

Va-Va-Vroom**Flying the flag at S'pore GP**

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WITH only two support races at this year's Formula 1 SingTel Singapore Grand Prix, there will be less local representation on the Marina Bay street circuit.

Between the Porsche Carrera Cup Asia (PCCA) and Formula BMW (FBMW) Pacific championships, there will only be four drivers flying the Singapore flag compared to seven drivers last year.

Mok Weng Sun, Ringo Chong and Yuey Tan are racing in the PCCA while Richard Bradley is the sole representative in FBMW Pacific, where he is leading the Drivers' Championship and Rookie Cup.

Mok of Team Porsche Club Singapore Racing is leading the PCCA Class B championship, with Chong third and Tan fifth.

In his first full season of PCCA, Tan, 28, races for McElrea Racing team in Class B of the PCCA and the Porsche GT3 Cup Challenge Australia.

He was the first Asian to race a Boeing 747 jetliner in a Porsche GT3 Cup Car at Changi Airport Terminal 3 last year.

Bradley, a 19-year-old Briton based in Singapore, moved here last year to pursue professional racing.

Having only raced in karts previously, Bradley had a spectacular rookie season racing when he won his first two races with the fastest lap times and even set the record for a Formula BMW at Sepang International Circuit.

He is now leading the championship by 40 points with only five rounds left.

The New Paper speaks to Tan and Bradley as they prepare for next week's Singapore GP.

THE NEW PAPER: HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT RACING IN SINGAPORE?

YUEY TAN: It is an absolutely fantastic event for the spectators and fans alike, and I feel proud to be Singaporean at my home circuit. I hope that the street circuit continues to grow and more Singaporeans have the chance to compete at this beautiful spectacle.

RICHARD BRADLEY: I feel very good about racing in Singapore for the first time, especially in an event as prestigious as the Singapore GP. I am representing Singapore and I aim to fly the flag high on my home ground.

HOW DIFFERENTLY DO YOU PREPARE FOR SINGAPORE COMPARED TO THE OTHER CIRCUITS?

YT: My preparation for the Singapore GP is not too different. It's important for the team to try and take it like any other race, and work on the fundamentals and techniques to drive a good race. The two largest differences between Singapore and the other venues are that we are under lights at a night race and that it is a street circuit. Concrete walls can sometimes play tricks on the mind.

RB: Singapore will be the very first street race for me, so it'll be a whole new experience. Physically and mentally I will approach it with the same desire and passion to win.

IS THERE MORE PRESSURE RACING IN FRONT OF A HOME CROWD?

YT: Of course, being in front of the home crowd can make a difference, especially with friends and family watching the race. Nonetheless, we will try our best to take it like any other race and keep it simple by going out there and doing our best.

RB: There is pressure at every race and if a driver doesn't feel the pressure then he wouldn't be normal. However, I will not let the crowd influence me and I will just take it as another race.



STREET RACE: Richard Bradley is leading the FBMW Pacific series, which is coming to Singapore next week.

PICTURE: BMW Motorsport