

## Website goes live

Welcome to the second issue of this newsletter, we hope you enjoyed reading the first edition.

The official website [www.atcuae.ae](http://www.atcuae.ae) went live on schedule; when you have the time, please visit the site – comments and suggestions are most welcome.

In this issue, we have profiled some key members of the ATCUAE Team. Future issues will continue to provide you with information on other members of the Team. We hope to introduce you to members of the ADMM Team too because the nature of your work at the Formula 1 Etihad Airways Abu Dhabi Grand Prix this October/November would require you to interact with at least some of these personnel.

Also in this issue, we bring you a brief report and loads of pictures from the Media Day organized by the ADMM on August 26.

Happy Reading!

## JOHN spiller



**DESIGNATION**  
Motorsport Director - ATCUAE

**CAREER SUMMARY**

- 1978 – 82 – Organiser Rothmans Gulf Rally Challenge
- 1982 – 87 – Co Driver – FIA Middle East

Rally Championship

- 1988 – 2002 – Rally Team Manager – Prodrive / Subaru World Rally Team
- 2002 – Co Driver- Mohammed Ben Sulayem – Red Bull Ford Team
- Event Director – UAE Desert Challenge
- 2005 – Motor Sport Director ATCUAE

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Should you wish to be profiled in these pages, please send your details, not exceeding 100 words, along with a passport-size photograph to [anthony@atcuae.ae](mailto:anthony@atcuae.ae).

DATE	TRAINING DAYS	VENUE (Tentative)
October 3 (Saturday)		Abu Dhabi - Yas Marina Circuit
October 10 (Saturday)		Abu Dhabi - Yas Marina Circuit
October 16 (Friday)		Dubai - Dubai Autodrome
October 23-24 (Friday-Saturday)		Abu Dhabi - Yas Marina Circuit

## ATCUAE TEAM PROFILES

### RONAN morgan



**DESIGNATION**  
Sports Project Director - ATCUAE

**CAREER SUMMARY**  
Ronan started rally co-driving in 1973 at the age of 18 and embarked on a path

which developed into a lifelong passion for motorsport. In 1985 became a professional co-driver winning 56 international events round the world and 10 Middle East Rally Championships with Mohammed Ben Sulayem. Then got involved in the organisation of events such as the UAE Desert Challenge for 9 years, Wales Rally GB for 4 years and brought a round of the World Rally Championship to his home country with Rally Ireland taking place in 2007. Now Sports Project Director of ATCUAE with responsibility for delivering the sporting elements of the Formula 1™ Etihad Airways Abu Dhabi Grand Prix. Ronan is also a deputy member of the FIA World Motorsport Council and a member of the FIA Cross Country Rally Commission.  
Email: [ronan@atcuae.ae](mailto:ronan@atcuae.ae)

### DR SEAN petherbridge



**DESIGNATION**  
Chief Medical Officer - ATCUAE

**CAREER SUMMARY**  
I qualified in 1997 from St George's Hospital Medical School (University of London) and worked in

General Surgery and Respiratory Medicine for a year in Banbury, Oxfordshire. I then did time in Accident and Emergency Medicine, Psychiatry and Internal Medicine before finalising my training. I worked as a volunteer doctor for Northamptonshire Ambulance Service attending roadside incidents. Now I work in Family Medicine and as a Senior Aviation Medical Examiner. I am the Post Medical Advisor for the US Consulate in Dubai. I have been CMO for the Desert Challenge and Dubai International Rally for the last 3 years. I am CMO for the F1 GP in Oct/Nov this year.  
Email: [cmo@atcuae.ae](mailto:cmo@atcuae.ae)

### TANYA kutsenko



**DESIGNATION**  
Event Manager - ATCUAE

**CAREER SUMMARY**

- MA in Project Management (IPMI)
- Worked for NGOs, local government and multinational corporations

- 10 years of event management experience
- Project portfolio includes various social (educational, healthcare) and commercial projects
- Joined the ATCUAE in 2005 after moving to Dubai
- Holder of the FIM Clerk of the Course and FIM Environmental Steward licence
- Will be the Secretary of the Meeting for 2009 Formula 1™ Etihad Airways Abu Dhabi Grand Prix

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## 'The Wing' is Abu Dhabi's latest icon

A stunning new addition to the skyline of Abu Dhabi is taking shape on the Corniche. Named 'The Wing', this unique venue is destined to become an iconic social and architectural fixture for residents and visitors in the Capital.

