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Hi Everyone,

I hope you all appreciate the fact that I'm spending one of our few beautiful sunny days inside at my computer putting together this newsletter! Spring is here at last & hopefully summer is just around the corner now.

Anyone who loves to watch Motorsport and watched the MotoGP from Misano on the weekend would have seen the incident that occurred during the Moto2 race

This sort of behaviour is not tolerated by the powers that be and Fenati has not only been sacked by his team but has had his contract with a new team for next season cancelled, this incident has seen the end of Fenati's career in MotoGP as well it should, the following article & photo is courtesy of Metro News UK

### **Motorbike rider Romano Fenati blasted for nearly causing horrific crash by grabbing rival's brakes during race**



A motorbike rider has been blasted for nearly causing a horrific crash by grabbing a rival's brakes during a race. Stefano Manzi was driving at a speed of

around 125mph when Romano Fenati leaned across him and pressed his brake lever. The shocking incident caused Manzi to briefly lose balance before he regained control of his bike.

Fenati, who has been the subject of controversy in the past, appeared to impede Manzi because of an incident that occurred some laps earlier. Manzi had attempted to overtake his compatriot but made contact with Fenati's bike and both ran off the track and lost several positions in the leaderboard. While Manzi subsequently crashed out, Moto2 rookie Fenati was soon black-flagged by the officials for 'irresponsible riding'. He was later handed a two-race suspension by the racing officials, beginning in the next round which takes place in Aragon on September 23.

Former MotoGP rider Colin Edwards said Fenati 'put somebody's life in danger', telling BT Sport: 'This is unbelievable. Are you kidding me? 'That's where you tell him, "go pack your bag and we'll see you next year". That's ridiculous.' Neil Hodgson added: 'This is a dangerous sport. If he would have crashed there, it would have been a massive crash.

'This is a man who has got form for doing stupid things on track. 'Every now and again you get one bad apple & Fenati's done it before."

[The following articles are courtesy of New Zealand Motorsport News](#)

## Hartley Primed for a Hot Singapore



The Singapore Airlines Singapore Grand Prix is underway this weekend and drivers expect a hot and sticky night. After crashing out of the Italian Grand Prix at Monza, Scuderia Toro Rosso driver Brendon Hartley is keen to move on and move forward.

"Singapore will be a new track for me and one that I have very much been looking forward to," commented Hartley. "All the drivers I have spoken to tell me it's the most physical race on the calendar, partly because it's a busy lap, but also because of the heat and humidity. Of course, I have done a lot of night racing throughout my career, at events like Le Mans, but with the floodlights it won't be very noticeable, unless it rains.

"Historically, Toro Rosso has gone well here and while we knew the last two races would be tough, all of us at Toro Rosso see Singapore as a good opportunity to perform well. Last week, I drove the track on the simulator, which, as usual, is half for the benefit of the team and half for the driver. The track is accurately 3-D mapped so it was an opportunity to learn every bump and kerb. It allows me to get all my reference points and hit the ground running when practice starts on Friday.

"From a team point of view, it means we can do a lot of set-up changes before even getting to the track, trying them out to see if the driver gets a good feeling from them in the car.

"It's not quite 100% the same as actually driving the track itself, as it's not as hot and you don't have the same forces going through the body. All the same, it's a perfect way to prepare as you get some visual markers and an idea of where you are going. Apart from that, I have also done some heat training by exercising with a few more layers on. I am feeling fit and healthy, which can give you an edge come Sunday night and I'm really looking forward to the weekend."

Team mate Pierre Gasly also faces a new track with no firsthand experience in Singapore. "My only experience of Singapore is when I attended the race as third driver for Red Bull Racing. So at least I got to see the race at first hand and it gave me an understanding of just how hot and humid it is and what it's like having a night race, getting up in the afternoon and going to bed in the early hours of the morning. I found it quite straightforward, sticking on European time and you just have to get used to driving under the artificial lights. It's a different rhythm, but I quite enjoyed it when I was there.

