



Driver profile

Mitch Evans

Country of origin: New Zealand

Date of birth: 19th August 1994 (17)

Race number: 1

Sponsors: Wet & Forget, Giltrap City Toyota, Gen-I, Banklink, Lexus of Auckland, Evans European Panel & Paint

He will only contest the last two rounds, so Mitch Evans can be expected to inject a sting into the tail of the 2012 International Toyota Series. The 17-year-old Auckland won the last two TRS titles outright and is the defending New Zealand Grand Prix winner.

At the end of his first full season racing in European GP3, Mitch is home for a holiday break – and some selected summer racing in TRS. After attending workshop sessions with Red Bull F1 driver Mark Webber in mid January, he has committed to racing at the fourth TRS round at Hampton Downs in preparation for to racing the following weekend in the New Zealand Grand Prix at Manfeild.

“It’s been a busy season in Europe, so it’s good to be home and to have some time to reflect on what has been an amazing year. I am now looking forward to starting 2012 by racing here in the New Zealand Grand Prix as this event is so special,” says Evans.

His ‘amazing year’ in Europe - working with Mark Webber and competing in GP3 – saw him winning his third race of the GP3 season and leading the championship early in the season. He led three GP3 races and, as well as that early win in Barcelona, he was fastest in all four sessions at two days of GP3 testing in Spain at year end.

“In 2010 I missed winning the GP. I finished second and I was gutted. My 2011 win at Manfeild gave me huge motivation for the season in Europe so I really want to win again in 2012 – I’d love to be able to do back-to-back wins in our Grand Prix,” said Evans.

“It’s going to be tough because the entry list is looking so good.”

Evans won the historic New Zealand Motor Cup, presented to the winner of the feature race at Hampton Downs, as well as the New Zealand Grand Prix, at the start of his 2011 season.





Driver profile

In 2011 Mitch competed in the Toyota Series for Giles Motorsport and won the International Trophy for the second season running. Mitch blew away his opposition winning all four rounds, claiming six victories and finishing on the podium in every race. In February, he fulfilled his first goal for 2011 by winning his first New Zealand Grand Prix and in doing so became the youngest ever driver to win the event.

At the age of just 16, Mitchell Evans had won more races and more titles than most racing drivers achieve during an entire career in the sport. Not surprisingly, the talented teenager is being groomed for an international motorsport future; and TRS was the key stepping-stone.

Mitch debuted in the new TRS Lites class late in the 2009 season and in his first full TRS Championship season he took the title, driving for Giles Motorsport and taking over the chassis Mitch Cunningham took to overall TRS victory for Steve Giles in 2009.

Like the majority of up-and-coming kiwi talent, Mitch's skills have been honed well during his long 'karting career' Mitch started racing after he was given a go-kart for his sixth birthday. From the Cadet class he quickly progressed to take the 100cc New Zealand Junior Restricted title in 2005 and at the age of 12 Mitch won a New Zealand CIK Trophy.

That was in 2007 when Mitch also won the Rotax Max Challenge Series and the honour of representing his country at the Karting World Champs in Dubai where he finished 13th.

In 2007, he graduated to single seaters and the Formula First series in which he finished ninth. The step up to Formula Ford in 2008 saw him take out the winter series at Manfeild with nine wins from 12 race starts – including coming through from the back of the grid to win on debut.

Stepping up to the National FF series in 2009 Mitch took six wins in his Stealth chassis to finish second overall to the Mygale of Richie Stanaway. In 2010 he finished runner up in the Australian F3 Championship after missing a round when he attended a test in Italy.

Mitch's father Owen is a long-time Porsche racer and holds the New Zealand Land Speed Record; while grandfather Laurie had a long and distinguished racing career. His older brother Simon (21) has progressed from FF to compete in Porsche and NZV8 racing.

Mitch races in this year's TRS with Giles Motorsport.

www.mitchevans.com





Driver profile

Nick Cassidy

Country of origin: New Zealand

Date of birth: 19th August 1994 (17)

Race number: 2

Sponsors: BNT, FUCHS, CRC, Jonnesway, IDL, XCELL, Post Haste, Albany Toyota

Until now Nick Cassidy has been described as a 'fast track rookie' but that all changes in 2012 as he returns for his second season racing in TRS. This time round there is greater expectation because young Nick has shown his title potential.

