



10<sup>TH</sup> December 2003

## **Alex Lloyd** **BRDC/McLaren Autosport Young Driver of the Year**

Team Isle of Man driver Alex Lloyd has been crowned as the most exciting young motor racing prospect in the UK after collecting the prestigious BRDC McLaren/Autosport Young Driver of the Year award at a ceremony in London on Sunday night.

Lloyd, who is still 18 and the third youngest winner of this award, beat five other finalists to lift the crown and will now get the chance to test a McLaren Formula One machine at Silverstone. He follows in the footsteps of grand prix racing stars David Coulthard, Jenson Button and Ralph Firman by claiming the honour.

"It was the best night of my life," said Lloyd. "I couldn't believe it when they read out my name. To collect an award like that in front of such talented motor racing people is amazing and hopefully it will have prepared me for many awards evenings to come."

Lloyd also picked up a £75,000 cheque for winning the shootout at Silverstone last month. He said the money would go a long way towards finding the full budget for a competitive seat in Formula 3 next year. "I have tested for all the leading teams, and have had offers from them all. We now need to decide which the best move is, as we want to be fully prepared for Formula Three. Next year will be a high profile year in F3, competing against the likes of young Nelson Piquet, son of the former Formula 1 World Champion, so we need to get the money together for the most competitive drive possible, as I aim to take the fight to him from the start of the season."



The Isle of Man driver finished as runner-up in this year's Formula Renault UK Championship and took two wins in the series with Motaworld Racing. "It was strange on stage at the end. I was standing next to World Rally Champion Petter Solberg, and he was telling me to 'go, go, go' and 'win, win, win'. It was quite surreal," said the delighted Lloyd.

Full details of the entire Awards Ceremony and winners are contained in this week's Autosport magazine and preliminary details can also be found at [www.autosport.com](http://www.autosport.com)