"The super-sticky conditions mean it's the most physically demanding race of the year. Even if I've never driven the track, looking at the layout, I can see it's the sort of circuit I like, where you can get into a rhythm with a lot of corners.

"It turns a lot and it's very technical. We knew the last two races in Spa and Monza were going to be complicated but, on paper, Singapore should suit our

car a bit better. I'm looking forward to seeing how we go. I've been training for the heat, wearing lots of clothes and sweating a lot, making sure I felt much too hot and I will be doing that sort of training right up until the weekend, as well as spending time in the sauna. Marina Bay is one of my favourite tracks to drive on the videogames, so I'm looking forward to experiencing the real thing."

## Bamber and Vanthoor second at Laguna Seca



The Porsche GT Team has secured another podium result at the penultimate race of the IMSA Sports Car Championship season. After a gripping race at Laguna Seca, Earl Bamber (NZL) and Laurens Vanthoor (B) crossed the finish line in second. The pair in the No. 912 Porsche 911 RSR was just 2.488-seconds off claiming the second win of the year. Their team colleagues Nick Tandy (GB) and Patrick Pilet (F) had to park their 911 RSR early after becoming entangled in another competitor's accident. In the GTD class, works driver Jörg Bergmeister (Germany) and Patrick Lindsey (USA) clinched second.

"That was a tough job," commented Bamber. "After my early pit stop the main focus was to save fuel. But we also couldn't afford to slow the pace - it worked well. Laurens's long stint was sensational. Second place is the well-deserved reward for great teamwork, great decisions and clean drives. I'm really sorry about our sister car. The important thing is that nothing happened to Nick in the accident."

The race over two hours and 40 minutes was marked by different strategies and many caution phases. At an early safety car phase, the Porsche GT Team called Bamber into the pits. As a result, the New Zealander moved into the lead

shortly before halftime. After handing the 510 hp 911 RSR off to his teammate Vanthoor, the race turned into a real thriller. The Belgian had to stay out on the track for an hour and 17 minutes on a tank of fuel and one set of tyres - a big ask faced with the tough competition in the GTLM category. Putting in a focussed and flawless drive as well as a clever use of fuel, the Belgian brought the vehicle home in second place.

For the sister car, the race was over before it had really started. In the chaos of the start, Tandy was unable to avoid a damaged prototype. In a front-on collision, the 911 RSR with the number 911 was damaged so badly that it could not continue.

The Porsche customer team Park Place Motorsports celebrated a podium finish in the dunes of California. Works driver Bergmeister successfully fended off repeated attacks from his rivals in the final phase. The German used his vast experience to bring the 500 hp Porsche 911 RSR with the number 73 safely across the finish line in second place. Factory driver Patrick Long (USA) and Porsche Selected Driver Christina Nielsen (DK) concluded the race on eleventh.

Many Porsche works drivers and racing legends will return to the Laguna Seca Raceway in three weeks to celebrate the Porsche Rennsport Reunion in California from 27 to 30 September, 2018. The world's largest event for Porsche enthusiasts and connoisseurs of historic race cars will be held for the sixth time. The 2018 season of the IMSA Sports Car Championship will conclude with the round at Road Atlanta (10 to 13 October) in the US state of Georgia. The race, which is dubbed "Petit Le Mans", is contested over ten hours.

### **Race result**

#### **GTLM class**

1. Sims/De Phillippi (GB/USA), BMW M8 GTE, 100 laps
2. Vanthoor/Bamber (B/NZ), Porsche 911 RSR, 100 laps
3. Magnussen/Garcia (DK/E), Chevrolet Corvette C7.R, 100 laps
4. Krohn/Edwards (FIN/USA), BMW M8 GTE, 100 laps
5. Gavin/Milner (GB/USA), Chevrolet Corvette C7.R, 100 laps
6. Briscoe/Westbrook (AUS/GB), Ford GT, 71 laps
7. Hand/Müller (USA/D), Ford GT, 2 laps
8. Tandy/Pilet (GB/F), Porsche 911 RSR, 0 laps

## Whincup Wins and Van Gisbergen New Championship Leader



Seven-time Supercars Champion Jamie Whincup has set the scene for a Championship fightback in a 1-2 finish with new Championship leader Shane van Gisbergen in the OTR SuperSprint at Tailem Bend in South Australia.

