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Hugh Chambers, Motorsport UK CEO
MOTORSPORT TAKES ANOTHER POSITIVE STEP IN LONG-RUNNING INSURANCE THREAT

The Vnuk insurance issue threatening motorsport took another positive turn last week (13 February), as the European Parliament formally adopted a new proposal excluding motorsport from the Motor Insurance Directive (MID).

Vnuk is a 2014 European Curt judgement, ruling that the requirement for compulsory insurance should cover any use of a vehicle, so long as that use is consistent with the normal function of the vehicle. This would require all competition cars in motorsport to have compulsory third party insurance.

In January, the European Parliament’s Internal Market Committee (IMCO) approved a report recommending that motorsport should not be impacted by Vnuk. Last week, the Parliament formally adopted the amended proposal by 562 votes to 36, with 19 abstentions.

The amendment recommended the exclusion of “vehicles intended exclusively for motorsports, as these vehicles are generally covered by other forms of liability insurance and not subject to compulsory motor insurance when they are solely used for a competition”. The European Parliament also includes an appropriate distinction between vehicles used in traffic and vehicles used in non-traffic situations.

The next stage will be negotiations in the Council of the EU, followed by a ‘trilogue’ process involving negotiations between the Council of the EU, the European Parliament and the European Commission.

Hugh Chambers, CEO of Motorsport UK, said: “This is more good news for motorsport in the UK, which has faced an uncertain future ever since the Vnuk judgement was delivered over four years ago. We’ll keep working behind the scenes towards the common-sense outcome that secures the future of our sport. Once this has been achieved, our competitors will be able to carry on competing in the safe, fair and suitably insured environment that Motorsport UK provides.”

Motorsport UK has been lobbying to safeguard motorsport from Vnuk since 2014, working closely with the world governing body, the FIA, and taking the issue to the highest levels of government.
Blue Hills Mine is among the many venues hosting events during Cornwall Motorsport Month
Cornwall to celebrate a month of motorsport

Cornwall will host a special new celebration of motorsport this September, in an initiative that Motorsport UK hopes will be adopted in other regions across the UK.

The inaugural Cornwall Motorsport Month will celebrate all kinds of fun on four (and two!) wheels with a showcase of the various types of motorsport available in the South West.

From non-competitive classic car and motorcycle tours, to the thrill of a closed-road hill climb, there will be something for everyone with an enthusiasm for cars and competition.

Cornwall Motorsport Month is being organised by a team of motorsport enthusiasts overseen by Kevin Moore, the Motorsport UK Regional Development Officer (RDO) for the South West.

Moore said: “Cornwall is widely known as a famous sailing destination, but it also has a thriving motorsport community, which we wanted to shine a spotlight on. Initiatives like the Cornwall Motorsport Month provide the perfect platform to introduce the wider public to our incredibly engaging, exciting and adrenaline-fuelled world.”

There are already 31 events and 14 clubs involved in Cornwall Motorsport Month. Among them is Truro and District Motor Club. “It’s very exciting to be able part of this project,” said Dave Brenton, club Chairman. “The entire club committee is working tirelessly to ensure the debut event will be a success. Considering it’s the first initiative of its kind in the country we have some exciting plans in the pipeline. There’s a lot of work to do but we look forward to seeing everyone in Cornwall in September.”

A full events calendar available on the official Cornwall Motorsport Month website. As well as the competitive events, there will be movie nights, training workshops, celebrity evenings and car shows.

For more information, including how to create similar initiatives in your region, email Kevin Moore on southwest@gomotorsport.net
After seven years competing in the Greenpower F24 and F24+ series, the independent all-girls school joins the ranks of over 700 Motorsport UK registered clubs.

David Richards CBE, Chairman of Motorsport UK, welcomed the news as an important step towards broader representation within motorsport. “At Motorsport UK, our major focus is directed towards encouraging young people into motorsport and the benefits that participation can offer to their education and the curriculum in general,” he said. “To see a girls’ school join 720 other clubs as members of Motorsport UK is an encouraging endorsement of our efforts.”

Motorsport UK recognition means the school can now take part in events organised by other recognised clubs, and invite entries to its own events, too. There are also plans for the students to train as marshals.

Sarah Matthews, the school’s Headmistress, said: “It is a real honour to be the only school in the UK to be invited to join the national community of car clubs and the opportunities this will offer our girls are completely unprecedented. To be recognised in this way is a testament to the dedication of our Greenpower staff and volunteers as well as the enthusiasm of our girls.”