The former "Westlake Boys student from the North Shore" turned 17 in August and, after several promising visits to Europe during 2011; is embarking on what he intends to be a career as a professional racing driver.

Last season he claimed a TRS pole position at Teretonga, led three races during the season and finished strongly with two wins at the Taupo finale. Those results ignited his prospects and earned him a six week visit to Europe during 2011 and a chance to experience three different single seater categories..

He had an impressive test in a 2.0 Renault Cup car, tested and raced a Formula Abarth at Mugello in Italy and experienced a German Formula Masters chassis at Assen in the Netherlands. His intention now is to secure a regular European drive.

At the annual post-season Formula Renault 'collective' test session at the Barcelona circuit in Spain Nick was second fastest in the first test session. He was in a group of 44 drivers taking part in the one-day evaluation that is seen as an important guide to up-and-coming international motorsport talent.

The only driver faster than Cassidy in the first session was young Russian driver Daniil Kvyat who was in New Zealand at the start of 2011 competing in the International Toyota Series.

Nick has a winning pedigree, honed in speedway, karting and a quick fire run through the traditional junior steps of Formula First and Formula Ford. He's a young man in a hurry and having finished runner up to Mitch Evans in his Rookie season, he intends to be setting the TRS pace from the outset.

In his last three seasons Nick has been Rookie of the Year and runner-up in Formula First, Formula Ford and TRS; and up until recently was continuing to gain experience by racing "a bit of speedway on the side"





Driver profile

He started young. At six Nick was racing a cadet kart and moved up to Junior Restricted as soon as the KartSport rules allowed at the age of 10. He was already winning titles and by the age of 12 Nick was winnings in Juniors. Speedway was also on the programme with a season in quarter midgets at Western Springs when he was just 8.

Nick won the New Zealand Rotax Max Challenge and earned a place at the World Finals for the class in Italy where he placed fourth in the pre-final and 11th in the Final. That was a good showing against 72 drivers from 55 different countries.

His potential was recognized with a *Speedsport* Scholarship into Formula First with Sabre Automotive. He had already won the 2008 Manfeild Winter Series with three wins, and nine podiums from the 12 races.

During the 2008-2009 Formula First season Nick won 8 races – four more than any previous Scholarship winner – had two pole positions, 16 podiums and eight fastest laps from the eight round series.

His rapid rise continued in Formula Ford. Again he was Rookie of the Year and again he won eight races. This time there were 14 podiums from 18 races and five fastest laps from the six rounds.

His stated objective in 2012 is to win the TRS Championship.





Driver profile

Chris Vlok

Country of origin: New Zealand

Date of birth: 17th September 1992 (19)

Race number: 4

Sponsors: Gulf Oil, Miles Toyota

Chris Vlok describes himself as an 'entrepreneur' and he has certainly got his own racing career off to a bold start. The Christchurch TRS rookie recently returned from his first single seater racing season – in Canada – and is keenly anticipating his first 'slick and wings' event.

The Vlok (pronounced 'Flock') family live at Darfeild, just outside Christchurch. Chris was only a toddler when his parents moved to New Zealand from Cape Town in South Africa.

Chris has always been into cars. He started racing when he was 15 after slowly building his own E30 BMW while still at school (St Andrews followed by Darfeild High). Without prior experience in karting or any other form of motor racing, he made a good early impression with the BMW saloon.

Chris had a solid debut season in the South Island BMW competition taking multiple pole positions, race wins, podiums and fastest laps. But he missed one of the rounds which meant that he fell back to fourth in the championship.

In mid 2010 Chris tested a Formula Ford for the first time and took part in two of the six rounds of the New Zealand Formula Ford Championship at Ruapuna and Timaru. He finished mid field both times as he stepped up to competition at a National Level.

His parents travelled to Canada for six months in 2011 so Chris signed up with a Formula Ford Team to compete in the Quebec Formula Tour. With six rounds spread across Quebec at famous tracks including Mont Tremblant, the Trois Rivieres street race and the Gilles Villeneuve Formula 1 Circuit. Chris had a promising season in Canada wrapping up fourth place and taking home the Rookie title with five podiums and one win.