Whincup blasted away the field with an 11 second win from Van Gisbergen and a man of the match effort by David Reynolds to work through the field from 12th to third in an incident free race.

It sets the scene for an intriguing PIRTEK Enduro Cup season starting with the RABBLE.club Sandown 500 before moving onto the epic Mount Panorama and the Vodafone Gold Coast 600.

The Red Bull Holden Racing team duo were virtually untouchable today on the long Tailem Bend Circuit. There were no safety cars, leaving the two alone out in front.

"We need to make sure we had two fast cars," Whincup said. "I know it's cliché but full marks to the team. They gave us two rockets and us two Wally's kept it on the track, most of the time."

Van Gisbergen now takes the lead of the Virgin Australia Supercars Championship by 19 points over Shell V-Power Racing's Scott McLaughlin, with Whincup in third.

"There is such a long way to go," Van Gisbergen said. "We need to keep our heads down but credit to the team. We have got to keep focussed but we are in a good spot."

Bathurst Champion Reynolds would now be in a good place to defend his title. Despite a slow start to the weekend on a new track the finish was impressive.

"Mega effort by the Penrite Erebus team, everyone should be really happy," he said.

"We got the setup a little late. If we had that at the start of the weekend it may have been a different story. It's a great result even though we didn't qualify the best.

"It's a mega tick in the box for us."

Whincup got the jump on his Red Bull Holden teammate from the start. As teams cycled through pit stops the field was mixed up until Whincup and van Gisbergen emerged back in the front once both mandatory changes were done.

Freightliner Racing's Tim Slade looked set for his first podium of the season, running comfortably between van Gisbergen and Reynolds entering the final 10 laps. But with eight to go, though, he locked up entering and ran wide, losing third to Reynolds.

Slade had to settle for fourth, ahead of Brad Jones Racing team-mate Nick Percat, who was another big mover from 15th on the grid in a cracking weekend for the Albury based outfit.

Scott Pye finished sixth, with Milwaukee Racing's Will Davison the best of the Fords in seventh place, Craig Lowndes eighth and Michael Caruso ninth.

In a fourth BJR Commodore, wildcard runner Macauley Jones was 19th, his best single-driver result in Supercars.

The next stop for Supercars is the opening event of the PIRTEK Enduro Cup, the RABBLE.club Sandown 500, to be held at the historic Sandown Raceway from 14-16 September.

With 300 points up for grabs, Sandown is shaping as one of the most important in the Championship race with just eight races remaining in 2018.

## DRIVERS' CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS

1. Shane Van Gisbergen 2778
2. Scott McLaughlin 2759 -19
3. Jamie Whincup 2416 -362
4. Craig Lowndes 2229 -549
5. David Reynolds 2213 -565
6. Fabian Coulthard 1922 -856
7. Rick Kelly 1918 -860
8. Chaz Mostert 1892 -886
9. Tim Slade 1742 -1036
10. Scott Pye 1702 -1076

## New Grand Prix charity event 'My way of saying thanks' - Scott McLaughlin



An all-new motor racing-based charity event planned for later in the year, the Scott McLaughlin Grand Prix, is the Kiwi Supercars ace's way of giving something back to where it all started for him - KartSport.

"It's my way, if you like, of saying thanks," the 25-year-old said from his adopted home across the Tasman this week. "Last year I felt honoured when I was asked if I would like to be made the Patron of the sport in NZ. I see my Grand Prix event in the same light. I wouldn't be where I am today if I hadn't been able to start racing karts in Hamilton back when I was a little tacker, so as far as I can see the more I can use the profile I now have to help the sport the better."

