



Loake is looking for title with JHR

LOAKE AIMS FOR CHAMPIONSHIP WITH BRITISH F4 RETURN

British Formula 4 race-winner Joseph Loake is aiming for the title this year after confirming he'll remain with JHR Developments in the championship for 2022.

The 16-year-old rejoins the reigning drivers' and team's champion to build on his maiden season wherein he won three

races, including a wet-weather triumph on debut at Thruxton, on his way to sixth in the standings.

Fiesta Junior champion Loake also got experience of British F4's new Tatuus T-421 in the F4 UAE series over the winter. He now joins at JHR for British F4 his also recently announced team-mates

Noah Lisle plus Georgi Dimitrov, who also took three wins during his 2021 British F4 debut, in his case in a part campaign with Richardson and Arden.

Loake said: "I'll be going for the championship – that's the main goal. With my experience in the series last year and racing in F4 UAE in Dubai, I have been

heavily involved with helping the team to develop the new car. Everyone in the team is working in unison and we have done a really good job while making some breakthroughs which we hope will pay off.

"The new car is a lot different, but it really suits the way that I like to drive, so hopefully it will be a good year."

PALMER HAILS GB4'S FIRST RACE MEETING

The MSV chief executive salutes "really good" debut weekend at Snetterton for the new low-cost junior single-seater championship and predicts the initial 12-car grid will grow to up to 18 entries this season

Photos: Steve Jones, RWillsmore Photography, Jakob Ebrey



Twelve raced in GB4's Norfolk debut meeting

By Graham Keillor

MotorSport Vision boss Jonathan Palmer has declared the GB4 championship's debut at Snetterton last weekend a success and expects its grid numbers to grow during this season.

Twelve cars competed in the first meeting of MSV's low-cost Formula 4-level single-seater contest.

The three race wins were shared by three different drivers and there were only three retirements during the meeting.

Palmer said: "Having 12 cars in our first-ever race was a really good start in what is a completely brand-new championship. I don't think there is anybody here who would have been on a British F4 grid. It is, as we always intended, a championship that's aiming for those

who can't get near a British Formula 4 grid but want to develop their careers in single-seater racing.

"I have no doubt from the mood around that the grid's going to grow and I'm sure we'll have 15-plus, 18 cars towards the end of the year."

Kevin Mills, boss of Kevin Mills Racing which left Norfolk leading the teams' standings, shared Palmer's enthusiasm.

"It's been excellent, unbelievable promotion, the media's been amazing, the cars have ran really well, the racing has been what you'd expect," Mills told Motorsport News.

The turnout was bolstered by late additions, including Hillspeed inking one-off deals for Megan Gilkes and Max Marzorati who scored a 1-2 in Snetterton's third race.

THE 116 TROPHY GETS BUMPER 40-CAR ENTRY

The 116 Trophy is set for a bumper 40-car grid this Sunday as the low-cost BMW 116i endurance series kicks off its latest season with a 90-minute Croft enduro.

The eight-meeting 2022 series runs mainly at 750 Motor Club meetings, and its grids last year peaked at around 30.

116 Trophy promoter Mark Bate told Motorsport News: "The fact that the drivers are quite vocal about how they're looking forward to the racing and how much fun they have when they're there [explains the interest], and when people hear that it sways them. It becomes contagious.

"It's definitely not us selling it,

it's the drivers themselves."

Touring car stars Steve Soper and Tim Harvey are also set to compete in 116 Trophy this year at some point, having both tested the car.

"[Harvey] absolutely loved the car," Bate added, "he just got the fact that it was cheap and it was fun, and he got out of it really really interested and dead eager to get racing and get his son into racing, they're talking about coming through the Trophy.

"Because of the amount of track time and it's rear-wheel drive, if you cut your teeth in a Trophy car it sets you in good stead."



BTCC stars Soper and Harvey are set to join 2022's growing 116 grid



Organisations are teaming up to offer funded kart season

TEAM HARD AND X-KART OFFER £25K SCHOLARSHIP

A fully funded season in 2023's Junior Kart championship is up for grabs to a promising youngster thanks to a scholarship from TeamKarting and chassis builder X-Kart alongside Team Hard.

Those aged 12-15 can enter the talent-finding competition wherein the winner gets a prize worth £25,000 of the season including tyres, fuel and driver support.

Entrants set the fastest lap they can at TeamKarting indoor circuit in Rochdale and the fastest 50% will be invited to stage two at an outdoor kart track this autumn. The top three from that will receive prizes, with the winner getting the funded season.

There is a £99 registration fee plus a £50 charge for each stage one session. Entrants can set their times any time before August 30. For more information visit: team-hard.com/hard-x-kart-scholarship-2023/.

TeamKarting and X-Kart owner Matty Street, who also partners with all-disabled British GT team Team Brit, said: "[Team Hard] has a great reputation in British motorsport and will be able to offer the highest quality advice, guidance and support through the scholarship on offer."

Team Hard business development manager Claire Murdoch added: "We are relatively new to the karting world so it's great to be able to lean on Matty and his team."

COMBE LAUNCHES 2022 WITH TRACK DAY

Castle Combe Racing Club 10 days ago held the Wiltshire track's first ever pre-season media and track day in its 72-year history for competitors in the club's races and championships.

The day, as well as being an opportunity to preview the club's four racing contests for 2022, provided track time in great weather for club members before Combe's racing season starts as traditional with Howard's Day on Easter Monday, April 18.

Cars representing Combe's Saloon, GT, Formula Ford and Hot Hatch contests were present, along with some Mighty Minis, which joins CCRC's portfolio of races officially for the first time this year.

Reigning Castle Combe GT champion Tony Bennett in the evening's awards party received the club's driver of the year trophy while commentator and presenter Chris Dawes won the spirit of Castle Combe award.

Formula Ford team owner Wayne Poole said: "Don't change anything for next year, leave the format of the day exactly the same, including this great weather."



GT champion Bennett got award