

RACING NEWS

RACING HALTED AT POPULAR EASTBOURNE SHORT OVAL

Landowners pull the plug at the historic East Sussex venue

By Matt James

The landowners of the Arlington short oval on the outskirts of Eastbourne have halted racing at the historic East Sussex venue after 67 years of Spedeworth-organised events.

The Dugard family, which owns the circuit, took the decision last week after conversations with East Sussex County Council highlighted a range of infrastructure improvements required at the track. Council officers visited Arlington on August 3.

In a statement, joint stadium owner Eric Dugard said the venue faced a tough future.

"There are ongoing serious infrastructure problems with the stadium and race track which have a direct influence regarding public and competitor health and safety," the statement read.

"It was pointed out, quite rightly, that there were numerous issues, as would be expected for a rural stadium that has been built up and patched up over the decades."

Once the findings were shared with its insurers, the Dugard family said its public liability cover was withdrawn.

"To address these problems would take many months at a huge cost, which would make the future of the stadium as a motorsport venue unrealistic as a viable business," the statement concluded.

Spedeworth boss Deane Wood said the closure had come as a shock. "Even quite



The need for "ongoing serious" infrastructure improvements has hit the oval venue's viability

recently, the owners were looking to improve the seating at the venue, which was something I was helping them with," he told *Motorsport News*.

Wood said he would seek a meeting with the Dugard family and the council to explore whether the venue could be rescued. He added that he had offered to take a lease

on the track, which would allow him to invest in the facilities and help bring safety standards up to the required level, but had received no response to the proposal.



Hannam sampled UK RADICAL STARS MAKE THEIR UK DEBUTS

Two of Radical's international rising stars made their Radical Cup UK debuts at its Silverstone round.

Gulf Cup champion Harry Hannam finished third in the opening race of the weekend, after overnight repairs to his car following a testing crash. "I want to drive as much as I can and accept any offers to drive to gain more experience, but I don't have any definite plans yet," he said.

The 18-year-old was followed home in race one by Radical Cup North America title contender Luke Kendall. Kendall, 19, had already raced in a European round at Spa, but this was his first UK visit.

Both fell victim to track-limit penalties in the second race, after finishing third and fourth on the road again. "I did a few races last year, but this is my first full season of racing. Next season I am planning to do the Michelin Le Mans Cup in Europe," Kendall said.



Motorsport News to provide content and be present at exhibition

MN CONFIRMED AS MOTORSPORT EXPO OFFICIAL PARTNER

Motorsport News has been confirmed as the Official Media Partner for the inaugural Motorsport Expo, taking place at Excel London on February 26-28, 2027.

MN will support the event through dedicated editorial coverage, exclusive updates and behind-the-scenes content in the build-up to the show, and will

maintain a prominent presence on the exhibition floor throughout.

The event will feature vehicle displays, content stages, workshops, a marketplace and a 3000-seat Live Action and Experience Arena.

Event Director Ben Whibley said: "*Motorsport News* has been the trusted voice of British motorsport for decades, so partnering with them

was an obvious choice. Their commitment to promoting the sport at every level perfectly aligns with what we're building through Motorsport Expo."

MN Editor Matt James added: "The event shares our passion for celebrating every level of the sport, from grassroots competition through to world-class competition."

SAWYER EYES 2027 ENDURANCE SWITCH



DJ Sawyer wants to play for longer

DJ-turned-racer Paul Sawyer is set to step up to endurance racing next year in either Britcar or GT Cup, driving a newly acquired Ginetta G55 GT4.

The house music DJ, producer and Krafted record label partner is in his third season of racing, all in MINI Challenge Clubsport. This year he has taken multiple S53 class wins.

Having previously raced in a single-car effort with Sussex Road and Race Motorsport, Sawyer's team in 2026 is a four-car squad called Krafted Motorsport.

Sawyer will continue with Krafted Motorsport next year, and Krafted will also continue in MINI Challenge Clubsport.

Sawyer told *Motorsport News*: "I'm looking at going into either Britcar or the GT Cup Championship next year with the Ginetta. It just feels like the right time to make the step to go up into a different series, go rear-wheel drive with something a bit quicker."

"I've been looking forward to longer races; that's one thing I have wanted to do for a long time. I did a 40-minute race in a Clio Cup car last year at Thruxton and I really enjoyed having more time to think about the race rather than just a 15-minute sprint."

He added that he tested the Ginetta at Donington Park and "absolutely loved it."

Sawyer answers our questions in our Q&A on p34



Charity beneficiaries get fun day

CROFT TO BE OPENED TO FORCES' FAMILIES

Race of Remembrance charity Mission Motorsport will welcome Armed Forces personnel, veterans and their families to Croft on Wednesday, August 19, for its annual Croft Forces Families Track Day.

Charity beneficiaries, their spouses, families and carers

will be invited to enjoy passenger rides around the 2.1-mile circuit in a wide range of track-tuned cars and supercars. Qualified race instructors will be on hand, and children aged 10 and older will have the chance to get behind the wheel of Mission Motorsport's own

dual-control Mazda MX-5. This year's event is supported by classic car specialist AutoRARA.

Mission Motorsport seeks to help those affected by military operations through motorsport. It activities are led by the 12-hour Race of Remembrance at Anglesey circuit.