

RENAULT BRIDGESTONE

THE GP2 SERIES™ INSIDER

ISSUE 30 SILVERSTONE



MAN OF THE MOMENT

Maldonado takes win number two in Valencia

 <p>TUNG HERE'S HO-PIN</p>	 <p>ERICSSON VALENCIA WIN</p>	 <p>TURVEY'S SILVERSTONE PREVIEW</p>	<p>SUBSCRIBE FOR FREE</p>	<p>DOWNLOAD PDF</p>
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RUMBLESTRIP

ALL THE NEWS FROM AROUND THE PADDOCK



PIRELLI CONFIRMED

One member of the GP2 family will be moving on at the end of the year and a new one will arrive. Pirelli has agreed to become the official tyre supplier for 2011-2013, while Bridgestone bids farewell, having provided GP2 with tyres since the inaugural season in 2005.

"I'm delighted that we have signed Pirelli as GP2 tyre supplier

for the coming seasons," said GP2 Series organiser Bruno Michel. "Following their deal in F1, it was natural for Pirelli to join GP2 as well. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Bridgestone for six extremely successful years. Our partnership has made the series a thriving and respected category, and we are grateful for their hard work and dedication."

FROM THE BLOG



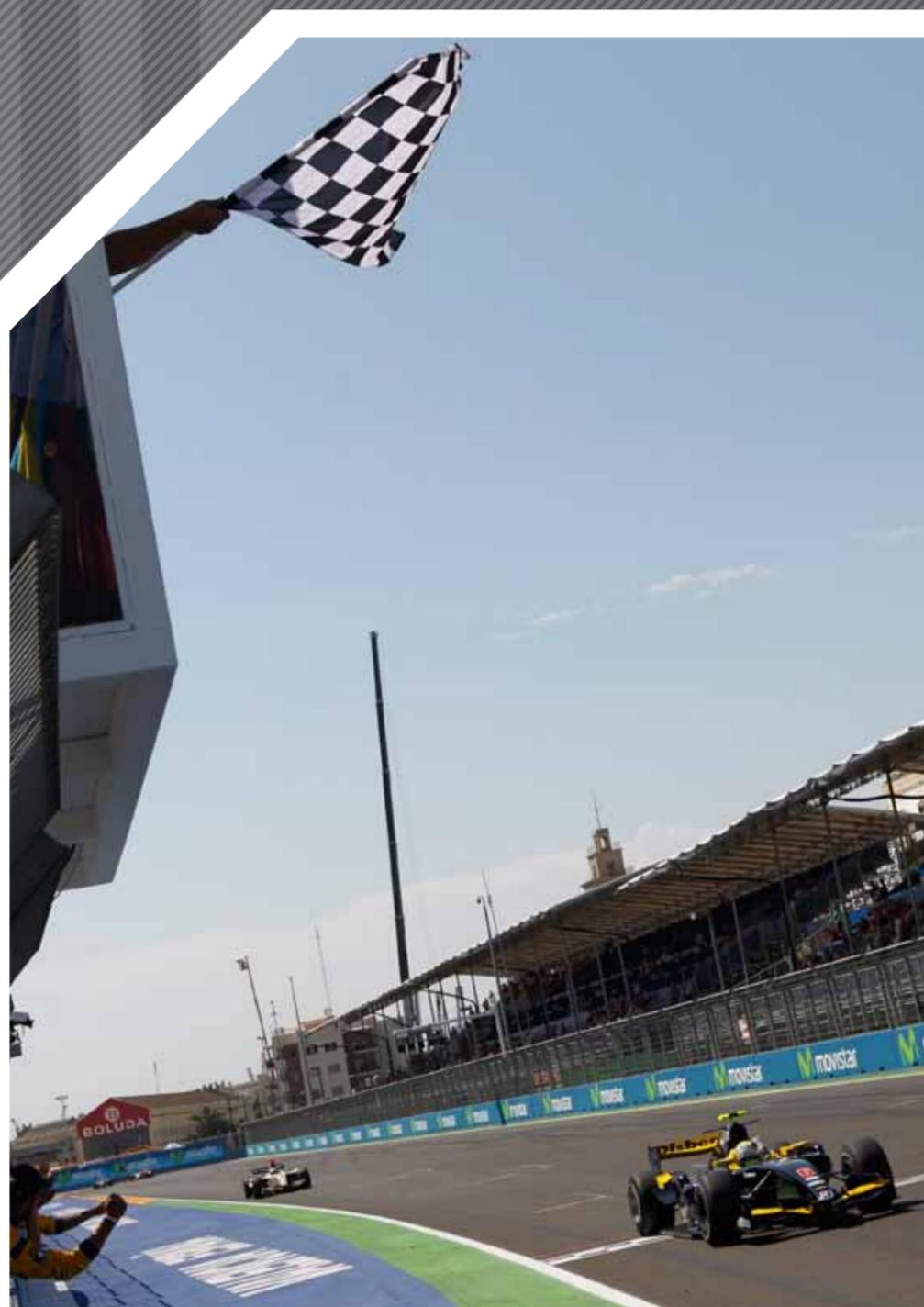
Didier [Perrin] likes to find new and entertaining ways to annoy us all on a race weekend. Well, if you're good at something you might as well stick to it.