Motorsport broadcaster Louise Goodman is among the high-profile supporters of the school’s motorsport endeavours. “Motorsport is a long-held passion of mine and it’s great to see that so many of the students at Truro High School for Girls share that passion,” she said. “The fact they’re girls makes it even better as it helps to quash the silly belief that still pervades in some quarters, that motorsport is ‘for the boys’.”
New faces at Motorsport UK

Motorsport UK has already made several key hires this year as it continues to transition from a traditional governance-led association to a modern membership organisation.

Martin Fallon joins in the new role of Commercial Manager, supporting Commercial Director Colin Clark in the development of new partnerships and revenue streams. Martin previously worked on commercial programmes for the Tour of Britain and held similar roles in Premiership Rugby. To find out more about commercial opportunities with Motorsport UK, email commercial@motorsportuk.org

Another new face in the Commercial Team is Ian Berry, Head of Sport Promotion. Ian previously ran MotorSport Vision’s track hire business and also established Club 100 as a predominant entry point to the sport. He will now be responsible for building relationships between Motorsport UK and broader areas of motorsport, including track days and commercial karting.

Ben Buesnet will join the Commercial Team, as Digital Marketing Officer. Ben previously worked on PR for Wales Rally GB and the British Rally Championship in an agency capacity. He will carry these responsibilities in-house, while providing additional communications support to Motorsport UK.

Lesley Cox is coming on board as Safety Director after 16 years at Silverstone, where she was responsible for overseeing the Circuit Safety Team, Medical Team and Security Team, and for liaising with Security and Stewarding contractors for large events including the British Grand Prix. Lesley will be responsible for Motorsport UK’s safety management systems and track licensing.

Dan Parker becomes the organisation’s first dedicated Karting Manager. Dan was a kart circuit manager for several years, before moving to Zipkart and most recently running the Bambino Kart Championships. Dan will take on the management of the Karting UK Operations Team during its first year running the British Kart Championships.

Finally, Sue Sanders has joined as the Consultant Head of Training & Education to oversee the implementation of a new five-year strategy. The plans will ensure that all volunteers and competitors wishing to progress in the sport have a clear pathway from their entry point onward.
Exciting opportunities to join Motorsport UK

Do you want to help deliver a bold new vision for UK motorsport? Exciting opportunities have arisen for a Head of Communications, Graphic Designer and Events Marketing Officer, plus a National Development Officer for Scottish Motor Sports (SMS).

Motorsport UK represents over 43,000 competitors and volunteers and 720 clubs at the heart of motorsport. Now, under the leadership of the Chairman David Richards CBE, we are investing in an exciting period of change to drive growth and create a sustainable future for motorsport in the UK.

Head of Communications

The primary remit of the Head of Communications is to reach out and engage members, media, B2B and consumer audiences, effectively communicating relevant messaging of our recently launched new purpose.

You will be equally at home strategising, developing the messaging for various channels and getting your sleeves rolled and delivering our content.

Thriving under pressure, you will have ownership of all our communications channels and messaging; from news releases, magazines, member direct mails, website and social media vehicles, and be prepared to manage different relevant messaging that engages and tailored for different audiences and channels.

A qualification in PR, marketing, communications or other relevant degree is highly useful, however a proven 5+ year track record in a similar role will be of equal importance.

It is highly likely that the successful candidate will have some experience both of working within an agency and client side with a commercial rightsholder.

You will have previously worked in sport communications.

When applying, please provide a covering letter explaining the highlights of your relevance for the post together with salary expectations and notice period.

Please submit your application via email to hr@motorsportuk.org. More details can be found HERE.
Graphic Designer

Reporting to the Marketing Manager, the Graphic Designer will be the internal guardian in all design executions relating to the brand world.

The work demands creative flair, up-to-date knowledge of industry software, and a professional approach to time planning, costs, deadlines and prioritisation.

An understanding and appreciation of motorsport on many different levels would be a distinct advantage, with occasional weekend work at UK motorsport events.

The ideal candidate will be a self-starter, capable of working autonomously and fully conversant with a range of project tools from the Microsoft suite, Adobe products, Illustrator, Google Drive, Dropbox etc. They will have excellent communication skills in order to interpret and negotiate briefs with clients and a degree or HND in the following subjects:

- 3D design
- Communication design
- Film/television
- Fine art
- Graphic design
- Illustration
- Photography
- Visual art

Please apply to hr@motorsportuk.org enclosing your CV and contact details. A copy of the full job specification is available HERE.