Chris races in the 2012 TRS with Victory Motor Racing.

www.chrisvlok.com





Driver profile

Bruno Bonifacio

Country of origin: Brazil

Date of birth: 2 November 1994 (18)

Race number: 5

Bruno Bonifacio comes to the 2012 Toyota Racing Series aiming to maintain his competitive momentum after a successful season in South America.

Racing in the 2011 South American Formula Three Championship for Cesare Formula Junior Team, Bruno dominated the Sudamericana Light class, winning 13 races en route to a championship-winning margin of 157 points.

Bruno also contested the final four rounds of the 2011 Formula Abarth series in Italy with Prema Powerteam, taking a best result of sixth overall.

He races in the 2012 Toyota Racing Series with Giles Motorsport.





Driver profile

Félix Juan Serrallés IV

Country of origin: Puerto Rico

Date of birth: 24 June 1992 (19)

Race number: 6

Félix Serrallés is the first Puerto Rican to contest the Toyota Racing Series. Now based in Florida USA, Félix began his racing career racing 60cc Birel go karts around the island of Puerto Rico in 2001. He won the first race he entered and in six races had two wins, two pole positions and three second places.

Félix quickly stepped up to an 80cc Fittipaldi kart on a purpose built race track for the Rotax World Championship Series and won the Caribbean Championship in 2002.

The next year, he raced in the Stars of Tomorrow kart series, scoring two second places, one pole and a third place. He capped off the year with a second victory in the Caribbean Championship.

In 2004 and 2005, Félix was runner-up in the Caribbean Championship. He then took a break from racing to complete his studies. During summer break at school in the USA, he was able to attend the Jim Russell and Felix Barber race driving schools.

2008 saw Félix racing in the Skip Barber regional championship with testing opportunities in Formula Renault 1600 and Formula Star Mazda.

The next year he contested and won the Skip Barber shootout, receiving the top prize of a year racing in the 2010 Skip Barber National Series where he finished third overall.

A move to European circuits and series in 2011 has seen Félix gain valuable experience in Formula Renault 2.0 – the Eurocup and UK Championship.





Driver profile

For the five-race –in-five-weekend 2012 TRS season he will race with Giles Motorsport.

www.felixserralles.com





Driver profile

Jono Lester

Country of origin: New Zealand

Date of birth: 18th December 1989 (22)

Race number: 7

Sponsors: Counties Toyota, Vortex Racewear, Hornet Nutrition, Opti-Flex, Sony, Loaded Sports Drink, Jack Link's Beef Jerky.

Although he gained early recognition for his successes in Formula First single seater racing, Jono Lester is better known for his more recent wins in Porsche racing. However, an impressive TRS debut at the Taupo finale in 2011 has set the scene for an all out effort this season.

"To be a confirmed starter in the 2012 Toyota Racing Series is the best Christmas present I can ask for and it's a pleasure to be a part of the championship in what will be such a competitive season."

"The one-off drive in March 2011 at Taupo was with the proviso to compete in the full 2012 championship. At this event I finished 5th, 4th and 4th for fourth overall for the weekend, and learnt a hell of a lot in the process.

That being said, we identified some common 'tin top' habits that we aim to iron out in the pre-season test; remembering that the TRS single seater is the first wings and slicks race car I have driven.

This is also my first NZ championship drive since 2009. My last event was the 2009 Hamilton 400 in the Porsche GT3, which I won from Gaunt and Vincent. Since, I've done dribs and drabs, tested in Europe and the Middle East, raced in the Porsche Supercup and competed in time attack racing, but nothing to the level of satisfying my hunger like this TRS opportunity will do!

"The efforts of my family, the Toyota Racing Series management and ETEC Motorsport have been instrumental in my place on the grid, and there's nothing in this world more motivating for a driver than a simple opportunity. With the economy the way it is, each and every one of us out there is lucky to have one."





Driver profile

"That motivation has my mind focussed on one thing and one thing only, and that is to win the championship and get my career back on the right track."

"I'll be one of a select few flying the kiwi flag and we will be out there to show the International drivers our very best in speed, competition, sportsmanship and camaraderie."

"The first person to alert me to the benefits of the TRS was Chris Amon. He's been a real help over the past twelve months and is providing some terrific knowledge moving forward as I work towards a sports prototype drive overseas."

