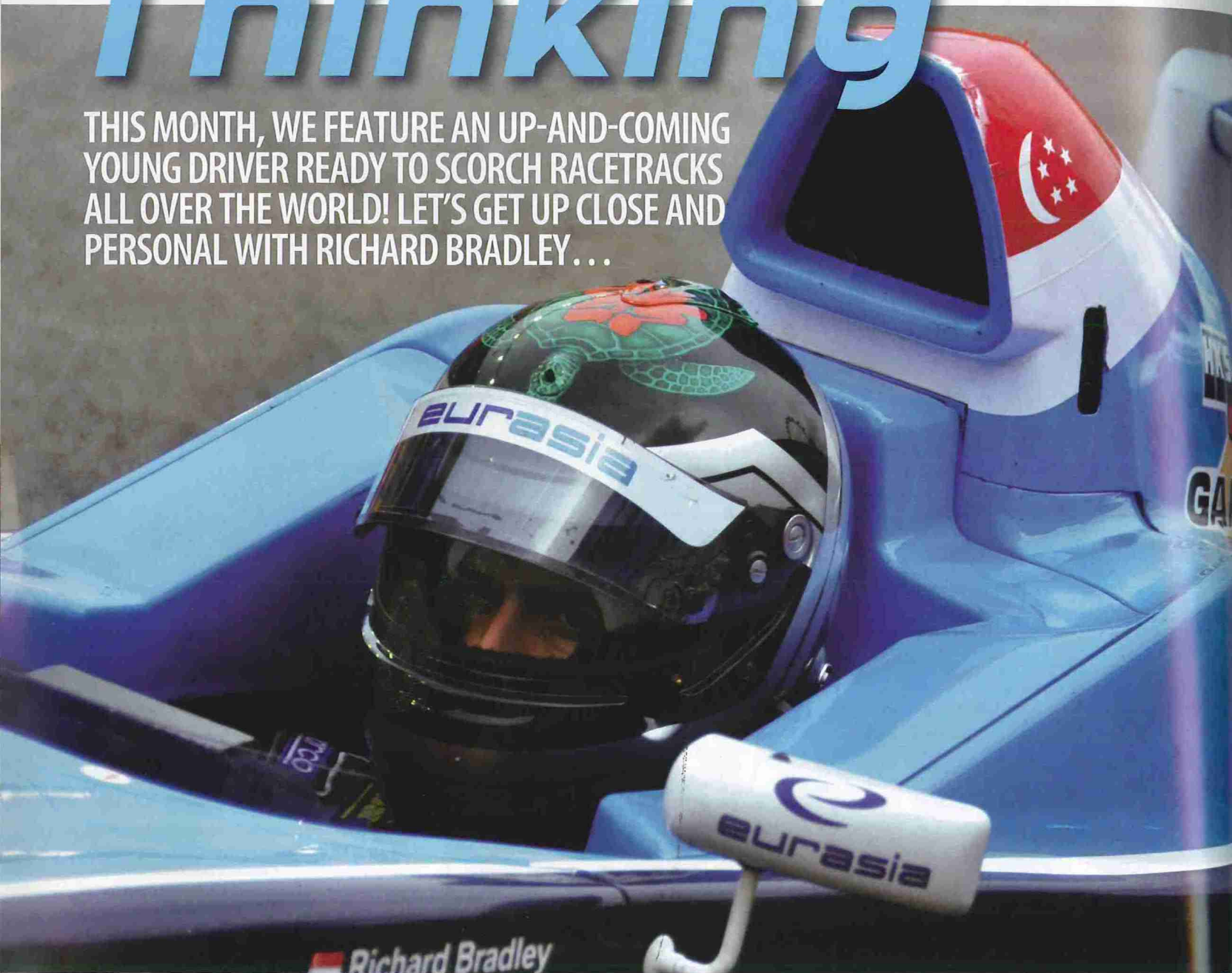


# Quick Thinking

THIS MONTH, WE FEATURE AN UP-AND-COMING YOUNG DRIVER READY TO SCORCH RACETRACKS ALL OVER THE WORLD! LET'S GET UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL WITH RICHARD BRADLEY...



**N**ineteen-year-old Richard Bradley is a multiple championship winning kart racer and an up and coming motorsports prodigy currently leading the points tally at the Formula BMW Pacific Championship. The Formula BMW Pacific Championship is the premier entry-level single-seater racing series which many Formula 1 drivers have participated in during their early days: Next to Sebastian Vettel, runner-up in F1 last year, Nico Rosberg, Adrian Sutil, Timo Glock, Sebastien Buemi,

Nicolas Hulkenberg and Bruno Senna are all former Formula BMW drivers.