You'd think that a major race series' technical director would be a fairly mature person, but he's like an adult who acts like a kid without actually being an

adult first. He tries, but he can't fight his natural attraction to nonsense. Which is why, when we saw a guy selling all manner of plastic nonsense during dinner we all sighed instinctively.

The product Didier gravitated to was the megaphone. He started yelling through it immediately, scaring the life out of the other customers in the restaurant and embarrassing everyone at the table. I'm not sure which response he was more pleased with...

[CLICK HERE FOR THE GP2 BLOG](#)



VALENCIA REPORT

Pastor Maldonado continued his recent run of form with a strong performance around the streets of Valencia. The Rapax driver and current points leader claimed a dominant feature race win on Saturday ahead of ART pairing Jules Bianchi and Sam Bird.

Sunday's race was won by Super Nova rookie Marcus Ericsson, who 24 hours earlier had earned the team's first points of the year by finishing seventh. Ericsson withstood huge late-race pressure from Giedo Van der Garde to add his name to the

2010 winners' list, which now stands at seven different driver from eight races. Michael Herck completed the Sunday podium, the DPR driver seeing off a late challenge from Maldonado to secure third.

But it was a tough weekend for Barwa Addax's Sergio Perez, who left Spain without any points after being one of several drivers to fall victim to on-track incidents.

KRAL FINE AFTER AIRBORNE CRASH

Josef Kral is making a strong recovery from his enormous accident in the Valencia sprint race. The Super Nova driver hit the back of Rodolfo Gonzalez's Arden and was launched skyward in a crash almost identical to that suffered by

Mark Webber in the Grand Prix later that same day. Kral was taken to a local hospital complaining of back and arm pain, but after being kept overnight for observation, doctors have declared him clear of any serious injury.



PÉREZ'S FRIENDS IN HIGH PLACES

Word of Sergio Pérez's achievements is reaching high places. The Barwa Addax driver was invited to meet Mexican president Felipe Calderon while on a visit home recently. Current GP3 Series leader Esteban Gutierrez was also on hand.

"The president is quite involved with what I am doing, so it was cool to meet him," Pérez said.



GOOD MONTH

PASTOR MALDONADO

Another strong weekend for the Venezuelan, and another step towards his dream of the GP2 title. There's still time for his rivals to stop him, but they'd better not wait.

MARCUS ERICSSON

The rookie was over the moon after giving Super Nova its first win of the season, and rightly so after a great drive under pressure. The Swede is not short on talent, and that is exactly the sort of result that he can build upon.

GIEDO VAN DER GARDE

Van der Garde might not have won a race yet, but few can hold a candle to him in terms of consistency – which is why he's currently third in the championship. What are the odds on this year's title being won by stealth?

OCEAN/TRIDENT

Sometimes luck is just not on your side, and that was the case for both Trident and Ocean in Valencia. But Ocean has already proven itself capable of winning races this year and Trident is improving fast, so perhaps Silverstone will offer a change in fortune.

SERGIO PÉREZ

Pérez has lost a few potentially good results to bad luck this year, but Valencia was his toughest weekend so far. The upside was that he was the fastest driver all weekend, so as soon as his fortunes change, expect the points to roll in.

BAD MONTH



Q&A

MARCUS ERICSSON SUPER NOVA

Q: The Valencia sprint race win must be a great confidence boost for yourself and the team?