The front wing of a Formula One racing car inspires the design of this multi-functional venue - a combination of restaurant, lounge, boutique, auditorium, meeting and function facilities. Throughout, the flexible design and layout of the building allows uninterrupted panoramic views

Abu Dhabi Grand Prix.

The Wing showcases the glamour and sophistication of motorsports and offers an unprecedented range of facilities for different market groups. The restaurant offers diners the opportunity to enjoy some of Abu Dhabi's finest food from morning through nightfall in a modern, rich setting. Couples and groups can relax and mingle in the contemporary

fans and the general public alike can purchase bespoke luxury products and exclusive Yas Marina Circuit merchandise in The Boutique. From an intimate meal for two through to the International launch of a new product, The Wing will deliver an experience equal to its iconic location.



Richard Cregan



of the Corniche.

Developed by Aldar Properties PJSC and operated by Abu Dhabi Motorsports Management, The Wing will link the city to Yas Marina Circuit, the venue for the first Formula 1™ Etihad Airways

surroundings of The Lounge. Private and Corporate guests can host events in the state-of-the-art auditorium equipped with cutting edge technology or customise use of the flexible meeting spaces. Motorsports

Richard Cregan (*Inset pic*), Abu Dhabi Motorsports Management CEO said, "We believe The Wing will become the social hub of Abu Dhabi as well as a sought-after destination for regional and international visitors. As

with Yas Marina Circuit, our aspiration is to create a unique venue with a special ambiance that provides an unforgettable experience."

"Through the use of these world-class facilities, and events like the Formula 1™ Grand Prix, we will contribute to Abu Dhabi's vision of becoming a destination of choice for business, culture, and leisure." The Wing is scheduled to officially launch at the end of 2009.

(Text & image courtesy: ADMM)

## 633m view WRC



**F**IA Vice President Mohammed Ben Sulayem has welcomed recent World Rally Championship (WRC) television audience figures of 633 million

as an encouraging sign of the growing popularity of motorsport worldwide.

Championship promoter International Sportsworld Communicators CEO Simon

Long, while releasing the TV audience figures for 2008, said: "Competition for media airtime has never been greater.

"During the crowded sporting year which included the likes of the UEFA Euro 2008 Championship and the Olympic Games in Beijing, over 5,600 hours of WRC TV programming were shown on 228 channels in 132 different countries around the world, despite a reduction in the WRC calendar from 16 to 15 events," Long added.

Abu Dhabi TV and Ajman TV figure among the 132 broadcasters worldwide.

Figures also indicate that the WRC attracts the attention of the youngest fans in motorsport, with 63 per cent aged

between 16-34 years while 90 per cent of the fans are males.

Sulayem, a 14-time Middle East Rally champion who last raced competitively in 2002, said the TV audience figures were very encouraging and foresees a further hike in the audience numbers.

"The World Rally Championship attracts between 250,000 to 1.5 million spectators over a rally weekend and it is great to note that 63 per cent of these are aged between 16-34 years.

"This is good news for the Championship as the younger generation is showing interest which can only mean a brighter future for the sport," Sulayem added.

(Statistics courtesy: WRC)

## Sulayem votes for Concorde

**F**IA Vice President Mohammed Ben Sulayem earlier this month hailed the signing of the Concorde Agreement 2009 as a positive step forward that will bring stability back to Formula One.

The Concorde Agreement – a contract between the FIA, F1's Commercial Rights-Holder and the participating Teams – sets out

the basis on which the Teams participate in the Championship and share in its commercial success.

Following approval by the World Motor Sport Council, FIA President Max Mosley signed the 2009 Concorde Agreement, heralding a renewed period of stability for F1.

Sulayem, who voted in favor of the Concorde Agreement, said it was now time for all concerned to turn their attention to the sport.

"We must all do whatever is necessary for the good and future of the sport (Formula1),

and that is what we have done by voting in favor of the Concorde."

Sulayem noted that Formula One had grown phenomenally over the years, generating huge fan following and commercial interest that it would have been a shame to continue to keep everyone guessing any further on the future of the sport.

Moreover, Sulayem stressed, the region and Abu Dhabi in particular has invested heavily in the sport, which is why also it was important to ensure that stability returned to the world's largest and most-watched sporting event.

# GP WEEKEND PLANS UNVEILED

Spectators at the inaugural Formula 1™ Etihad Airways Abu Dhabi Grand Prix have even more reason to look forward to a thrilling weekend of motorsport action at Yas Marina Circuit.

Three of the world's foremost racing series, the Porsche Mobil1 Supercup, GP2 Asia Series, and Chevrolet Supercars Middle East Challenge have been announced as support races to the Abu Dhabi Grand Prix.