"I've got to say that after tasting the TRS at Taupo in March, we couldn't have made a better move."

"I'm one of the old men of the series this year, it pains me to say! While my recent experience behind the wheel has been limited, I pride myself on having a good race brain and a calm demeanour. These young guys are all blisteringly quick, but consistency is an area I hope to excel in over the course of the championship."

"I think my father Richard and Grandfather Rob are more excited about the season than even I am! They're single seater purists at heart, and can't wait for the iconic NZ motorsport road trip to Invercargill in January."

"The NZ Motorsport Trust have provided me with the car for the season. On that note, I'm in the #22 chassis driven by Ben Harford a few seasons ago, and then by Earl at the 2011 NZGP. I'll be running with ETEC Motorsport under Andy Neale, with Malaysian international Melvin Moh as my team mate. Melvin was one of the Petronas recruits Dad and I spent time coaching in 2009."

www.jonolester.com





Driver profile

Melvin Moh

Country of origin: Malaysia

Date of birth: 15 July 1988 (23)

Race number: 8

A motorsport start in karting and race experience in Formula BMW and Japan's endurance series brings Melvin Moh to the 2012 Toyota Racing Series.

Melvin got into karting at age 14.

He raced karts until 2005 in Asia before stepping up to Formula BMW in 2006.

In 2007 he was fifth rookie and eighth overall in Formula BMW Asia, then the following year he placed fifth overall in the series and competed at the Barcelona Formula BMW race held at that year's Formula One Grand Prix event.

In 2009, Melvin switched to Japan's endurance racing championship, spending his first year in the high profile series in a testing role.

The next year he raced a BMW Z4 in the championship.

He has spent 2011 racing in domestic karting series in Malaysia and there developed an association with Kiwis Richard and Jono Lester.

A resident of the state of Selangor near Kuala Lumpur, Melvin is studying economics at university in Malaysia and is halfway through his degree.

He races in the 2012 Toyota Racing Series with ETEC Motorsport.





Driver profile

Victor Sendin

Country of origin: France

Date of birth: 8 April 1995 (16)

Race number: 9

A protégé of French A1GP and DTM driver Alexander Premat, Victor Sendin has been karting since he was ten, starting in the beginner “Minimal” class.

Victor rose through cadet classes to race KF3 in 2009 and KF2 in 2010, the latter year as a factory drive for TonyKart. On the way he won the French Championship at St Amand outright, taking two third placings in the Cadet classes as well.

In 2011 he placed tenth in the KF2 World Cup at Sarno.

Making the step up into wings-and-slicks full-sized race cars, he competes in the 2012 Toyota Racing Series with ETEC Motorsport.





Driver profile

Josh Hill

Country of origin: United Kingdom

Date of birth: 9 January 1991 (21)

Race number: 10

British racer Josh Hill returns for a second season in Toyota Racing Series. Son of 1996 Formula One World Champion Damon Hill, Surrey-born Josh made a strong impression in the 2011 TRS, finishing fourth in the New Zealand Grand Prix at Manfeild. He was also named most improved driver of the series.

A relatively late starter into motorsport, Josh has risen from karting (Club 100) through a range of open-wheeler categories, most recently Formula Renault UK where he raced this season with Manor Competition.

Like his dad and grandfather, two-times F1 World Champion Graeme Hill, Josh races in a helmet that bears the colours of the London Rowing Club. Josh is part of the British Racing Drivers' Club "Rising Star" talent-spotting programme for drivers aged under 24, having been scouted trackside by one of the BRDC's "spotters". He is allowed to race wearing the blue roundel of the exclusive invitation-only group, who are in effect junior BRDC members.*

Away from the track, Josh has strong musical interests and plays both drums and guitar – in the latter passion he is following his dad who has played with the likes of ex-Beatle George Harrison.

Josh competes in the 2012 Toyota Racing Series with ETEC Motorsport.

www.joshhillracing.com

* The other BRDC Rising Star member in this year's TRS is Jordan King.





Driver profile

Shahaan Engineer

Country of origin: India

Date of birth: 9 February 1995 (16)

Race number 11

Indian-born Shahaan Engineer, like almost all of the 2012 TRS grid, had his motorsport start in karting, and he comes to the Series fresh from a rookie season in Formula Renault UK with the aim of honing his racecraft while his rivals wait out the northern hemisphere winter in testing.

