



BATHURST 12 HOUR

MARANELLO GOES ALL OUT

JOHN BANNON

MARANELLO MOTORSPORT will attack next year's Bathurst 12 Hour with an all-star driver line-up in a 2011-spec GT3 class Ferrari 458 Italia.

Sportscar ace Allan Simonsen will head the team which includes his Le Mans Series teammate Dominik Farnbacher, Australian touring car legend John Bowe and car owner Peter Edwards.

Simonsen is confident the team can take outright honours in the endurance.

"[It's] clearly a winning combination," Simonsen said. "They (Maranello Motorsport) wouldn't invest this much in it if they weren't trying to win it. Dominik and I drive Ferraris two or three times a week and work very closely with the factory in Italy."

"John Bowe has been racing in GTs and with Ferraris for years and has won so many races here in Australia. He's won at Bathurst, he's a very, very good

driver and Peter is the car owner and the amateur in the team and he's come on tremendously."

Simonsen added the team had carefully considered new rules regarding professional and amateur drivers. Teams are allowed three seeded drivers and one amateur next year.

"In the last race I found that the driver combinations were a bit of a joke," Simonsen said. "The car I drove then clearly had only one professional driver. This year we've studied the rules of what's what and optimised it and you need to do that if you want to try and win this race."

Simonsen said Edwards had travelled to Italy to sort out the final details before the 458 the team will use in the 12

Hour, as well as other cars, are shipped to Australia.

"They've ordered a few [cars] and Peter [Edwards is over there now]," the Dane added. "Mark (Coffey, Maranello Motorsport managing director) is also going over there very shortly. They will get their cars before the season end and have the chance to shake them down at (Ferrari test track) Fiorano and bring them back and have them ready in time for Bathurst."

Simonsen is keen to make up for his lacklustre performance in this year's Bathurst 12 Hour when he finished sixth, 16 laps back, alongside Hector Lester and Luke Searle in a Ferrari 430 GT3.

"We competed in a Ferrari that was an older model than the current Audis," Simonsen said. "So this year there was

a big push for the team to try and put a team together and a car together that could challenge to win the race outright and run for the fastest times. So, I'm really looking forward to it."

Simonsen said he was expecting stiff competition from other strong works European entries next year.

"I've heard of a couple of Lamborghinis, Mercedes and Audis are

coming back," he said. "It should be an even stronger race than last year. I think we'll be in with a really good chance of beating those Audis."

Auto Action revealed in June that Maranello Motorsport had ordered three Ferrari 458 Italias for next year's Australian GT Championship. It is unclear if the second and third cars will run at the 12 Hour.

FUJITSU SERIES

HARRISON TARGETS DEVELOPMENT DRIVE

CAMS RISING Star Trent Harrison is eyeing a drive in the 2012 Fujitsu Series thanks to his link with Tony D'Alberto Racing.

Harrison receives support from the D'Albertos and their sponsor, GB Galvanizing, for his Australian Formula Ford Championship campaign.

"I've got a link with D'Albertos and who knows, I might be in one of their cars in the development series."

Harrison told AA. "It's the perfect thing for me to do, to be in one of their cars, given they are looking after me."

The 22-year-old is hoping a move to the development series would open doors up for his career.

"They (D'Albertos) probably want to bring someone through to have them as a potential second main series driver or a co-driver," he said. "If it's possible I'd like to be in one of their cars." **JB**

PSSST

AA LOCAL BRIEFS

FOSTER'S FINAL FLING

Formula Ford series contender Nick Foster won't return to the series next year as he weighs up his 2012 options. "We're going to move on," Foster said. "Carrera Cup is really strong this year and the Fujitsu Series is just as strong, and there's always the option of going overseas depending on the budget."

SERA'S MONSTER

Karting star David Sera is likely to return to the Aussie Racing Car Super Series in a Monster-backed Holden Commodore at the next round after missing Phillip Island last weekend.

NEW FORMULA FORD NOT FOR OZ

The 2012-spec Formula Ford car unveiled at the Frankfurt Motor Show last week won't run in Australia next year. "Given the success of Formula Ford in this country, there is no need for change in the foreseeable future," Australian category manager Margaret Hardy said.

CARRERA'S GP RETURN

Carrera Cup will return to the Australian Grand Prix next year. The Melbourne event was the scene of the category's re-launch in March.

BULLAS BACK

Former TCM champion Gavin Bullas will make his Fujitsu Series debut at Bathurst with Eggleston Motorsport.

FORMULA FORD

WATERS FLOATS OPTIONS

JOHN BANNON

YOUNG GUN Cameron Waters will join the Fujitsu Series in 2012 in the wake of his recent Australian Formula Ford Championship success.

Waters believes his performances for Sonic Motor Racing Services in the single-seater category this year, along with his appearance on the Shannons Supercar Showdown television show,

has brought favourable attention from the V8 paddock.

"It should help me next year with my options," Waters said. "If I win the Formula Ford championship I can't do it again, so at this stage I'll be staying in Australia to do the development series."

The Mildura youngster said the development series represented a natural progression if he wanted to make it into the main game.

"At this stage I want to be a V8 Supercar driver and I think that's just the place to be if you want to make it in Australia," Waters said.

"If you do well in the Fujitsu Series, you can then get an endurance drive and hopefully the next year it will open up a few more doors."

Waters told AA that he was in discussions with several Fujitsu teams, and negotiations were continuing.



Waters will stay in Oz and explore his 2012 options

Le Brocq will bundle the FF Festival with the final British series rounds



FORMULA FORD

EUROPE BOUND

AUSTRALIAN FORMULA Ford Championship race winner Jack Le Brocq will race in the Formula Ford Festival at Brands Hatch next month with Jamun Racing Services.

The Minda Motorsport CAMS Rising Star will race in the October 15-16 event, and probably contest the last three rounds of the British Formula Ford Championship.

"The festival is definitely confirmed and we're still 90 per cent sure on Silverstone at the moment," LeBrocq said. "It will be a good chance to learn how it all works over there."

The 19-year-old plans to fulfil his childhood dream of racing full-time in Europe next year.

"Europe is definitely the option at the moment [for 2012] and we'll either look to Formula Renault or Formula Ford or something like that," he said. **JB**

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