



EN ROUTE TO F1: RICHARD BRADLEY

Formula 1 is glamorous, prestigious and thrilling, but many are unaware of the journey to F1 and its challenges.

TEXT/ Cheryl Tay

F1 drivers usually start with go-karts, which is the most basic form of motorsports that one can partake.

Moving on to racing in single-seaters, drivers progress from the junior levels like Formula BMW before going to Formula 3 then GP2 and eventually Formula 1. As one moves up the ladder of motor racing,

more support is needed to help promote talent.

Right at home in Singapore, we have our very own F1 driver in the making. 19-year-old Richard Bradley is currently leading the Drivers' Championship and Rookie Cup in the 2010 Formula BMW Pacific championship.

Photos courtesy of PSAV Motorsport and Richard Bradley Motors.



Formula BMW is a junior single-seater race series that F1 drivers Sebastian Vettel, Nico Rosberg, Adrian Sutil, Timo Glock, Sebastian Buemi, Nicolas Hulkenberg and Bruno Senna once participated in on their way up to F1.

Racing under the Singapore flag, Richard will be racing on home ground at the Formula 1 SingTel Singapore Grand Prix, down the streets of Marina Bay as the Formula BMW Pacific series will be held as a support race.

"I am really excited about getting to drive on home ground in front of the Singaporean crowd. It will be my first time driving on a street circuit and I hope to fly the Singapore flag high at the top of the podium that weekend. I will do my best to achieve a good performance and do Singapore proud," said Richard.

A well-known British multiple kart champion, Richard first started karting at the age of eight and has won several major titles, including the 2008 British Open Championship. He has raced at the Super KF, the highest level of karting, and competed in karts until the end of 2009.

After his last international kart race, he moved to Singapore from London – upon completing his qualification in motorsport engineering – to pursue a career in motor racing.

Richard made a seamless transition from racing karts to single-seaters. This is his first season racing formula cars and he is already showing that he has the potential to get to the highest level of motor racing provided that he continues to receive the right level of technical and commercial support.

He made a spectacular debut at the opening rounds of the Championship which were held as support races to the Formula One Petronas Malaysian Grand Prix.

Clinging back-to-back victories, Richard qualified in pole position and set the fastest lap times for both races. His pole position time was a new record in a Formula BMW at Sepang International Circuit, Malaysia.

"I am aiming to win the Formula BMW Pacific championship this year, before moving on to secure a seat in Formula 3 next season. As with all professional sports, sponsorship support is important as we go up the ladder. With the right level of technical and commercial support, I hope to get to the highest level of motor racing and be in Formula 1 within the next five years," he added.



attract
le into
Richard
ected as
dor for F1
Singapore,
and progress