Events Marketing Executive

Reporting to the Events Marketing and Communications Manager, the Events Marketing Executive will support the planning, organisation and execution of marketing activity, predominantly in support of Wales Rally GB, the UK round of the World Rally Championship, the British Rally Championship and other events through the year.

The role is incredibly varied but will include the design, production and distribution of marketing and advertising materials, managing website content and social media activity, coordinating spectator communications and the ticketing system.

A knowledge of motorsport would be a distinct advantage. Weekend work at some motorsports events will be required, for which time off in lieu will be granted.

The ideal candidate will have 3+ years track record of success in a similar role, possess excellent communication skills and strong attention to detail.

Please apply to contactus@walesrallygb.com enclosing your CV and contact details. A copy of the full job specification is available HERE.

Motorsport UK is an equal opportunities organisation which welcomes applications from all sections of the community.

No agencies please.

National Development Officer

Scottish Motor Sports (SMS) are seeking a National Development Officer to support the National Development Manager in the delivery of our development strategy of two and four wheel motor sport in Scotland.

Scottish Motor Sports was established in 2011 as a collaboration between the bodies that govern two and four wheel motor sport; the Scottish Auto Cycle Union (SACU) and Motorsport UK.

All applicants must display a strong understanding of the principles of sport development and how these are applied to our club and other organisations helping to shape the organisation against our vision: “To put motor sport at the heart of the Scottish sporting landscape”.

The National Development Officer will play an integral role in the continued delivery of the 2016-2020 strategy. The role will be focused around club development and the delivery of initiatives that aim to increase participation in grass roots motor sports. They will assist in delivering a new strategy as we move into our new funding cycle.

More details can be found HERE.

Scottish Motor Sports
What: Pomeroy Trophy, Silverstone

Who: David Richards CBE, Chairman of Motorsport UK

When: 16 February 2019

Motorsport UK Chairman David Richards CBE and CEO Hugh Chambers went head-to-head in the Vintage Sports Car Club’s Pomeroy Trophy. David completed a series of tests around Silverstone’s GP circuit in his wife’s Frazer Nash Le Mans replica, while Hugh drove his MGB. The pair finished line astern in 13th and 14th overall - just behind Motorsport UK’s Sport Promotion Manager, Suze Endean, in 12th aboard her Nissan Micra!
Motorsport UK enhances its member benefits

Motorsport UK has enhanced its member benefits package with subscription offers from leading motorsport magazines and discounts at Grandstand Merchandise.

All Motorsport UK members can now get closer to the action with the best available subscriptions to Autosport, the UK's best-selling weekly motorsport, Motorsport News, Britain's only weekly motorsport newspaper, and F1 Racing, the world's best-selling F1 magazine.

Meanwhile Grandstand is offering members a 20% discount on its motorsport merchandise, including authentic team replica clothing and accessories for Formula One, WEC, WRC and sportscars.

These offers are in addition to the existing range of benefits and discounts:

- Complimentary competition personal accident cover with JLT
- Discounts on competition and road car tyres, at Protyre, the fastest growing chain of fast fit and mechanical garages in the UK
- 10% off competition insurance and 15% off road car insurance with Adrian Flux
- 10% off in-store at Halfords
- 10% off Grand Prix Racewear's branded personalised overalls
- 10% off outdoor apparel and equipment at the UK's leading independent outdoor & mountain sports retailer, Ellis Brigham
- Discounts on ferry travel to the continent with DFDS

Motorsport UK will continue to enhance the package to add value to memberships and help members make more of motorsport. Let us know the types of benefits you want to see by emailing membership@motorsportuk.org
Putting members at the heart of Motorsport UK

To redeem these benefits, renew for 2019 and login to the Motorsport UK online portal
The MSN Circuit Rally Championship (MNCRC) in association with MSVR, featuring the Michelin Cup and the Protyre Challenge is delighted to announce that the Championship’s GT Class is now live, and entries will be accepted.

In line with current changes to Motorsport UK legislation, and in a first for British rallying, the MNCRC will run a class specifically for all naturally aspirated production GT cars.

