

# RACE CHAT *by Paul Lawrence*

Recent F1 cars and racing Ferraris are the big attractions at **Donington Park** today as the British Automobile Racing Club organises a varied programme that also includes the amazing spectacle of kart racing.

Tamworth teenager **Scott Mansell** heads the entry for round two of **EuroBOSS 2004**, which brings out an incredible field of high-powered single-seater racing cars including a gaggle of recent F1 cars. Still only 18 years old, Mansell has already demonstrated an amazing ability by coping with the physical and technical demands of racing an F1 car. His 1997 Benetton is a genuine ex-Grand Prix car and is entered by Scott's father Kevin for his son. With the ambition of making a career as a professional racing driver, Scott has a fantastic opportunity to race a car of this type. He is driving superbly and got his 2004 campaign off to a flying start with a commanding victory at Silverstone on Easter Monday. Now, at his home track, Scott will aim to make it two wins from two starts, and will also bid to smash the outright circuit lap record for the National track at Donington. The current record stands to Earl Goddard, also in a Benetton, at nearly 129mph, but Scott will be pushing hard to try and add the Donington record to the new standard he set at Silverstone last month.

However, Mansell will certainly not have this one all his own way and faces a mighty challenge from **Klaas Zwart** in his Ascari. Zwart, a highly successful single-seater and

sportscar racer, suffered gearbox failure at Silverstone and had to switch to his ex-Alesi Ferrari for the race, but aims to be back in his Ascari for Donington. Another front-running Benetton is that of Frenchman **Patrick D'Aubrey**, who owns the Croix-en-Ternois circuit in France. The Simtek of **Paul Smith**, the Footwork Arrows of **Anthony Hansford** and the G-Force Indy car of **Joachim Ryschka** all add quality to the grid. The Indy car is, in fact, was a race winner of the Indianapolis 500 race, so it is a famous chassis!

Ferrari fans are in for a real treat with rounds of both the **Pirelli Maranello Ferrari Challenge** and the **Ferrari Formula Classic** series. The Maranello Challenge is one of the best one-marque championships in Britain, with a field packed with 355 and 360 Challenge cars. **Peter Sowerby**, **Marco Attard** and **David Back** are leading contenders in the 360s, while Nottingham racer **Kevin Riley** and saloon car veteran **Vince Woodman**, who shares a car with former FF1600 racer **Keith Sprules**, top the 355s. New last year was the Ferrari Formula Classic, created by the Ferrari Owners' 92 Club as a home for the drivers wishing to race older cars. It has been an immediate success, and will bring out a mouth-watering field of cars for this race. From the glorious 275GTB of **David Cottingham** through the 365GTB of **Grahame Bryant** to more recent 308s and 328s, it is a magnificent field.



*BRDC Historic Sportscar Championship competitor, Ted Williams (Cooper Monaco).  
(Jakob Ebrey)*

Completing the car action is a round of the wonderful **BRDC Historic Sportscar Championship** for 1950s machinery, the second race in eight days at Donington for the series. The race is likely to continue the marvellous battles between the Cooper Monaco of **Ted Williams** and the Lotus 15 of **Philip Walker**, although the thundering Lister Corvette of **Julian Bronson** will be a contender, particularly in a dry race. Williams and Walker shared the wins when the season started in the wind and rain at Silverstone in March, with Bristol veteran Williams turning in a fiercely gritty drive to win the second race after a mighty battle.