Shahaan raced the Formula Renault "Finals Series" (formerly the Formula Renault Winter Series) for the respected Fortec team and competed at the final round against Josh Hill, Jordan King and Oliver Rowland. He won praise from team owner Richard Dutton for completing a tough baptism into the highly competitive series without becoming embroiled in on-track incidents and aims to return for more in 2012.

Josh Hill and Jordan King also make the trip to New Zealand with Hill racing for the same team as Shahaan; King racing for M2 Competition.

Away from the track, Shahaan has interests that include jazz drumming, rock climbing and of course cars.

Currently living in Dubai, Shahaan has ambitions to reach the highest levels of motorsport. He races in the 2012 Toyota Racing Series with ETEC Motorsport.

www.shahaan.com





Driver profile

Lucas Auer

Country of origin: Austria

Date of birth: 11 September 1994 (17)

Race number: 15

Lucas is the nephew of former McLaren and Ferrari F1 driver Gerhard Berger. He is the son of Berger's sister Claudia, who runs a transport company in Worgl in Tyrol, not far from Berger's own family business.

He is the 2011 JK Racing Asia Series champion. The JK Racing Series is the eighth season of Formula BMW racing in Asia. The championship began on 9 April 2011 at Sepang in Malaysia, and concluded at the same circuit on 4 December.

Lucas began his racing career in karts in 2001, taking a second place in the 2001 Tirol Championship and then winning the following year. A string of top results followed, including outright wins in 2006 and 2007 in the DMV German Championship.

To date in his post-karting career he has scored seven wins from 20 starts with six pole positions, 18 podium finishes and ten fastest laps.

Away from the race track, Lucas enjoys football, baseball and ice hockey. He is fluent in German and English.

Lucas races in the 2012 Toyota Racing Series with Giles Motorsport, and aims to win the championship as a springboard into Formula 3.





Driver profile

Hannes van Asseldonk

Country of origin: Netherlands

Date of birth: 10 January 1992

Race number: 16

Sponsors: van Asseldonk Champignons, Flying Kiwi, Cock and Balls Wear, Unlimited Colours

Hannes van Asseldonk began his motor racing career in karting in 2006. He stepped into a competitive Rotax Max drive the following year, recording fourth and fifth places in his first full season of racing.

Staying with Rotax Max in 2008 he won the BNL Series and recorded a string of race wins and podium finishes.

Hannes switched to KZ2 category the following year and was fifth in the Dutch winter championship.

Stepping up into single seater race cars in 2009, Hannes has built on strong seasons in Formula BMW (2010, 16 races, 2 podiums) and Formula Abarth (2010, 6 races, 3 wins, 3 podiums).

He arrives at the 2012 TRS with a full year of Formula 3 experience including the Austrian Formula 3 Cup (2 races, 1 win, 2 podiums), the FIA Formula 3 International trophy, and the ATS Formula 3 (18 races, 5 podiums, fifth outright on points) and in November a fifth placing on the tight and tricky streets of Macau in the 2011 F3 Grand Prix.

Impressive off the start and in the cut and thrust of opening laps, Hannes also likes racing in tricky conditions and says he enjoys learning new circuits – attributes that will stand him in good stead in the intense five week TRS.

He is aiming to improve his use of testing and race data and to focus on maintaining consistency through the whole race weekend.





Driver profile

Hannes comes to the 2012 Toyota Racing Series 2012 TRS series aiming to win both the series itself and the New Zealand Grand Prix. He races with Giles Motorsport.

www.hannes.nl





Driver profile

Dmitry Suranovich

Country of origin: Russia

Date of birth: 27 June 1995

Race number: 20

Minsk-born Dmitry Suranovich comes to the 2012 Toyota Racing Series fresh from no less than eight races in the 2011 Formula Abarth single-seater series along with tests in GP3, Formula 3 and Formula Renault 2.0.

Arriving in single-seaters through the customary route of karting, Dmitry started in KF3 class in 2008, scoring a best of sixth at the CIK-FIA Monaco Kart Cup the following year, and stepped up to KF2 in 2010. He says his aim through the five weekends of this year's TRS series is to gain more experience in single-seater racing, and he has his eyes firmly set on a place in Formula One.