The announcement is made possible thanks to a change in Motorsport UK regulations which no longer require cars of this type to obtain an FIA homologation and permits cars such as Porsche 911’s and BMW M3’s to compete without the previous engine capacity cap of three litres.

Darren Spann, Championship co-ordinator, enthused: “We are delighted that after all our planning back in August, we are finally able to announce the introduction of this brand-new class for the remaining of the 2018-19 season and for the 2019-20 season. We’ve already received some interest in running this class and anticipate that it will be popular with both competitors and spectators alike. I can’t wait to see who the first competitor will be to take advantage of this brand-new class.”

“We’ve already received some interest in running this class and anticipate that it will be popular with both competitors and spectators alike”
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Larkhall track extension gets go-ahead

The West of Scotland Kart Club (WSKC) has begun extending the Larkhall kart circuit to over 1000 metres in preparation for hosting the revolutionary new British Kart Championships later this year.

The club committed to track improvements during an extraordinary general meeting in January. “A lot hard work has gone in to this ambitious programme,” said Michael Smith, Chairman of WSKC.

“Recently our governing body underwent a major redevelopment under the Chairmanship of David Richards and CEO, Hugh Chambers, that enables it to meet the demands of today’s motorsport and likewise the West of Scotland Kart Club will be ready and fit for the demands of UK Karting in 2019 and beyond.”

The British Kart Championships’ IAME category visits Larkhall on 7-9 June.

Glan-y-Gors

The British Kart Championships will head to Glan-y-Gors in North Wales in July, replacing the planned Rotax event at Whilton Mill in October.

After the original British Kart Championships calendars were announced, it was revealed that year’s Rotax Grand Finals would be moving to Europe.

JAG/Rotax requested to move the British Championships event date, to give British competitors enough time to prepare, but Whilton Mill was not available at other times. Therefore, the round will switch to the stunning setting of Glan-y-Gors on 20-21 July.
This year has got off to a cracking start and that’s without having set foot on a race track yet! After unexpectedly receiving the Georgie Shaw PR award at the British Women Racing Drivers Club (BWRDC) Awards Dinner, I didn’t have long to settle back down and focus on getting my first Motorsport UK Rally Licence.

In April my charity, Spinal Track, is launching the first disabled rally school in the UK. This will be run at the BARS-accredited Bill Gwynne Rally School in Turweston in conjunction with the Richard Burns Foundation, who have funded two Toyota GT86 rally cars set up with hand controls and a left foot accelerator.

This school will be the first of its kind to offer disabled drivers their first rally driving experience free of charge, funded by charitable donations. The school will also give disabled drivers the opportunity to take their BARS course and compete in Motorsport UK sanctioned rallies by hiring out of the fully prepped Toyota.

I’m proud to say that earlier this month I successfully passed my BARS course at the Bill Gwynne Rally School in the Spinal Track Toyota! This makes me the first female driver with a spinal cord injury to be granted a rally licence in the UK. On 3 March I will compete in my first ever rally at Donington Park with Andrew Bayliss, my partner and co-founder of Spinal Track, as my co-driver.

The recent addition of the GT class in UK rallies will also see me become potentially the first entrant to compete in this class (although others may enter ahead of the event). My Cayman is now being prepared as a rally car as we race against the clock to get everything ready for the event.

I’ve mentioned three people in this column who are no longer with us and I can’t finish without talking more about them. It’s been over a year since Georgie Shaw passed away. She would have absolutely loved me doing this. To have won her PR Award was an absolute honour and I only wish she could have been there to present it to me.

I didn’t know Richard Burns but from speaking to those who were close to him, it’s clear that he would have loved what we are doing with Spinal Track. We’re so proud to carry his name on our cars and hope that our charity helps to continue his legacy.

Last but by no means least, my good friend Bill Gwynne, who started this whole thing with us. Bill passed away suddenly last year and I’m heartbroken he won’t be at my first rally with me. Without Yoda (a name that racing driver Enaam Ahmed coined for Bill) none of this would have been possible and I’m going to try my hardest to make him proud.

My rally at Donington will be further proof that anything is possible despite disability, and the launch of the disabled rally school will follow in April. Are you disabled? Do you fancy trying sideways on gravel? Now you can!
Marshal registration cards

The marshalling community is reminded that registration cards issued last year in MSA branding with an expiry date of 31 December 2019 are still valid. There is no need to reapply but all cards being issued now bear the Motorsport UK logo.

