



AB-built car can run in RGB Championship

RGB racers develop new club sportscar

Bike engine tuning specialist AB Performance has launched its first prototype sportscar.

The Suffolk firm will enter a brace of its new SABre chassis in the 750 Motor Club's RGB Championship for reigning title-holder Tim Gray and series regular Richard Wise.

The car has been developed in conjunction with Formula Ford constructor Steve Willis, who established the Spirit marque. It is the engine tuner's first attempt at producing a complete racing car.

The SABre will run with two different engine packages. Gray will pilot a Class A car fitted with

a 178bhp Kawasaki KZX12 engine while Wise will drive a 165bhp Honda CBR version in Class B. Both feature a steel spaceframe chassis and a six-speed sequential dog box.

"We maintain a lot of engines in the RGB series and since there are so many different chassis about it can be difficult to work on some," explained AB founder Andy Bates. "We wanted to provide a custom chassis which will house any of our engines easily. I've known Steve for years and having his knowledge on-board has been a great help.

"We have installed a plug and



Car can be modified (above) to run with or without a rear wing

play engine management system so it can run almost any bike engine or even a Ford Duratec lump and Hewland gearbox to race

in a series like Sports 2000. This is a race car honed to the road." The SABre is expected to cost around £25,000.

Rising rallycross star Bailey makes circuit switch to Ginetta Juniors

Junior Rallycross sensation Brad Bailey will make a surprise switch to circuit racing this year in the Ginetta Junior Championship.

Bailey, who won both the MSA British and Open Junior Rallycross titles in his first year of competition last season, will drive a G40 machine that will be run through his family. Brad Bailey Motorsport concern.

"We were looking to go into Division One rallycross this year but the sport is a bit unsettled at the moment," explained Bailey's father Paul. "Brad has always been interested in circuit racing and his dream is to be in the BTCC so this was the logical first step."

The 15-year-old from Maldon, Essex got to grips with an old G20 Coupe at Pembrey circuit in Wales

last week. "His times were very encouraging," added Paul Bailey. "He drives with his head but the still has a lot to get used to because it's a different world to rallycross. We plan to do two years of Juniors and then move up the BTCC package."

Bailey said that the team would continue to contest selected Junior Rallycross events this year around the Ginetta campaign.

MATTT JAMIES

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John Booth (centre) enters the F1 piranha club this year

Racing's new world order

Motor racing has been through something of a seismic shift in the last 12 months. This time last year, if you were in the pub and you told your mates that Jensen Burton would be world champion, they would accuse you of having had too much of the strong stuff.

Then add in that the Ferrari and McLaren teams would be replaced as the dominators in Formula One by Red Bull Racing and Brawn GP and they'd begin to launch

door. It has been a truly amazing sequence of events that means the 2010 season is dripping with promise.

For me, the most intriguing part will be the performance of Manor Grand Prix (now Virgin Racing). Having watched the team collect title after title in the junior ranks, it has earned its right to have a shot at the big time.

There's something earthy about Manor and it's not just its Yorkshire roots, either. Rather than a big manufacturer buying its way into the top flight or rebranding an existing team this is a team that's done it the hard way and, arguably,



Photo: Tim Whittington

Bailey is British Junior champ