Dmitry is contesting the 2012 TRS with Victory Motor Racing.





Driver profile

Jordan King

Country of origin: United Kingdom

Date of birth: 26 February 1994

Race number: 42

Sponsors: Hugo Boss

Jordan King's early racing career started in 2005 at the age of 11. His rise through the ranks of motorsport began when he started karting on indoor tracks 'just for fun'. Quickly hooked, he moved on to outdoor karting the following year as a cadet.

In 2007 Jordan moved to the respected Minimax Super One National Kart Championship - the key series that the vast majority of top British racers come through - the following year and took a string of podium finishes in 2008.

Moving to KF3 in 2009, Jordan won the Asia-Pacific KF3 Championship, with strong performances also in the British Championship, the Silver Cup at Sarno, and the Spanish KF3 Championship.

In 2009, aged only fifteen, Jordan tested a Formula Two race car.

The 2010 season saw a move up to KF2 class and more top results. Jordan was 11th overall at the CIK-FIA World Karting Championship; second overall at the WSK KF2 Karting Masters Series and won outright at Castelletto, Italy. He was 7th overall at the 21st Trofeo Andrea Margutti; 6th overall at the WSK KF2 Karting International Series and 6th overall at the S1 UK National KF2 Championship

Jordan made his step up into single-seater racing at the end of 2010 with a debut run at the Formula Palmer Audi season final at Silverstone. He took pole position and a maiden podium finish among a fiercely competitive field.

Jordan also raced Formula Renault UK that year with a best result of 6th at Snetterton and again at Pembrey.





Driver profile

The year just ended has been a busy one. In addition to Formula Renault UK, Jordan has raced six times in the FIA Formula Two championship, finished second in the MRF Formula 1600 International Challenge, and won the MRF Formula 1600 Delhi Challenge event.

Jordan is part of the British Racing Drivers' Club "Rising Star" talent-spotting programme for drivers aged under 24, having been scouted trackside by one of the BRDC's "spotters". He is allowed to race wearing the blue roundel of the exclusive invitation-only group, who are in effect junior BRDC members.*

Warwickshire-based Jordan is looking forward to the prospect of tough competition across the five weekends of TRS. Having signed up with M2 Competition, the 17-year-old Princethorpe College student will find himself a team-mate of former karting sparring-partner and Ferrari Driver Academy member Raffaele Marciello. If he can get the better of the well-regarded Italian it will significantly enhance Jordan's reputation and career prospects.

Jordan says he is keen to make the most of the race time offered by TRS. The chance to learn new circuits and gain experience in a strong field of international and New Zealand drivers – and escape the northern winter – appeals immensely.

Jordan races in the 2012 TRS with M2 Competition.

www.jordanking.co.uk

* Jordan is one of two Rising Stars in the 2012 TRS, the other being Josh Hill. Recent TRS graduates who are members of the Rising Stars group are British driver Will Stevens and Australian Scott Pye.





Driver profile

Tanart Sathienthirakul

Country of origin: Thailand

Date of birth: 29 November 1992

Race number: 43

Thai Tanart Sathienthirakul started his racing career in karting in 2002.

Ten year old Tanart was instantly hooked on the speed excitement of motorsport. He won the UBC Junior Kart Championship, and raced also in Malaysia.

The following year he was runner-up in the Thai National Yamaha Kart Championship, then won the Yamaha class outright in 2004 and 2005, adding trips to race in Europe to his busy schedule.

The 2006 year brought a seventh in the Rok International final in Italy, third in 125cc at Macau and runner-up in the Intercon A Thai National Championship.

A year later he was sixth at the Rok International, won the 125cc class at Macau and took the national title in the Intercon championship.

In 2008 racing in Japan brought top results: Junior Rotax Max Challenge winner, 9th in CIK-FIA World Cup for KF2 class in Japan and the Thai KF2 title.

Tanart raced KF2 and Rotax Max in Europe in 2009, his best result sixth in the Belgian Rotax Max championship; while he once more took out the KF2 class in the Thai national championship.