Being put together by event management specialist Nick Rowland in association with McLaughlin and the sport's governing body, KartSport New Zealand, the Grand Prix event will be based in Auckland and held on the Tuesday (Nov 06) after the New Zealand round of this year's Virgin Australia Supercars championship, the ITM SuperSprint meeting at Pukekohe Park Raceway.

Like similar events Rowland has organised for other high-profile Kiwi sportspeople, the Pro-Am format will see guests from the corporate world team up with high-profile local sportsmen and women to complete a variety of challenges during the day then enjoy each other's company at a gala black-tie charity dinner on the Tuesday evening.

The big difference between the 'Grand Prix' and other Pro-Am-style charity ones is that the Scott McLaughlin will be based round a series of driving challenges at Hampton Downs.

"That's right," says Rowland. "Obviously, if I am putting together an event for a rugby player you can't really have your guests packing down a scrum; which is why in that case we might put together a golf tournament.

"With Scott's event, everyone these days can drive, so it's not too big a stretch to get them out to Hampton Downs and into a kart on the kart track there, and with a little bit of professional instruction, behind the wheel of some exotic cars provided by the Giltrap Group for various team-based challenges on the motor racing circuit."

The event itself starts with a meet-and-greet 'Pre-Qualifying' cocktail function in Auckland on Monday November 05, then gets into gear proper on Tuesday Nov 6 ride down the Southern Motorway to Hampton Downs where participants will enjoy a 'Rolling Start' breakfast followed by the day's driving activities before a 'Victory Lap' charity dinner at the Kauri Bay Boomrock, near Clevedon that evening.

Proceeds from the event will go to helping KartSport New Zealand fund and run its highly-rated Driver Development Academy.

The Academy has been designed to provide a set of programs and coaching clinics to assist all members from new entrants through club day racers to aspiring and existing elite international level competitors.

The Academy has a team of contracted KartSport New Zealand Accredited Coaches, all of whom have had to meet strict accreditation criteria including a solid background in coaching of karters and participation in KartSport New Zealand coaching workshops. Many of the Coaches also have a distinguished history of competition in the sport.

For more information about the Scott McLaughlin Grand Prix event contact Nick Rowland of Side by Side Bespoke Partnerships by tel or txt on 021 95 85 75 or via email on [nick.rowland@sidebyside.kiwi](mailto:nick.rowland@sidebyside.kiwi)

## **This Months YouTube Clips**

### **Romano Fenati Grabs Manzi's Brakes**

<https://youtu.be/reutK-hcYzw>

### **The Moment it all went Wrong for Jorge Lorenzo**

<https://www.facebook.com/MotoGP/videos/554099501693974/>

### **MotoGP Misano 2018 Full RACE**

<https://youtu.be/QMenqaNQGBw>

### **2018 British Grand Prix: Race Highlights**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_HkmYvKVx58](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_HkmYvKVx58)

### **Lewis Hamilton rides with Cal Crutchlow**

<https://youtu.be/BFQ2EA9NNtI>

### **MotoGP™ vs. IndyCar**

<https://youtu.be/oW8B4yHAGEw>

*What's faster: 2 wheels or 4? Dani Pedrosa pits his MotoGP bike against an IndyCar at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway.*

### **McLaren P1 vs. Porsche 918 Spyder vs. Ducati 1199**

<https://youtu.be/bfLqa4vImFI>

Well that's it for this month, I hope you enjoy viewing the YouTube clips as much as I do, a good escape from the day for a few minutes!

If anyone has any ideas for the next issue please get in touch I would love to hear from anyone who has something to share be it an idea, article/photo or anything that we may like to see or know about.

Stay safe and well everyone, see you again in October.

Regards

Maree xxx

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