Each Formula 1™ Grand Prix weekend has a program of high profile support races, consisting of a single seat category such as GP2, and GT-saloon car categories such as Porsche and Chevrolet.

The support race program, whilst adding considerable track action and entertainment for spectators, provides a platform for young drivers to develop and demonstrate their skill in front of the Formula 1 fraternity. A number of the drivers from the support race program progress to Formula 1 - the world's premier motorsports championship.

Mr Richard Cregan, CEO of Abu Dhabi Motorsports Management said: "We are delighted to have the Porsche Mobil1 Supercup, GP2 Asia Series and Chevrolet Supercars Middle East Challenge included on the race schedule for the Formula 1™ weekend. This is a world-class line up to have at our inaugural Grand Prix."

Porsche Mobil 1 Supercup: Abu Dhabi Motorsports Management (ADMM) and Porsche have signed a deal to bring Porsche support races to the Abu Dhabi Grand Prix until 2011.

Porsche Mobil1 Supercup, the fastest international brand trophy series, has supported Formula 1™ since 1993 and uses tailor-made 911 GT3 cup cars to race over a distance of approximately 70km.

The GP2 Asia Series: With speeds close to those reached by their Formula 1™ counterparts, GP2 has been a natural stepping stone into F1 for many of the sport's elite drivers, including current F1 superstars such as Lewis Hamilton, Nico Rosberg, and Timo Glock. With 26 identical cars, reverse grids and compulsory pitstops, GP2 is certain to entertain the crowd.

Additionally, it has been confirmed that a pre-season GP2 Asia Series test will be held on the 23rd and 24th of October, a week prior to the official public opening of the Circuit. The test presents the ideal opportunity for Yas Marina Circuit to trial all operating systems and services before the Grand Prix event weekend.

Runner-up of the 2008 GP2 main series and former Porsche Mobil1 Supercup driver, Bruno Senna commented on his visit to Yas Marina Circuit this week: "Every driver from every class is really excited about the new Yas Marina Circuit in Abu Dhabi. It seems that the state-of-the-art facilities, together with a demanding track layout, will be a new and tough challenge to drivers and teams!"

"The support races add to the spectacle for racing fans and makes the "ladder" of motor racing much easier to understand - and it is a perfect opportunity to see the up and coming talent that will feature in F1 in the future."

Chevrolet Supercars Middle East Challenge: This touring car series comprised solely of Chevrolet Lumina CSV V8 sedans will offer spectators thrilling competition and action packed racing in readily recognizable race spec versions of the popular GM Lumina sedan.

According to Lumina CSV Middle East Champion Tarek Elgammal: "The team from Castrol Racing are

Porsche Mobil 1 Supercup, GP2 Asia Series and Chevrolet Supercars Middle East Challenge to add thrill to race weekend



North Grandstand



Yas Marina

## World's first day/night Grand Prix

The UAE will make Formula One history when the Abu Dhabi Grand Prix will stage the sport's first-ever day-night race.

The November 1 race to be held at the brand new Yas Marina Circuit is set to be flagged off at 5pm UAE time. As Grand Prix races usually last 90 minutes, provided there are no stoppages, the expected finish is approximately 6.30pm, after sunset.

In a statement issued on August 28 at Spa-Francorchamps, Belgium, Richard Cregan, chief executive of Abu Dhabi Motorsports Management, confirmed that the race will now

finish under lights. "Yas Marina Circuit has been built from the outset to host day and night-time activities," said Cregan.

"Staging Formula One's first-ever day-night race offers us the unique opportunity to demonstrate the circuit's inbuilt flexibility and state-of-the-art facilities.

"It has always been our intention to showcase to the world this spectacular venue and this decision allows just that opportunity."

The Abu Dhabi Grand Prix will start at 5pm to cater to Formula One's core television audience in Europe. (Courtesy: Gulf News)

extremely excited to be taking part at the first ever Abu Dhabi F1 Grand Prix at the Yas Marina Circuit. The circuit looks amazing, with facilities that are unmatched anywhere in the world, all on a beautiful marina-side location.

"As a driver, there is a level of anticipation involved in competing at a new circuit. Without prior knowledge and having only seen track maps, it is important to quickly come to terms with the circuit: Finding areas to possibly gain or lose a few tenths of a second, identifying potential passing

opportunities, making changes to the set up of the car are some of the formidable challenges of a new circuit. From a spectator's perspective, the Supercars Middle East Championship always provides action, drama and excitement."

