

TEAM UK DRIVERS TRAIN AT TOP NATIONAL SPORTS FACILITY

Tuesday 27 January, 2015

Some of British motor sport's most promising young athletes experienced life at a top national sports facility when the MSA Team UK national squad trained at Loughborough College last week (20-23 January).

Team UK represents the pinnacle of the Motor Sports Association's talent development pathway, the MSA Academy. This was Team UK's first visit to Loughborough College, which has played host to top athletes from many other sports.

Some of the Team UK drivers had already trained at the state-of-the-art venue as former students on the MSA Academy's AASE programme for 16- to 18-year-olds. The current AASE cohort was also studying at Loughborough College this week and enjoyed the opportunity to meet and interact with their Team UK peers.

Team UK's four-day training camp included physical exercises, tests and challenges, combined with nutrition education. The sessions were overseen by Loughborough College tutors and qualified MSA Coaches, who led group and individual coaching and feedback sessions. Robert Reid, MSA Performance Director and 2001 World Rally Champion co-driver and Greg Symes, MSA Academy Manager, were also on hand.

The drivers also spent time one-on-one with their respective MSA Performance Managers, completing performance profiles and designing their individual coaching plans for the coming season.

The Team UK drivers training at Loughborough College were:

- Ben Barnicoat
- Jake Dennis
- Jordan King
- Dan Lloyd
- Alex Lynn
- Seb Morris
- Matt Parry
- Nick Yelloly.

They were joined by MSA Academy Squad members Sennan Fielding and Ross Wylie, who were given the opportunity to work with Team UK as part of their on-going development.

Twenty-one-year-old GP3 champion Alex Lynn, who will race in GP2 this season, said: "The three days in Loughborough have been really beneficial to my upcoming racing season. Some of the lessons we've learned have been vital, whether it's improving our fitness or our mobility, it's going to help keep us from injury. Having the whole national squad together is a great morale boost and it really gives the team good energy going into the new season. The athletes who train at Loughborough College are extremely lucky to have access to such great facilities on a daily basis and it's really a centre of excellence. Just being around this environment makes us really appreciate what we get to do as professional athletes."

Formula Renault 2.0 NEC champion Ben Barnicoat, 17, said: "The week in Loughborough has been my first group event as a Team UK member and I've thoroughly enjoyed it. We've done a lot of challenging physical activities with the great staff at Loughborough College, who have given us real insight into what we can do outside our normal training routines. It's been really motivational, for example when watching top gymnasts train while attempting it ourselves; we all think we're fit racing drivers but seeing them was very eye-opening. We've also done a lot of theory based workshops, for example around nutrition, which I'm certain will really help me in the future, I look forward to taking it further."

Editors notes:

The **Motor Sports Association** (MSA) is the national governing body, responsible for the regulation and administration of four-wheeled motor sport in the UK. The MSA is a member of the world governing body, the Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA) and holds a seat on the World Motor Sport Council. The MSA represents 30,000 licence holders, 9,500 volunteer marshals and officials, more than 750

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member clubs and issues permits for 5,000 motor sport events every year. As a result of its commitment to developing the sport, the MSA makes significant investment in the three elements of its Whole Sport Plan: 'Grow' targets an increase in participation levels, 'Sustain' invests in the infrastructure of the sport, its clubs and its people, and 'Excel' focuses on training future world champions and educating their peers.

Team UK is a national squad of potentially elite drivers who are hand-picked to receive a bespoke one-on-one performance management programme as they progress towards the sport's top levels. It is the pinnacle of the MSA Academy talent development pathway. Drivers work with an MSA Level Four Qualified Performance Manager who provides ongoing coaching, support, advice and guidance. Each driver's programme is tailored to their individual needs and requirements. Following a needs analysis this programme is mapped out using a scientific based approach to talent development. Team UK Coaches are a combination of in-house qualified professionals and expert consultants from the industry. Drivers are also able to benefit from other areas of the MSA Academy pathway if required.

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