

We caught up with Krafted's Paul Sawyer who recently celebrated 30 years within the industry and most recently has dived into the World of Motorsport.

He's remixed the likes of Paul Oakenfold, Solarstone, Kristina Sky, Wally Lopez and more; as well as releasing on a multitude of labels over the years and hosting a show on the infamous BBC Radio 1 for 2.5 years.

Paul has rocked dance floors from San Francisco to Ibiza, but there's a personal milestone he's been craving to cross off his to-do list for ages. A passion for the high-speed battles on the track. Swapping the decks for the driver's seat, Paul is currently making waves in the Mini Challenge Clubsport series, a racing circuit designed for club-level MINI drivers looking for intense, competitive action.

PAUL SAWYER



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You've just completed your first season competing in the Mini Challenge Clubsport Championship, when did the motorsport bug bite?

I've always been into motorsport from a young age, watching all sorts of racing, whether bikes, superbikes or cars. I never actually envisaged I'd end up having a go in a racing car myself one day.

As soon as I completed my first race, I caught the bug. Probably the most nerve wrecking experience ever, but the most fun too.

Are there any crossover skills from DJ'ing to racing driver?

I approach music using my competitive streak, I guess. Wanting to succeed is paramount, so funnelling as much energy into it is important to me.

I've approached racing in the same way, so I knew I needed to make sure I had the right people around me to make it happen. From sponsorship, to PR and social media management.

You've recently celebrated a decade of running Krafted, the label you own with Simon Sinfield, what do you guys have planned as you start your next decade?

We are revamping the artwork for all the labels at the moment after celebrating a decade of releasing music. It just felt right to have a refresh and continue to concentrate on more chill albums going forward and the Textures compilation series on Krafted Underground will have it's 10th volume released in 2025.

You are well known for releasing progressive house tracks, but you have recently been dabbling in both Drum and Bass, and Chill music. Will this continue and are there any other genres you are looking to produce?

That's right, I made two D & B tracks with Simon Sinfield that both featured Ana Be on vocals. More on the liquid D & B tip which I love to listen to. Was great to dabble in that genre, I'm sure we'll release more over time.

I've been loving getting into producing more laid back music, especially as we have an outlet via the chill albums. It's been a breath of fresh air to concentrate on something a bit different and turn to my classic music training from when I was young.

How will your new racing career fit around your DJ and production schedule?

To be honest, when I decided to take the plunge towards racing, I knew that it would be difficult to dedicate as much time on music, so I stopped producing for a while to funnel my efforts into racing. I made the decision to make enough music before the race season started to keep some momentum throughout the year.

I also stopped taking DJ bookings as it would just clash with racing, so now the series has ended, I have some gigs lined up to complete the year.

Are you at ADE this year?

I am venturing out there again this year after missing the last three years. The pandemic got in the way and then I just didn't really want to go for a couple of years after going for 6 years in a row before 2020.

Really pleased to be asked to return thanks to Chrom Recordings and Tanzgemeinschaft for their event on the Friday night. Will be great to meet up with so many people I've not seen for ages and deal with all the time online etc. That's the one thing I love about ADE.

You've worked with some real heroes from the scene, is there anyone on your wish-list who you'd like to collaborate with?

It's been amazing to work with so many great names from the industry over the years. Very lucky to be given the chance to work on tracks with Wally Lopez, Betoko, Spada, Nick Muir, Paul Oakenfold, Solarstone and many more.

There are so many people that I would like to work with. Camelphat would be amazing, I just love everything they make. Estiva has been making some quality music, would be great to work with him on something. Above & Beyond would also be a firm favourite to work with, they are just amazing.

When you race, are the tunes banging in the pit garage and in the race car?

Ha ha! I wish!!! I reckon if I had some banging tunes on in the car, it would spur me on even more! I do get the chance to put a mix together for each round for the series organisers. They have a get together on the Saturday night where all the teams, drivers, friends and family come together after the first day of racing. The mixes are available on my soundcloud and have gained a good amount of streams so far over the year. There's talk of doing something next year at a Mini Festival at one of the rounds, so will be interesting to see how that pans out.





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Your album series Textures has been a great success, when is the next compilation?

We are looking at compiling that at the moment ahead of a Spring release in 2025. Being the 10th volume, we really want to invite some new names to the compilation as well as some regulars who have been a big support towards the label over the years.

So glad I started that series, it's really brought so many producers to the label as a result.

We hear that you are working on a chill out compilation, is there anything you can tell us?

Yes, its actually named after the get together event from the races called Sunset Garden. Being a chilled event, I wanted to keep it in that vein and celebrate my first year at Mini Challenge Clubsport.

I will use the tracks at the 2025 series when I put together the tracks for the rounds next year.

Many racing drivers get in the zone before a race by listening to music. Do you, and if so, what do you listen to?

Funny enough I don't. You'd think I would but I get wrapped up in preparing everything for the race and watch other races to get a feel for the circuit. There's always so much to sort out before each race. I guess if I was in a bigger team with lots of people working on everything, I would have more time to sit and listen to music. May be one day!

If you were to introduce people to the music that you make, which 3 releases would you want a new fan to listen to?

I'd say 'Reign' on Perfecto Records would be my first one. Lots of energy and had so much support from so many dj's when it was released.

'Reverie' that I made with Danny Stubbs and featured Susie Ledge that came out on Pure Trance. One of the best tracks from my back catalogue that was one of many tracks I made with Danny.

My unofficial remix of 'Need To Feel Loved' by Reflekt would be my third choice as this one really got hammered by so many dj's including Tiesto, Aly & Fila, Solarstone etc. It gained over 1 million streams and over 100,000 downloads when I put this on Soundcloud. It went

to #1 on hypedit at the time back in 2020. It was funny as it coincided with the release of some remixes including one by Cristoph. I had no idea they had planned the release until I sent it to Cristoph and he said about it.

Which new tracks/producers are you enjoying at the moment?

I tend to listen to DI'FM most of the time as they have so many progressive artists with shows on there. It's a great way to find new tracks and artists.

I've been listening to Lauren Mia recently, she's a great DJ and Producer and Giorgia Angiuli is one of my favourites to watch when she's performing. So creative with what she does.

I always listen to my friend Phil 'Moonface' Thompson mixes. He tends to put together mammoth sets which are a real journey, so good!

Your first year in motorsport went well, what is planned for the next season?

I definitely exceeded my expectations this year. I assumed I'd be at the back learning all year, but ended up progressing well to end up finishing 6th in the championship.

I'm planning on continuing with the Mini Challenge Clubsport series as I really want to improve on my championship position and chase my competitive side to eventually see if I can get a podium.

Just in the progress now sorting out sponsors for the new year and luckily my main sponsor Silverlake Auto Recycling are backing me again for 2025 and without them it would have been a struggle.

Paul Sawyer's 30 Years A DJ Album:

<https://open.spotify.com/album/2085GYOrMGFPsuvL8BkQft?si=hvaMZMMHS20A6PTVvvn0DQ>

<https://open.spotify.com/album/3ktybdi0ltDHAXy3AgEK4B?si=TCWA8h04QmOaZnq9TE4LYA>





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