

Ginetta Brands



12-13th July - Rounds 13 & 14 - Preview:

The Texaco Havoline Ginetta Championship and G50 Championship



Brands Hatch has a special place in Ginetta's 50-year history, the Kent circuit being at the heart of Ginetta racing since the 1960s.

Evolving up from the popular small but mighty G4, are the slightly bigger G20s and the mighty G50 cars here today.



To commemorate this fiftieth year of the company, Ginetta launched the G50 car not only for the single-make Championship, but also venturing into new territory for Ginetta – the British GT Championship.

Nigel Moore's shined bright in the G50 Championship, winning all but two races in the twelve ran so far and only at 16 years old! The more experienced, occasional Championship runner Rob Austin has been the only other man to defeat him despite others best efforts.

Austin's a regular runner in British GT, and Moore's impressed bosses so much that he too has stepped up a level and has proved already he'll be a star of the future, winning in GT4.



The rest of the G50 Championship racing's been a close-fought battle for remaining podium honours with nine others stepping up for a trophy and champagne.



Moore's previous karting rival Frank Wrathall currently has the second, 43 points ahead of third placed man Christian Dick. The two have tangled on more than once occasion whilst fighting at the front but both have to have strong results if they're to hold on to their places.



Toby Newton's only 8 points adrift of Dick, take two more points away and you'll find Tom Sharp level with Tom Dunstan. The latter had his first podium in the last race on his 18th birthday and Newton's had two third's at Snetterton so both could be up there this weekend.

Sharp's been in the thick of it too, but sometimes a little too much; contact has often put him down the order – or even out of the race, so be sure he's hungry for his first podium visit!



Swede Hampus Rydman tastes the G50 for the first time, coming across from G20 racing in the Swedish Ginetta G20 Championship. He takes up the dark blue Colards Motorsport car for the weekend.



Hepworth International team boss Steve Hepworth also has his first G50 race driving the team-owned car, which has been waiting to be driven since Oulton Park.



Brands Hatch will mark the return of Fiona James since her Ginetta Championship race at Oulton Park, yet her In2Racing car has had outings in Britcar events.

The lesser-powered Ginetta G20-populated Texaco Havoline Ginetta Championship currently has Spencer McCarthy at the head of the table from Ginetta Junior graduate Kieran Vernon.

The two have raced against each other at most rounds, but problems at Snetterton were a real blow for Vernon. Not only did McCarthy begin to pull away in the points stakes, but Julian Barratt has closed up to within 51 points of McCarthy with eight races still to run.

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The margin would have been less if it wasn't for being spun around at the last corner last time out at Thruxton. Barratt was certainly on for a podium, but three-into-one didn't go and ended up ninth.

However, new blood has entered the fold in 2008 to stir things up at the front. Mark Wania rejoined at Thruxton and took a win, which also means fewer points for the Championship challengers.



Wania has won at Brands Hatch before – during last year's Ginetta G20 Winter Series – so he could well mixing it all up at the front. The McCathry / Vernon / Barratt trio's Championship challenge may well be made even harder in this latter half of the season...



Most of the frontrunners are familiar with this circuit's wonderful GP layout, but Vernon's only raced on the Indy configuration so far, but has proven a winner five times out of his eight attempts.



Andy Smith's also been up there this season, finishing just off the podium on many an occasion. He and Spencer's brother Russell traded places at Thruxton, Russell becoming accustomed to the car in his debut season.

With such a large field racing over the 2.3 mile track, there'll be plenty to see further down the pack as well as at the front.



- In addition to supporting the two Championships at Brands Hatch this weekend, Ginetta also have support crews out at Snetterton for the latest Ginetta Junior races supporting the British Touring Cars and at Goodwood Festival of Speed running a Ginetta G50 road car

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For further information about LNT Automotive please contact Jay Ashton, Media Manager:
Jay.Ashton@TeamLNT.com

LNTautomotive
T: 08452 10 50 50 M: 07919 186291 W: www.Ginettacars.com
Helios 47, Isabella Road, Garforth, Leeds LS25 2DY