A busy and successful 2010 saw Tanart race KF2, KF1 and Rotax Max, winning the CIK-FIA U-18 championship title in France, finishing runner-up in Japan's Rotax Max Winter Cup and sixth overall at the KF! Kart event at Macau.

In 2011 Tanart raced in Europe and Japan, with best results of fifth overall in KF2 in the WSK Euro Series.





Driver profile

For the 2012 TRS season he will join the M2 Competition team run by ex A1GP Team NZ engineers Mark Pilcher and Jonathan Moury.

www.tanartst.com





Driver profile

Sheban Siddiqi

Country of origin: India

Date of birth: 28 March 1988

Race number: 51

Born in India and now living in the UK Sheban Siddiqi is a 23-year-old who has been racing in the ADAC Formula Masters series in Germany. He is contesting the 2012 Toyota Racing Series with the aim of gaining valuable experience in single-seater racing.





Driver profile

Nathanaël Berthon

Country of origin: France

Date of birth: 1 July 1989 (22)

Race number: 52

Nathanaël Berthon began his international karting career in 2006, with the highlights being a third place finish in the Copa Campeones Trophy ICA class and fifth in the French Championship Elite category. The following year he again finished fifth in the French Championship Elite class. He also finished eighth in the South Garda Winter Cup KF1 and 13th in the World Cup KF1 categories.

In 2008, Nathanaël moved up to single-seaters, taking part in both the Formula Renault 2.0 West European Cup and the Eurocup Formula Renault 2.0 for Boutsen Energy Racing.

In the West European Cup he finished in the points on four occasions, scoring nine points to be classified in 18th place, whilst in the Eurocup his best race result was a 12th place at the Nürburgring meeting.

Nathanaël stayed in both series for the 2009 season, this time racing for the Spanish Epsilon Euskadi team. He won his first Eurocup race at the opening round in Barcelona and followed that up with a further podium at the Hungaroring to finish sixth in the standings.

In the West European Cup, Nathanaël took a victory at Spa-Francorchamps along with six other podium finishes to finish third in championship. He was also crowned French Formula Renault 2.0 Champion, a result that earned him a Formula Renault 3.5 Series test with the Tech 1 team.

In 2010 he drove in the Formula Renault 3.5 Series for the recently-crowned champions Draco Racing and finished seventh. He also raced at the Spa round of the British Formula 3 Championship, finishing 13th.

Returning to the series in 2011, Nathanaël finished the year 13th on points. He also raced in the GP2 Asia Series last year.





Driver profile

For the 2012 TRS season he will join the M2 Competition team run by ex A1GP Team NZ engineers Mark Pilcher and Jonathan Moury.

www.nathanaelberthon.com





Driver profile

Raffaele Marciello

Country of origin: Switzerland

Date of birth: 17 December 1994 (17)

Race number: 53

Raffaele Marciello, an Italian teenager chosen by Ferrari as a potential 'star of the future' and being groomed for a future in Formula 1 by the elite Ferrari Driver Academy (FDA) will compete in the International Toyota Racing Series in New Zealand during January and February 2012.

Raffaele started karting at a very young age, his first result coming at age 11 in 2005 when he won the Swiss Supermini championship outright. The following year he stayed in Supermini karts and won the champions cup and was second in the Swiss championship. A step up to KF3 in 2007 brought him second overall in the European Bridgestone Cup and second in the Swiss KF3 championship.

In 2008 he raced in no less than eight separate Cup or Trophy competitions and series, with best results of first in the Copa Campeones Trophy and third in the Torneo Industrie KF3.

Raffaele's last full year in karts, 2009, was likewise a busy one and netted him fourth in the CIK-FIA European Championship.

Ferrari had talent-spotted him in European karting and he was chosen for the Ferrari academy.

In the 2010 season Raffaele got the third place in Formula Abarth ACI-CSAI with the respected JD Motor Sport team. He took two wins and five podium finishes in his debut single seater season and finished third overall in the new series.

In 2011 Raffaele competed in Formula 3 with the Prema Powerteam, driving a Dallara in the Italian Formula 3 Championship where he again claimed two outright wins and finished third in the championship, second in the rookie standings.





Driver profile

Born in Zurich, 17 year old Raffaele now lives in the Ferrari factory town of Romagna.