Apply now for remaining seminars

There is still time for Clerks of the Course and Stewards (including probationers and trainees) to register for the remaining Licensed Officials seminars in March.

So far, 399 delegates have attended the first six seminars and Motorsport UK is also encouraging registrations from Club Stewards. The remaining 2019 seminar dates are:

- 2 March, Jersey
- 3 March, Guernsey
- 9 March, Stirling
- 16 March, Crawley
- 17 March, Cambridge

Please click HERE to complete the online registration form. For all enquiries, please contact training@motorsportuk.org.
Sue Sanders joins the team

Sue Sanders has joined the Training and Education Team for the rest of the year to review how we can best serve our volunteer member marshals and officials over the coming years.

Sue has been involved with Motorsport UK since 2002, starting as a member of Rallies Committee, before becoming International Training Manager. She has also worked as Event Safety Coordinator on Wales Rally GB and as Head of Health, Safety and Security for Race of Champions.

BMSTT Training opportunities

Are you looking to attend a training day before the season gets under way? A list of all the British Motorsport Training Trust (BMSTT) supported training days for 2019 is now available on the Motorsport UK website. The list includes venue and organiser contact information. Please click HERE.

2019 training

More information about the one and two-day Stage Commander refresher programmes including the content, dates and venues will be published next month. Information about the Event/Spectator Safety Officers Course and the Safety Car Workshops will also be made available.
Volunteers

News and updates from the orange army

Marshal prize draw

The latest winners of the Motorsport UK monthly marshal prize draw have won MotorSport Vision driving experience vouchers.

Experienced race marshal, Ian Taylor, from Flintshire, Wales, has won an MSVR adrenaline voucher, while Cadet Marshal, Jess Crawley, 14, from Liverpool has won a Young Drive voucher.

Jess commented: "My interest in motorsport and marshalling comes from the time my Dad took me to an auto solo to watch him bash cones! I helped the marshals get the results and prizes ready, from then it was just a long wait until I was 14 and able to compete. Just 11 days after my 14th birthday I entered a PCA run by the U17 motor sports club."

This month’s prizes were donated by MotorSport Vision and MSVR. Recognising the invaluable contribution that volunteer marshals make to motorsport in the UK we are pleased to offer these driving experiences and hope that the lucky winners will enjoy their day.

Volunteer numbers up!

The number of Motorsport UK registered Officials has risen by 10% compared to 2018 figures. Marshal registrations are also on the up, with numbers rising by almost 7% compared to this time last year.

If you haven’t yet renewed for 2019, click here to visit our website and download your renewal form.

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Results

Latest results across the different types of motor sport governed by Motorsport UK

British Rally Championship

ROUND ONE: VISIT CONWY CAMBRIAN RALLY, 16.02.19

Reigning British Rally Champion Matt Edwards took a sensational victory on the Visit Conwy Cambrian Rally to kick-start his title defence with new co-driver Patrick Walsh.

Former champion David Bogie and his navigator John Rowan brought their Skoda Fabia R5 home in second place, while Marty McCormack drove his similar machine to a fine third overall with Barney Mitchell reading the notes.

Provisional Championship standings

1 Matt Edwards – 25 points
2 David Bogie – 18
3 Marty McCormack – 15

Pirelli Welsh Rally Championship

ROUND ONE: VISIT CONWY CAMBRIAN RALLY, 16.02.19

Russ Thompson scored maximum championship points on the opening round, the Llandudno-based Visit Conwy Cambrian Rally.

Thompson and co-driver Andy Murphy were the first crew to leave the town centre start and set the pace on the opening stages. They went on to finish second overall behind Steve Simpson, who was not registered for championship points, and his navigator Mark Glennester.

Glennerster collected the maximum points haul for registered co-drivers.

Provisional Championship standings

1 Russ Thompson – 30 points
2 Scott Faulkner – 27
3 Richard Hill – 25
Dual standard helmets

It is becoming increasingly common for a helmet to have dual standards, for example FIA 8860-2004 and Snell SA2005. Competitors are advised that where a helmet is approved to more than one standard, then as long as one of those standards is currently valid then the helmet is acceptable.

So, although the Snell SA2005 standard expired at the end of 2018, the FIA 8860-2004 standard remains valid until the end of 2020, therefore a helmet with both standards remains acceptable until then.

