

INTRODUCING **Richard Bradley**

The Singapore-based Londoner aims to make the most of his TOM'S Japanese F3 ride

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Bradley led the way in FBMW Pacific last year...

Singapore put itself on the international motorsport map three years ago when it hosted its first world championship grand prix, but so far it has never produced a driver worthy of competing at the top level of single-seater racing.

That could all be about to change. Well, sort of. Because although Formula BMW Pacific champion Richard Bradley competes using a Singapore licence, he actually hails from Greenwich.

After a decade in karting that yielded several titles in Britain, Bradley and his family moved to Singapore in 2009, opening up an opportunity for the

teenager to make the step up to cars.

He couldn't have wished for a better debut. In front of the F1 crews present at Sepang for the Malaysian Grand Prix, the Eurasia Motorsport driver collected a double win ahead of highly-rated Red Bull drivers Carlos Sainz Jr and Daniil Kyvat, and moved into a series lead he would not lose.

"It was a great year," says Bradley. "We won seven times and got the overall and rookie championships. The only real difficulty came when Sainz Jr and Kyvat came and did guest drives. Because they weren't registered for points, they could race as hard as they liked and not worry about the

consequences, while I had to think about the points every time. It wasn't the nicest way to race. The dicing with the regulars was much cleaner."

Those regulars, like closest rival Oscar Tunjo, were unable to get close to Bradley's seven wins and nine podiums, and were powerless to prevent him from wrapping up the title at Okayama in Japan in October.

"I got a surprise that day because Susumu Koumi, the general manager of TOM'S, came and congratulated me and said he'd been tracking my progress for a while," he recalls. "And after that, it didn't take us long to do a deal to race in Japanese F3 this year, which is a massive opportunity for me as they're a great team and have close links with Toyota."

Bradley's task of learning both his F3 Dallara and the Japanese circuits has been dealt a blow in the past fortnight as the effects of the Tsunami have included the cancellation of all testing for the country's three main series.

But he is not letting the pressure of keeping up the TOM'S record of 20 titles in 23 years affect his mindset.

"Winning the title would be amazing, but Koumi San says it's not essential for a rookie to win the title," he says. "I'll be happy knowing I've performed to the best of my abilities. Nobody can ask more of you than that." ❧

RICHARD BRADLEY



Born Aug 17, 1991

From London, England

Lives Singapore

2010 Formula BMW Pacific champion (seven wins)

2009 Eighth in Super KF1 European Karting championship

2008 British Open Karting champion

2000-2007 Karting

Karting



... with seven wins for the Eurasia team