The first Formula 1™ Etihad Airways Abu Dhabi Grand Prix will be held from 30 October - 1 November 2009. A limited number of seats are still available. Go to [www.yasmarinacircuit.ae](http://www.yasmarinacircuit.ae) for more details.

(Text & images on Pages 3 & 4 courtesy: ADMM)

## GP2 ASIA

**What is the GP2 Asia Series?**

Established in 2008, GP2 Asia Series is an extension of the highly successful GP2 Main Series that has seen six drivers progress into Formula 1.

**Which F1 drivers have progressed from GP2?**

Nico Rosberg (Williams), Katsuo Nakajima (Williams), Lewis Hamilton (McLaren), Heikki Kovalainen (McLaren), Timo Glock (Toyota), Nelson Piquet (ex Renault), and Romain Grosjean (Renault).

**What cars race in the GP2 Asia Series?**

GP2 Asia Series is made up of 26 identical single-seat racecars. All teams use the same Dallara chassis, the same electronic, gearbox, and brake systems, the same Bridgestone control slick tyres, and the same 4-litre Renault V8 engines that produce about 600bhp. Electronic driver aids are outlawed and the cars are designed to demonstrate driver talent.

**What is the difference between GP2 Asia Series and the GP2 Main Series?**

- GP2 Asia Series races outside Europe and the teams are encouraged to recruit at least one non European driver.

- The engine is limited to 600bhp in comparison to the 630bhp of GP2 Main Series.

- The cars have less aerodynamic features than GP2 Main Series.

**What is the difference between GP2 Asia Series and a Formula 1 car?**

- Teams that compete in GP2 Asia Series do not build their own race cars. The total car is supplied to each team by the series organizers.

- Teams operate at a cost of about 1% of an average Formula 1 team budget.

- The lap times are on average three to six seconds slower than a Formula 1 back-of-the-grid car.

**What makes GP2 Asia Special?**

- By far GP2 Asia's biggest selling point is the excitement its races provide for the fans. With two races per weekend, reverse grids, compulsory pitstops and 26 identical cars on display, the series never fails to enthrall and entertain.

- The record speaks for itself: there has never been an F1 feeder category as successful as the GP2 Series. In 2009, after a history of just four years, more than a third of the F1 grid is made up of GP2 graduates.



## PORSCHE MOBIL1

**What is the Porsche Mobil1 Super Cup?**

The Porsche Mobil1 Super Cup is the only GT racing series to run exclusively as a support race to Formula 1, where the make's cup has been a permanent fixture on race weekends since 1993.

**What type of cars race in the Porsche Mobil1 Super Cup?**

The series features the 911 GT3 with high performance, lightweight Porsche Ceramic Composite Brake PCCB. Weighing just 1,130kg, the 420bhp sports car has a six-speed sequential gearbox and is the lightest racer of all Porsche brand cups. All cars are technically identical. Suspension and aerodynamics can be adjusted within limits defined by regulations.

**How many cars are in each race?**

Each Porsche Mobil1 Super Cup race features an average of 26 Porsche 911 GT3 Cup (Type 997) model racecars, a limited edition especially developed by Porsche AG.

**Who are the drivers?**

Competitors in the Porsche Mobil1 Super Cup include a mixture of both experienced, seasoned professional drivers as well as ambitious, talented young drivers.

**How long are the races?**

There will be practice sessions of 30 to 45 minutes, qualifying session of 30 to 45 minutes, and two races, each covering a distance of approx. 70 km.

## CHEVROLET SUPERCARS

**What is the Chevrolet Supercars Middle East Challenge?**

The Chevrolet Supercars Middle East Challenge, founded in 2006, was the first regional racing series to be registered on the International calendar and is now the leading Middle East circuit racing championship.

**What type of cars race in the Chevrolet Supercars Middle East Challenge?**

All cars are modified versions of the popular Chevrolet Lumina CSV sedan. There are two categories of car. The SC09 includes 12 cars remodeled exclusively in Bahrain, and the SC06 class includes eight cars that raced in the first two seasons.

**How many cars are in each race?**

There are 20 cars in total - 12 SC09's and 8 SC06's.

**Who are the drivers?**

The Championship has been a strong proving ground for GGC talent. Dubai-based Australian Tarek Elgammal won the inaugural 2006 season. Bahraini Fahad Al Musalam won the second season, with Saudi Abdulaziz Al Yaesh coming second in both seasons.

**How long are the races?**

Each race weekend includes a 25-minute practice session, followed by a 30-minute qualifying session. Race 1 covers a distance of 50 kilometres, approximately 30-minutes. Race 2, the same distance/time.