Kart overalls

Short circuit Kart competitors are reminded that any expiration date shown on the CIK-FIA homologation label is not relevant in the UK. Regulation (U)13.4.1. requires the overalls to be one of the two latest CIK-FIA standards, either N 2001-1 or N 2013-1 and either Level 1 or 2. Providing that the overalls bear these standards and remain in acceptable condition, that can continue to be used even if the expiry date shown has passed.

Stolen kart engines

Motorsport UK has been advised that two Honda GX160 Cadet engines were stolen from a van in London in January. The engine serial numbers are 2571692 and 1982093, both branded Bontoft. If anybody comes across either of these engines, or has any relevant information, please contact the owner Richard Pearson on rnp@abridgevm.com.

To sign up for email notifications when proposed regulation changes are posted online for consultation, click HERE.
Officials list available online
Competitors are reminded that the list of licensed Officials can be found online within the Motorsport UK member portal. To view the list, click here and sign in, then click the Officials tab and use the drop-down list.

Stitching and embroidery on overalls
The Motorsport UK Technical Team wishes to remind competitors that embroidery on overalls bearing the FIA 8856-2000 and 8856-2018 standards must be sewn on to the outer layer only.

If applying a badge, the stitching can go through all layers but the thread used must be flame-resistant like the backing of the badge itself. Scrutineers may ask for a sample of the thread used, so it is useful to carry some with you.
Calling young competitors! Apply for AASE today

Applications are open for the next AASE programme, a two-year course for drivers aged 16-18, delivered by the Motorsport UK Academy in conjunction with Loughborough College.

Now in its tenth year, AASE is vital to any young driver serious about achieving success in motorsport. It develops young athletes, providing the underpinning knowledge of what it takes to achieve success in the sport, while providing an accredited qualification from a college that understands the needs of potentially elite athletes.

Tom Ingram, BTCC driver and AASE graduate, described the programme as, “A real must-do for drivers looking to forge a career in motorsport”. He continued: “The coaches Motorsport UK have chosen are the best around. Adding preparation, time management, career planning, nutrition and many more strings to your bow is a real bonus.

“Being part of AASE and picking up this knowledge has helped me so much in the BTCC and everything we covered on the programme has become increasingly relevant to my career. It costs you nothing but your time and commitment, so why wouldn’t you sign up?”

The programme kicks off in September and will be based around four-day sessions twice a month at Loughborough College. Athletes also work with Porsche Human Performance and attend workshops at iZone Driver Coaching five times a year.

Much of the AASE programme content aligns with other elements of the Motorsport UK Academy talent development pathway, such as the Team UK national squad, using the same principles of qualified coaching.

AASE alumni include the likes of Jake Dennis, Seb Morris, Tom Ingram, Chris Ingram, Matt Parry, Charlie Robertson and Sennan Fielding to name a few.

For more information click HERE.
In this excerpt from a previous issue of our magazine, motorsport journalist Jack Phillips explores the AASE Programme in more detail.

Sporting excellence runs deep in Loughborough. Consider the fact that no fewer than 32 athletes from the college competed at the Olympics and Paralympics in Rio 2016 winning 14 medals – six of them gold. But it’s not just athletics where Loughborough College is training the next generation of champions. It is doing the same in motor sport.

The Motorsport UK Academy AASE programme based at Loughborough College is helping to develop the UK’s future racing stars. It gives young drivers the chance to hone skills that will help them succeed in one of the toughest sporting environments, as well as rub shoulders with inspirational sporting stars from different disciplines.

The course’s raison d’etre is to give the next generation the best possible footing not only in motor racing but as individuals. Visit any race circuit on any given weekday and there’s sure to be a junior driver learning his craft instead of their A-level syllabus. And that puts a lot of pressure on young shoulders to make a living from driving, as there’s no safety net to save any fall from the ladder. The days of going from spannering in the pits to a racing career and back again are dim and distant.

“It would be irresponsible if we told the drivers that they will all make it,” says Motorsport UK Academy Manager Greg Symes. “We don’t sugar-coat it. Chelsea Football Club, who we’ve worked with, has a target of one player per age group to make the first team. One player, from its worldwide academies. We don’t have a final place to put drivers, we can’t promote the drivers to anything, so the onus is fully on them to make the most of what we provide.”

The drivers and co-drivers occupy the impressive and recently refurbished surroundings of Loughborough two weeks each month. There is time off in August, mirroring the Formula 1 calendar, while Porsche’s human performance team also visits every few months to pass on its specialist advice.