Though he hails from Britain, Richard races under the Singapore flag with local outfit Eurasia Motorsports, and after winning one race at the Marina Bay Street Circuit and a podium third position for the second, he now has a 55-point buffer between him and his nearest rival. His racing career has been both immense and intense, despite his young age. Having won multiple kart

racing championships, this is Richard's first foray into open seat racing cars, and it seems that Richard's winning ways are platform-irrelevant.

Over the weekend, we caught up with him as he prepared for the first of his two Formula BMW Pacific Championship races supporting the main Formula One race. A tall and well-built young man, Richard was friendly and amiable, cracking jokes and relaxing with us even though his race would start in less than half an hours' time! As we chatted,

his omnipotent aura gave way to a pragmatic and down-to-earth personality, and we truly had a good time chatting with this awesome young man!

**Hello Richard, tell us more about how you started racing? How did you discover your passion for motorsports?**

My dad raced historic cars, and one day he decided to take me to watch a Formula One Race in 1999. I was hooked on anything that moved fast since I was young, so that got me interested in racing. My dad then took me karting on my 8th birthday, and I guess I've never looked back since then.

**Any highlights to share about the journey so far?**

There's really no one highlight about this adventure. Everything has been utterly amazing, because I get to travel around the region racing, seeing and experiencing new places and cultures. But I guess if I had to choose, this weekend is definitely a highlight. It's the first time I am racing on street circuit, so far from where I live (in the UK). It's also my home grand prix because I race under the Singapore flag.

**Describe how you feel before any race and how you prepare for one?**

Obviously, I always feel a little nervous. I try to think of everything but the race before it starts. But the moment the engine turns on, everything else disappears and I feel total focus. Passion and energy flows through my veins, and I am ready to take on any challenge.

**Any goals and expectations for the race this weekend? How are preparations and what does it feel like to be racing on home ground?**

Well of course we want to have two wins! We're in a good position to do so too. We're starting in P2, and we have the pace to go for the pole position during the race. Our rivals have experienced difficulties, so there's a good chance of winning championship this weekend.

I don't really feel any added pressure, because to me it's just another race. Just work around the track and attack from the green flag onwards. This is a fast and complicated track where no one driver has the added advantage of experience, so it's quite a level playing field. Of course, the fans waving from the stands will always boost morale!

**Why did you choose to come to Asia?**

I really like living here, and I think Asia is truly up and coming in field of motorsports. There is loads of potential for growth so I want to make sure that we are at the centre of the attraction when it happens.

**This is your first time racing in single-seaters but you seem like you've been driving them all your life. What's your secret?**

I think a strong foundation in kart racing should be the secret. Basic principles between the two are about the same, so when I graduated from one form the another, the progression seemed natural and I caught on quickly. For the most part, though, I don't know what's going on, and I just don't think about anything but driving the course during



previous outings in China, the engine broke during the first race. We were devastated, but we pulled through as a team, replaced the engine quickly and came back to win the next race. Goes to show as long as you have a strong team and you trust them, no obstacle is too hard to overcome.

**What are your plans for next season?**

Next year I plan to take part in Formula Three racing. I don't know where yet, I guess I'll have to see which sponsors are willing to take me. Who knows what the future holds, right?

**What do you do when you are not racing?**

My schedule is really hectic as it is. It's always fitness or simulator work, preparing for the next race. It's a really high level of commitment, and I find myself constantly doing something related to my racing, but I honestly love it. In my spare time, though, I coach budding young karters, and help out with Alex Yoong's karting team!

**Let's talk cars for a minute! Off the track, what do you drive?**

My mum's Mercedes Benz A-Class in the UK! In Singapore I don't see any need for me to drive my own car. The public transport system is awesome and makes a personal car redundant for daily use.

**Favourite car of all time?**

Hmm. I'd pick the Ascari A10. It's sleek and fast – almost as fast as a Veyron! 240mph (384km/h) to be exact! 🏎️

the race. When I get to the start/finish straight, someone just lets me know that my lap times are bloody quick! Haha!

**What advice do you have for aspiring racing drivers?**

I think the main thing is just to never, ever give up. There are always bad points in a race driver's career, but as long as you stick together with your team, you'll get past any obstacle. During one of our

