

## **Celebrity Line-up for the National Kit Car Motor Show, Stoneleigh 2011**

### **Perry McCarthy**

A Formula One driver and The Original Stig from Top Gear, Perry delights audiences with hilarious after dinner speeches, or captivating motivational addresses. He is a unique after dinner and motivational speaker. Perry's bubbly personality and absolute refusal to concede defeat have made him popular with the press. The Telegraph headlined him as 'a new cult hero' and America's Sunday Express described him as a 'comedian locked inside a racing driver's body.'

Perry clawed his way to the top with very little backing but with plenty of talent, dedication, determination and that famous sense of humour. His rise through the ranks along with close friends Damon Hill, Johnny Herbert and Mark Blundell, has been against all odds and in a sport dominated by finance he recalls how he 'started with nothing and then lost it all!'

Perry's 10-year fight to reach the sport's elite paid off in 1992 when he was chosen to drive for the fledgling Andrea Moda Formula One organisation. The dream however turned into a nightmare as the team stumbled from one disaster to the next, and Perry turned his attention away from Grand Prix to Le Mans and the demands of Sports Prototype racing.

### **Mark Blundell**

Mark started in motocross in 1980 and switched to four wheels in 1984. He had a remarkable debut year winning the Champion of Snetterton title and finishing second in the Junior FF1600 series. He won the top Grovewood Award that year and in 1985 won the Esso FF1600 title and the BBC Grandstand FF2000 championship. He graduated to Formula Ford 2000 in 1986 and won the European title and finished second in Britain.

He then took the unusual decision to jump straight into Formula 3000 and he led his second race but afterwards his career stagnated. In 1988 he joined Lola Motorsport and finished sixth in the European Championship and then moved to Middlebridge but still failed to win a race. In 1990 he quit single-seater racing and joined the Nissan sportscar team, while also becoming test driver for Williams. In 1991 he drove for the Brabham-Yamaha team and switched to become McLaren test driver for 1992 before moving to the Ligier team in 1993, Tyrrell in 1994 and then into the McLaren-Mercedes team after Nigel Mansell's midseason retirement in 1995. Since 1996 he has been driving in the US CART series and won three races the following season for the PacWest team. He remained active in CART until the end of 2000. There was talk of work as a test driver in F1 but Blundell preferred to become a TV pundit for the ITV channel although he remained racing with the MG Rover Le Mans programme and more recently with Aston Martin.

### **Jennifer Metcalfe**

Jennifer was brought up in Bradford, West Yorkshire, and has been acting since age 12. She attended the ScalaKids drama school in her hometown.

Before Hollyoaks, she appeared in several TV shows including kids' TV series My Parents Are Aliens and the ITV dramas Where The Heart Is and At Home with the Braithwaites, as well as Yorkshire soap Emmerdale.

In June 2006 Jennifer began playing Mercedes McQueen in Hollyoaks. She has been nominated for Sexiest Female at both the British Soap Awards and the Inside Soap Awards for her role as Mercedes.

She appeared as a contestant in the sixth series of Dancing on Ice with French skater Sylvain Longchambon.