

**EUROPEAN F3**

# Hill joins Fortec for F3

**FORMULA RENAULT RACE WINNER JOSH**

Hill will graduate to the Formula 3 European Championship with Fortec Motorsport.

As predicted in AUTOSPORT (November 22), 22-year-old Hill will join Puerto Rican Felix Serralles and Brazilian Pipo Derani at Fortec, whose four-car squad of Dallara-Mercedes will be completed by Russian ex-GP3 racer Dmitry Suranovich.

Hill, who finished third with Fortec in the FRenault NEC standings last season before becoming a McLaren AUTOSPORT BRDC Award finalist, said: "It's a massive relief to get the plan for the year done and dusted. To be with a team like Fortec and a championship like European F3 is exciting.

"My initial goal, when I was aiming for British F3, was to go for the title in the first year because we knew it would be weaker. But looking at the grid for European F3, it's a bit like an all-star junior-driver line-up!

"I'm going to push hard straight away, but I've got to keep in mind there are a lot of second- and third-year drivers."

Both Hill and Caterham-backed Suranovich – who contested the Brasil F3



Hill raced for Fortec in FRenault last year

Open at Interlagos last month – get their first taste of the Dallara-Mercedes in next week's official test at Barcelona.

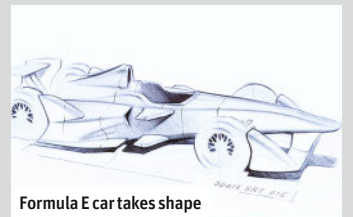
Fortec boss Richard Dutton said: "Josh really came on with us last year and he's ready to step up. Dmitry hasn't done any

mileage with us yet but he looks the part."

Hill also hopes to contest the four British F3 rounds if he can raise the budget.

● Digital channel Motors TV confirmed last week that it will screen the whole European championship live in the UK.

**IN BRIEF**



Formula E car takes shape

**DALLARA JOINS FORMULA E**

Dallara will work with Spark Racing Technology and McLaren on the chassis for the electric racing car series. Championship organisers also released sketches of the new-for-2014 racer.

**SAINZ SETS GP3 PACE**

MW Arden driver Carlos Sainz Jr topped last week's official GP3 test at Estoril after setting the pace on two of the three days. Britain's Lewis Williamson was fastest on the final day for the new Bamboo Engineering squad.

**ZAMPARELLI JOINS MANOR**

Dino Zamparelli was confirmed as Manor's first GP3 driver for 2013 ahead of last week's Estoril test. Toyota Racing Series champion Nick Cassidy and Vicky Piria joined him at Estoril while Roberto la Rocca firmed up his Bamboo race deal.

**DOUBLE R'S EURO SWITCH**

Double R Racing confirmed its switch from British Formula 3 to the European championship last week. Colombian teenager Tatiana Calderon has been confirmed alongside Sean Gelael and Antonio Giovinazzi.

**DE JONG'S DUAL PROGRAMME**

Daniel de Jong will supplement his GP2 campaign this year with a part-season in Auto GP for MP Motorsport. The team has signed Meindert van Buuren and Riccardo Agostini for the full series.

**BRADLEY'S SUPER MOVE**

Richard Bradley will graduate to Super Formula (nee F nippon) this season. The 21-year-old Briton, a regular podium finisher in Japanese F3 since 2011, tested for TOM'S at the end of last year.

**AJ RETURNS TO INDYCAR**

AJ Allmendinger made his single-seater return at Sebring last week when he tested an IndyCar for Team Penske. The former NASCAR Cup driver was 12th fastest, 0.671s slower than Rahal driver Takuma Sato, who set the pace.

'Dinger' tested for Penske



**IN BRIEF**



France '07: Duval's last time in a Citroen

**DUVAL AIMS FOR CITROEN DRIVE**

Francois Duval is closing on a deal to contest Rally Germany for Citroen. He hopes to drive a DS3 WRC on the Wallonie Rally as a shakedown in April. "I have to find some more budget," said the 32-year-old Belgian. "But it looks quite good."

**ITALY'S TWO-DAY FORMAT**

Rally Italy has been reduced to a two-day format running on June 20-21. Despite the reduction in days, the overall mileage remains similar to 2012 for what looks set to be Sardinia's final WRC round. The event moves back to the mainland next year.

**HIGGINS WINS IN USA**

Britain's David Higgins ended Ken Block's dominance of the 100 Acre Wood Rally last weekend. Reigning Rally America champion Higgins guided his Subaru Impreza to a nine-minute win on the snow-hit event in Missouri. Block's Ford Fiesta was sidelined with a mechanical problem.

**CITROEN'S PRE-MEXICO TEST**

Citroen driver Mikko Hirvonen completed his pre-Rally Mexico test in Portugal last week. His team-mate Dani Sordo's running was affected by rain on day two. PWRRC champion Benito Guerra tested the PH Sport DS3 WRC he will drive in Mexico, in France last week.

**SCOTT'S RX PEUGEOT**

Former motocrosser Andy Scott will make a full-time switch to the European Rallycross series this year. Scott will drive an Albatec Peugeot 208 alongside an as-yet unnamed driver. Fellow Brit Liam Doran will, as expected, be partnered by Andreas Bakkerud in his own LD Citroen team.

**SOLBERG'S FULL RX PROGRAMME**

Petter Solberg will complete a full European Rallycross campaign in a Citroen DS3 built and run by his own team. Solberg is one of 15 drivers to have signed centralised contracts with the series, which was launched at Lydden last week.



Solberg will tackle full RX programme



Ogier leads points

**WRC**

# Wilson fears French assault

**SEBASTIEN OGIER HAS BEEN TIPPED**

to continue France's domination of the World Rally Championship, with M-Sport boss Malcolm Wilson fearing a decade of success by the Volkswagen driver.

Courtesy of Sebastien Loeb, no nation other than France has produced a drivers' world champion since Norwegian Petter Solberg took the 2003 title. And Wilson reckons there are few drivers equipped to stop Ogier making it 10 years of French success this season.

Wilson told *L'Equipe*: "This time, I'd better think of retiring, because we're about to start for another 10 years with another Seb. Ogier is going to dominate the sport in the same way that Loeb did."

Ogier leads Loeb in the points standings, although the nine-time champion will only contest just two more rounds this year.