

I view the MSA as having a responsibility for nurturing and educating young talent. I had a great learning experience with the FFSA in France, and it's great to now be involved with the MSA as it recognises the importance of developing the sport in this area.

I'm a prime example of someone who would have benefited from Go Motorsport, because having no understanding of the sport meant that I came to it very late. If a child wants to play football or rugby, their parents will know how to go about it, but that's usually not the case with motor sport. It's essential that we go into classrooms and show kids how to get involved, not just as drivers but as volunteers and spectators. There's a strong careers element to it as well.



I would have benefitted from all the educational and performance programmes within the MSA Academy. I left school at 16 so I didn't get my A-levels, but with AASE I could have picked up A-level equivalent qualifications and learnt how to better myself as an athlete at the same time. There isn't a driver around who wouldn't benefit from all of the MSA Academy programmes on offer, because they've been designed by experts who know what it takes to achieve excellence.