

RACING NEWS

Photos: Mick Walker, Sophie Mayes



BMW broke at the brink



McBride (right) has been paired with ace Keen (left) in recent rounds

MCBRIDE AND KEEN DENIED BY LATE BRITCAR HEARTACHE

Disabled racer robbed of career high after failure yards from home

By Graham Keillon

Julian McBride was denied the biggest result of his career when his BMW M3 shared with Phil Keen stopped with a gearbox problem yards before the Donington Park finishing line.

McBride was joined by long-time

supporter Keen in the 90-minute Britcar Endurance Championship round at Donington earlier this month, having also been joined by the 19-time British GT race-winner at the preceding round at Snetterton.

Having qualified 20th at Donington, the Geoff Steel Racing BMW charged to the outright lead. Two Challenge

class cars passed, but McBride and Keen looked set for third overall and the GT class win. Their gearbox problem, however, left Keen to nurse the car before it stopped agonisingly short of the finish line. The duo were classified fifth overall and second in GT.

McBride said: "We knew after qualifying that we had more pace than

20th on the grid suggested, so the plan was simply to stay patient and let the race come to us.

"I was really happy with my stint and the team executed both pitstops perfectly. That gave Phil the opportunity to do what he does best.

"Of course it's disappointing to lose a result like that on the final lap because

everyone deserved more than the finishing position shows. At the same time, the performance gives us a huge amount of confidence."

McBride is partially disabled after a surgical error left him paralysed and in a wheelchair for a year in 2011. This is his debut season in Britcar and on slicks.



Racing showcase is returning

BRSCC DRIVEN BY RACING RETURNS

The British Racing and Sports Car Club's Driven by Racing event, which showcases the club's formulae, is returning this autumn after a year away.

The event is aimed at those considering their next, or first, steps in motorsport, to explore the pathways available across UK club

motorsport. The inaugural Driven by Racing event took place in 2022.

This year's event will take place in Silverstone's national pit garages on November 14-15. It brings together race teams, championship representatives and industry partners, and teams attending will also have access to allocated track sessions,

allowing them to demonstrate their cars and capabilities on circuit.

The event also includes marshal training programmes, recruitment of rescue units, race officials, scrutineers and event staff, and ARDS tests.

Tickets are free and can be booked on the BRSCC website.

PARKER SET FOR PART-TIME 2027

Caterham 310R racer and livestream interviewer Sam Parker is likely to switch to a part-time racing programme next year.

Parker has been a Caterham drift experience driver for 22 years and raced in the entry-level Academy Championship in 2024 as a Caterham media partner, making a six-part YouTube documentary about how to get into racing.

She graduated to Caterham Roadsport in 2025 and is a 310R Am class race winner this year.

Parker told *Motorsport News*: "I probably won't do a full championship [in 2027]. I will pick my favourite tracks to race at – Donington and Silverstone if they are on the calendar.

"It's just having the time to commit. I've got two children, two dogs and my husband [Stuart] runs Team Parker Racing – our lives are very busy. This is my third year doing it; I only ever really set out to do the one year but I enjoyed it so much that I had to continue."



Parker set to pick rounds in '27

ALLAWAY WIN REINSTATED AFTER MISTAKEN IDENTITY

Reigning CNC Heads Sports and Saloon Championship champion Simon Allaway was reinstated as race-one winner at Donington Park after it was established his jump-start penalty was due to mistaken identity.

Allaway, in his Lotus Esprit V8, finished first on the road but received a 10-second penalty for jumping the start, handing the win to Richard Wright in his BMW M4 and dropping Allaway to third. This was the result included in last week's *Motorsport News* race report.

The penalty was based on judge of fact evidence. However, it transpired

that, due to a communication error, the wrong car number was given to the clerk of the course in the initial report of the incident. Following review of livestream footage, in conjunction with a discussion with the judge of fact, it was clear that it was Wright who had jumped the start rather than Allaway.

The judge of fact amended their decision to reflect this, and Allaway had his time penalty rescinded, meaning he was reinstated as winner. Wright received the 10s penalty instead, which dropped him to third in the results.



Allaway (leading) and Wright (in second) were switched back



Sawyer won silverware on his way to second

SAWYER SECURES CLASS SECOND

DJ-turned-racer Paul Sawyer secured a second-place finish in his MINI CHALLENGE Clubsport class standings in what he intends to be his final year in the championship.

The house music DJ, producer and Krafted record label partner is in his third season of racing, all in Clubsport. He plans to switch to Britcar or GT Cup next year in a Ginetta GT4 (see MN, August 13).

Sawyer entered this month's Donington Park season finale in R53 title contention, but his trio of third-place finishes in class, the first of which was after a track-limits penalty

having finished first on the road, meant he came up short of Ben Trundle.

Sawyer said: "We had a solid test beforehand so I felt confident going into qualifying, but a small mistake at the Craner Curves cost me time on my best lap, although I still managed to qualify in third place.

"[Having the win] taken away for track limits was hugely frustrating as I was given no warning beforehand.

"I'm pleased to finish as runner-up particularly when we had mechanical issues at a few rounds that cost us points – without those, we'd arguably be celebrating a championship."