

Press Release:

Alex Lloyd short-listed for A1GP Great Britain team

In London, on 14th April, A1 Team Great Britain Chairman, John Surtees, announced details of the team that will run for Great Britain in the inaugural A1 Grand Prix Championship, and the drivers who will take part in a shoot out for the prestigious drive in the first "World Cup of Motorsport", which will take place from September 2005 in various countries throughout the "winter" months.

The Arden International Motorsport team, owned by Christian Horner, and based in Banbury, Oxon, will run the Lola chassis car in the A1 Grand Prix championship. Christian Horner, of course, also runs the Red Bull Racing F1 team.

They will also carry out driver evaluation, in conjunction with John Surtees, at Brands Hatch on the 23rd and 24th May when four of Great Britain's top international drivers, Alex Lloyd, Adam Carroll, Ralph Firman and Robbie Kerr, will compete for the chance to represent their country against nations from the four corners of the world.



Alex (foreground) with Robbie Kerr, Ralph Firman and the Chinese A1GP car

John Surtees was also pleased to announce the team will run with traditional British Racing Green colours, as used by the first successful British Grand Prix team, Vanwall, in winning the 1958 Manufacturers' World Championship.

Alex, who recently tested a McLaren Formula 1 car as a prize for winning the coveted McLaren Autosport BRDC Young Driver of the Year award, was absolutely delighted at his inclusion in just four British drivers shortlisted for the eventual drive. "Although I haven't the experience of the other three drivers, I hope I will be able to demonstrate my potential at the forthcoming evaluation. I have proved I can win races in powerful cars, and the Great Britain team would dearly love to win this inaugural championship. I hope to be able to help the team achieve this goal"



Background on A1 Grand Prix:

One year ago, in his home land of Dubai, the A1 Grand Prix series Founder, President and Chairman, His Highness Sheikh Maktoum Hasher Maktoum Al Maktoum launched the unique concept of a World Cup of Motorsport where the two worlds of business and motorsport would meet.

The championship will create a level playing field for teams with identical cars that owe much to UK motorsport technology. The chassis is produced by Huntingdon's Lola International and the engine by Zytek Engineering, who are based in Repton, Derbyshire. The cars will all run on the same tyres from the Cooper Tire & Rubber Company, based in the USA, but whose racing operation is run by Avon Tyres Racing out of the company's UK premises in Melksham, Wiltshire.

The first race of the A1 Grand Prix series will be at Brands Hatch on the 25th September and this, along with all the rounds, will be shown live in the UK on Sky Sports. The full calendar is yet to be released, but A1 Grand Prix has already announced China and Australia will host rounds of the championship that is to be run over the northern hemisphere's winter months – motor racing's traditional off season. Sixteen nations – Great Britain, China, South Africa, Pakistan, Portugal, Lebanon, Canada, Malaysia, Australia, Mexico, South Korea, Turkey, Netherlands, India, Brazil and New Zealand – have already signed up. Many more are in the pipeline and each race will see the national pride of at least eighty per cent of the world's population represented on the grid.



Left to right:
Christian Horner, Ralph Firman, Robbie Kerr, John Surtees, Alex Lloyd