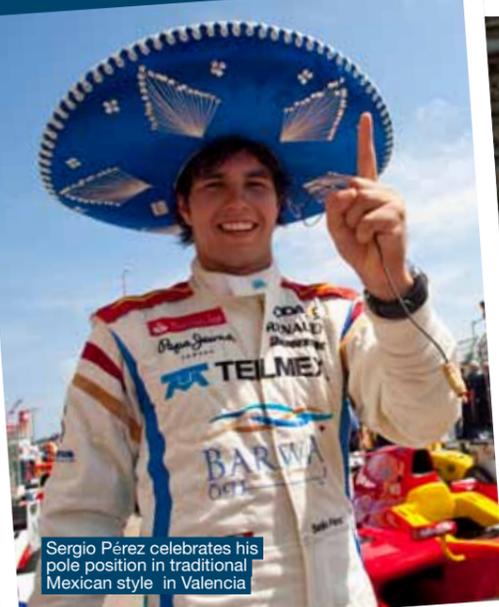
ME: It has been a massive boost for me and for the team. From the first race until now they have been good enough to be at the front, but through a mix of me not driving well enough, technical problems, and maybe a bit of bad luck, we have not really got where we should be. So this is a great result.

Q: Is this something you can build on?

ME: For sure. I think the first couple of weekends were tough, because of the pitstops and a whole lot of new things, like driving these big cars. I now feel



THE GALLERY



Sergio Pérez celebrates his pole position in traditional Mexican style in Valencia



Jules Bianchi and Frédéric Vasseur find some shade



A Trident Racing mechanic works on Johnny Cecotto's car



ART Grand Prix driver Sam Bird has his wings clipped in practice



F1 star Lucas Di Grassi returns to his GP2 roots



2010's pre-Valencia GP2 race winners say 'cheese', although Arden's Charles Pic arrived too late as he was stuck in traffic!

VALENCIA STATS

8.296s
PASTOR MALDONADO'S
FEATURE RACE VICTORY MARGIN

181.449km/h
AVERAGE SPEED OF PEREZ'S
FASTEST
LAP IN THE VALENCIA
SPRINT RACE

1m45.337s
SERGIO PÉREZ'S POLE TIME IN VALENCIA



AWAY FROM THE TRACK

HO-PING TUNG DAMS



At the moment I travel quite a lot – I'm going backwards and forwards to China a lot for sponsor stuff and events, so that obviously takes quite a bit of time. I also go to DAMS now and then, and visit Renault, doing stuff for them, since I'm the reserve driver for their F1 team. That keeps me quite busy. And in

between all of this I have to keep up with my training! So, for example, today I'm flying to Shanghai, spending a few days there and a few in Beijing, and then back just before the weekend to prepare for Silverstone. I also did some filming earlier this week at the Renault F1 factory in Enstone.

Q&A

ANDREA BERGAMINI RAPAX

Q: The team was renamed Rapax this year, but the changes seem to go much deeper than the name?

AB: It's very different. The biggest change was that we hired two new engineers, Marco Galuppi and Marco Gadola. They are working with our technical director Roberto Costa, and

we have created a very strong technical structure.

Q: You must be delighted with the performance so far?

AB: This new way of working has given good results on the track, but we also have two very good drivers. Pastor Maldonado is one of the fastest drivers in GP2, and we are also very happy with Luiz Razia – he is quick and focused.

Q: Do you think you have surprised the other teams?

AB: I guess the biggest surprise is Pastor's consistency. He had a tough season last year, and this year he is very fast, very consistent, and confident in himself. The key is the drivers.

CLICK HERE FOR HO-PIN'S PROFILE

CLICK HERE FOR ANDREA'S PROFILE



ART GRAND PRIX HAS FOUR SILVERSTONE WINS; THE ONLY OTHER TEAM TO HAVE WON MORE THAN ONCE IS ISPORT

RACE PREVIEW

GREAT BRITAIN SILVERSTONE (10-11 JULY)