For the 2012 TRS season he will join the M2 Competition team run by ex A1GP Team NZ engineers Mark Pilcher and Jonathan Moury.

www.raffaellomarciello.com





Driver profile

Damon Leitch

Country of origin: New Zealand

Date of birth: 23rd December 1992 (19)

Race number: 87

Sponsors: Zero Fees (SIT), Poste Haste, Miles Toyota, PPG Paints, Mobil 1, Nuffield Autos

Damon Leitch is the 'Southern Man' of TRS and eagerly anticipates the annual Teretonga International meeting at his local race track. He's just turned 19 and with one season of TRS experience behind him, Damon is looking to improve on his eighth overall placing in 2011.

Last season began well for Damon with a third placing at the opening round in Invercargill. He also led a race at Hampton Downs so is hoping he can achieve consistent finishes to match his speed in 2012.

Named by parents Barry and Marguerite after Damon Hill, the 1996 F1 World Champion who he was delighted to meet during the 2011 season – Damon has created a sponsorship portfolio that reflects the family's Southern heritage.

Damon began his racing career in karts at 7-years of age and progressed into an elderly Van Diemen in local events while still only 13 years of age. His performances gave Damon's supporters the confidence to purchase a later 1992 Van Diemen.

A home circuit debut at Teretonga Park in March 2007 placed Damon in a round of the New Zealand Formula Ford Championship. This was only Damon's third appearance at a motor race meeting but he raced to a class win in two of the three races.

Buoyed by Damon's early success the decision was made to contest the 2007/2008 MTA Formula Ford Championship, the national championship for the class. Although Damon's first time on many of the circuits, Damon had an impressive debut. In his Class 2 car (built in 1992) he finished tenth overall in the championship, the first Class 2 car in the series.

During the season he recorded a best finish of fifth overall, unprecedented in an older car.





Driver profile

In the 2008/2009 championship Damon stepped into a Class 1 car and he secured a fifth place overall for the season. The 2009/2010 championship Damon again raced his class 1 car and led the series until he had a coming together with one of his rivals, he finished the season in fourth place.

After three years in Formula Ford, Damon entered TRS with sponsorship from Zero Fees, the Southern Institute of Technology's tertiary funding scheme. The car is presented in the now familiar bright orange colours that have carried the innovative Zero Fees message to circuits throughout New Zealand.

Damon has had a meteoric rise in his short motorsport career. Damon was named as a finalist for the Steel Trophy, Motorsport New Zealand's Award to the New Zealand driver under 21 years of age who exhibits dedication, commitment and a level of professionalism and sportsmanship as they progress to the upper echelons of the sport.

Damon has made an impression on the motor racing fraternity, with no less than one of New Zealand's best, Kenny Smith, commending Damon's performance. Damon proudly represents his home town of Invercargill, driving success from the south.

He's being run by Victory Motorsport out of Nelson.

www.damonleitch.com





Driver profile

Michela Cerruti

Country of origin: Italy

Date of birth: 18 February 1987 (24)

Race number: 88

Rome-born Michela Cerruti's love affair with speed and adrenalin began at age 6 when she discovered the excitement of ski-ing. She pursued the sport for the following ten years, competing at regional and national level.

Her motor racing career began after her father Aldo 'Baronio' Cerruti, also a racing driver, decided to enrol her in a safe driving course in 2006 with Mario Ferraris, son of car-preparer Romeo Ferraris.

Impressed by Michela's speed and instinctive car control, Ferraris convinced Cerruti's father to let her race.

She debuted in the Italian Touring Endurance Championship (CITE) in 2008, racing an Alfa Romeo 147 in a shared drive with Mario Ferraris, finishing third in the class standings. She remained in CITE in 2009, racing an Abarth 500.

For 2010 Michela stepped up to the Superstars Series, racing a Mercedes C63 for the Romeo Ferraris team. She also competed in the Italian GT Championship Italian GT Championship for the team in a Ferrari F430.

Remaining in the Superstars Series for a second season in 2011, Michela impressed at the opening weekend of the season at Monza, topping the two free practice sessions. She then went on to finish the first race in second position, before winning the second race and taking the points lead. The series went to the final round, where she was a close second for the Italian points race.

Michela Races in the 2012 TRS with Victory Motor Racing.

www.michelacerruti.com