“We want to make being a racing driver a legitimate career choice rather than a pipe dream,” says Symes. And leveraging Loughborough College and Motorsport UK’s combined experience, the Motorsport UK Academy AASE programme is a firm starting base.
Chadwick makes history with MRF Challenge win

New Team UK member Jamie Chadwick has made more history by becoming the first female driver to win the MRF Challenge International series.

Chadwick won six out of 15 races, including a hattrick of wins in the final round at Chennai India, to secure the title and £25,000 in prize money.

Speaking after the final race, Chadwick said: “I’m absolutely delighted. It was hard work, and very physical, especially in this 35C heat, but worth all the effort. We entered [the Series] quite late, mainly to get some winter training and race fitness, prior to the 2019 season. Some notable names have done MRF in the past and it fitted into my schedule.”

It is already shaping up to be a stellar year for Chadwick, who was recently named as the latest winner of the British Women Racing Drivers’ Club Lord Wakefield Trophy, presented annually in recognition of outstanding achievement by women in motorsport.
GoMotorsport
Developing club motorsport for people of all ages and backgrounds

Event Spotlight

Samsonas Rally Fivemiletown Launched at St. Mary’s Primary School

Omagh Motor Club got youngsters involved in the recent Samsonas Rally Fivemiletown by launching the event at St. Mary’s Primary School, where pupils could enter a colouring competition. Schoolchildren Jayden, Cormac and Dara were selected as the top three, with Jayden’s Subaru World Rally Team inspired design chosen as the overall winner. They each received t-shirts printed with their designs. The school’s pupils were treated to a talk by Omagh Motor Club’s Niall McGonigle and Ryan Darcy, who teamed up with competitors Shane McGirr and Martin Cairns, and Motorsport UK Regional Development Officer (RDO) Jonathan MacDonald. They shared their experiences of being involved in the exciting world of motorsport and delivered a strong road safety message. Pupils also had the opportunity to see a variety of motorsport equipment including a Formula One seat and wheel as well as a race helmet, gloves and race suit, not to mention three rally cars in the school playground!

Club Spotlight

Wigton Motor Club donate £500 charity

Wigton Motor Club members raised £1000 for the Cockermouth Mountain Rescue Team and the Wigton Youth Project by collecting donations at events throughout 2018. Each charity has been presented with a cheque for £500. The club will be choosing two more charities to support this year.

WMC committee member John Sloan handing over a £500 cheque to representatives of the Cockermouth Mountain Rescue Team
Reflections on 10 years of Go Motorsport

Over the past decade, Motorsport UK’s team of Regional Development Officers (RDOs) have encouraged motor clubs nationwide to try new activities in a bid to bolster their membership levels, writes Jonathan MacDonald, Northern Ireland RDO.

During that time, many clubs have acquired members, gained access to new venues and helped to raise the profile not only of their clubs but of motorsport as a whole.

In the beginning, Go Motorsport centred around visits to local schools, colleges and universities, where RDOs teamed up with local clubs to introduce students to the diverse world of motorsport.

Thousands of students across the UK had the opportunity to find out how to get involved in motorsport, while getting the chance to poke around some competition cars in the playground. Many have subsequently become involved in the sport.

Over the years, the programme evolved to become less about school visits and more about club development. Today, the team of RDOs has a much wider remit, enabling us to provide clubs with more support.

The RDOs continue to visit educational establishments but we also help clubs to form links with other organisations, boosting their profile in the community. We support clubs that want to try new events or set up promotional stands in a bid to bring ‘new blood’ into the sport.

We also help clubs to gain funding for development projects through the Motorsport UK Development Fund, and we provide a direct link between clubs and Motorsport UK.
The team of RDOs has evolved over the past 10 years, too. Initially, a team of young racing drivers was employed to instil excitement into students and encourage them to get involved in the sport. But as the Go Motorsport scheme has developed, so too has the RDO team.

We now include everyone from event organisers through to motorsport journalists like me, and all of us are club level competitors. Best of all, we keep in close contact with each other so if you need to tap into another RDO’s particular skillset to help your club, we can do that regardless of where your club is located.

The Go Motorsport scheme has been invaluable for clubs and motorsport in the UK is all the better for it. But there’s plenty more work to do! If your club would like some help, make sure you get in touch with your local RDO.