

The Texaco Havoline Ginetta Championship: Thruxton Preview



The Texaco Havoline Ginetta Championship comes to Thruxton this weekend for the first of two visits to the speedy circuit this season.

This season has been one of the best Ginetta have had. Grid sizes have been high and driver talent more closely matched than ever before.

With seven out of nine wins this season, Matt Nicoll-Jones currently leads the Championship by 52 points from Joe Osborne who has one race win under his belt.

Despite former-champion Nicoll-Jones' dominance at the top of the table, he has had to fight hard for every point scored. The one-make Championship means all Ginetta G20 cars you see today are fundamentally identical. This key ingredient is the recipe for close, thrilling racing where drivers have to shine mentally and physically to come out on top.

At the heart of their racing machine is a Ford 1.8-litre engine delivering 150 bhp and will reach speeds of 115mph here on the Brooklands straight, and averaging 97 mph around the whole 2.356 mile circuit.

The Championship exists as a stepping-stone for budding GT drivers of the future, and for those who who like to race for fun based on a sensible budget; the cars are just £12,650 + VAT and a season costs between ten and twenty thousand pounds.

Did you know that Ginetta also run a championship for 14 to 16 year old racers? Their cars are a coupe version of the G20 and have a 1400cc engine. Plus a Ginetta rally car has been out and about for the first time in Ginetta's 49-year history.

To celebrate the company's 50th anniversary, a new car will be launched - and with it, a new Championship. The G50 car will be a step up the racing ladder from the G20 and if you visit a British GT / F3 event next year, you'll be seeing them as an addition to the day's entertainment!

Visitors to Thruxton this weekend are treated with an extra Ginetta race! The opening weekend at Oulton Park in April was disrupted by rain, and so just one Texaco Havoline Ginetta Championship race ran and had to be carried over.

Therefore, three Championship races will run with one on Saturday and two on Sunday.

Suddenly Nicoll-Jones's 52-point advantage doesn't seem so big, with nine races remaining at the time of writing - and 35 points up for grabs for a race win down to 30 for a second and 26 for the third step of the podium.

The 2005 Champion dominated both races at Silverstone two weeks ago, but a good, clean fight for the remaining positions saw four different drivers on the podium across the two races - including a 2nd for Christian Dick. This was his best result this season, but his second podium following a third at Brands Hatch in April.

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Nicoll-Jones described to GinettaCars.com what to expect: "It's a good circuit! I've been there loads of times. There'll be slipstreaming, good close racing and I don't think anyone will be able to break away. There'll be a good battle all the way to the end - there usually is!"

"It all depends where you put yourself on the way out of Church. A lot of people get it wrong and you can make about four car lengths down to the last Chicane so you can overtake four cars! You get a massive tow down Brookland Straight!"



Daniel Laddiman has had a bad run of results lately after an unfortunate 6th place at Snetterton, then off the pace at Brands and having to start at the back of the grid with a 10-second start delay at Silverstone because of a weight infringement.



A strong charge through the field gave him two impressive top-ten finishes so he should be right back on form this weekend.



Andy Smith was also on the pace and narrowly missed out on a podium last time out. Threatening Christian Dick for second place, he ran wide to hand Joe Osborne the final podium place.

Thruxton circuit is a favourite amongst racers due to the speeds achieved and overtaking opportunities created by the slipstreams produced.



Make sure you don't slip away and miss the action!



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