TRACK LENGTH
5.901KM

2009 FEATURE RACE WINNER
ALBERTO VALERIO (PIQUET GP)

2009 SPRINT RACE WINNER
PASTOR MALDONADO (ART GRAND PRIX)

2009 track temp
26°

2009 race weather
17°

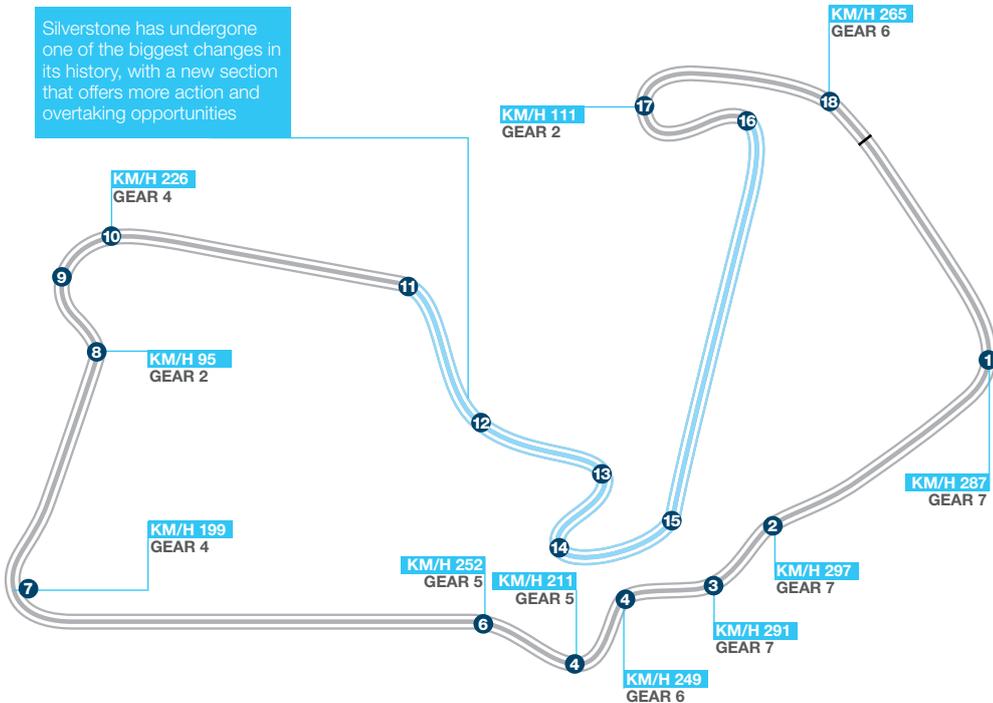
Silverstone has undergone one of the biggest changes in its history, with a new section that offers more action and overtaking opportunities

TYRE CHOICE: SILVERSTONE

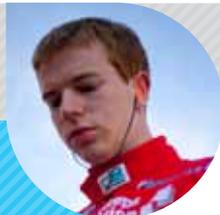


Hirohide Hamashima,
director of
Bridgestone
Motorsport Tyre
Development

"Silverstone has always been tough on the tyres, but with the new and longer circuit it could be even harder. One of the reasons is that the revised turn at Abbey is predicted to generate more lateral force, exerting a greater load. In addition, the new Wellington Straight will increase average speed; it also means the drivers will be braking hard into Brooklands. The medium compound GP2 tyre has been allocated for Silverstone because we believe it will provide the right challenge for the drivers."



DRIVER'S EYE VIEW



OLIVER TURVEY ISPORT INTERNATIONAL

Silverstone is a great track and I have had many great races there – I've won there in both Formula 3 and Formula BMW. It's a really fast, flowing track, and with Copse and Becketts you've got one of the best first sector combinations of any track out there.

Abbey, the first corner on to the new section, used to

be a chicane but it's now very quick. There's also a tight little complex that looks quite interesting in terms of offering chances to overtake or try different lines. I think it should add a different aspect to the track, and I'm looking forward to it.

The key to a quick lap at Silverstone is really commitment, particularly in

the fast corners. Becketts especially is a place where you've got to get your line exactly right.

Having prior experience of that area is very useful. It has four sections, and if you're slightly out in one section it affects you all the way through, so you've got to be really precise and committed.

STATS

205.836km/h
AVERAGE SPEED OF

NICO
HÜLKENBERG'S
FASTEST LAP
IN 2009

1.238s

ALBERTO VALERIO'S
WINNING MARGIN
IN THE 2009
FEATURE RACE

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TURVEY'S PROFILE



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