



South African drivers such as Simola record holder Andre Bezuidenhout could compete in Portuguese event

FIA Portuguese hillclimb to attract large British entry

HISTORIC HILLCLIMB

Great Britain is to have a record representation in the prestigious FIA Hill Climb Masters event at Rampa da Falperra in Portugal, which is set to attract competitors from more than 20 nations over the weekend of 10-11 October.

Run in alternate years, the fourth edition will use part of the European Championship hill.

“Most of the top 10 Motorsport UK British championship contenders are planning to enter the end-of-season shootout,” said five-time national champion David Grace, vice-president of the FIA Hill Climb Commission.

“It’s a spectacular course, very

fast but flowing, on the bottom half of the FIA European Championship Hill, and the locals are behind it. In recent years Italians Christian Merli [Osella-Zytek FA30] and Simone Faggioli [Norma-Zytek M20] have made it their own. The challenge for the Brits is to see how close they can get to the mountain kings.”

This year, a country beyond Europe will be represented for the first time. Winners in South Africa’s Simola Hillclimb, to be run for the 11th time on a closed road above the town of Knysna on its Western Cape from 7-10 May, will be invited to the FIA event through Motorsport SA.

MARCUS PYE

New Classic Era Challenge for AMOC categories

CMMC

A new racing series has been launched by the Classic and Modern Motorsport Club and will incorporate several Aston Martin Owners Club categories.

The Classic Era Challenge will include the CMMC’s Pre ’64 series, as well as the Jack Fairman Trophy and Innes Ireland Cup.

The Jaguar Enthusiasts’ Club’s XK Challenge and Hawthorn Trophy will also contest the Classic Era Challenge races, which will be held at up to 10 meetings throughout the year.

The majority will be 30-minute races for one driver, with the

Cadwell Park meeting on 26 July scheduled to be a 45-minute race for two drivers.

AMOC made the decision to only host one meeting this year – Silverstone on 3 October – after struggles over the winter.

“It’s come about mainly because of the AMOC,” said CMMC founder Richard Culverhouse. “Their series are coming over, the JEC are over the moon and have been really supportive, and the first event at Castle Combe [13 April] has great support. We could be getting nearly oversubscribed on some tracks.”

STEFAN MACKLEY



WALKER



LAWRENCE

Maydon: “Pro drivers are a problem”

by Maydon, said: “It’s more likely to be the regulars because it’s their game. My view is that you are there as a guest and you need to be mindful of that.

“There were a number of times in that race where I’d have kept my nose in [in a contemporary event], but I backed out. It isn’t going to change our careers. It was a little bit boisterous at times, but I think it’s more the regulars – they want to get stuck in and get a result. Pros that own their own cars are probably a bit more feisty.

“Now and again, pros have gone a little too far, but nothing more than anyone else.”

Turner also pointed out that established pros also have to make sure they don’t jeopardise their careers with injury. “We’re all aware of the significance of not being race fit on Monday morning,” added the 45-year-old.

KEVIN TURNER AND PAUL LAWRENCE