

Mansell's F1 dream

Teenager Scott Mansell wants to follow in the footsteps of...

Photos: Stuart E

By Racing Editor
Richard Rodgers

Like many teenage racers, Scott Mansell wants to get to Formula One. But while most will chase their dream via the established routes such as Formula Ford, Formula Renault and Formula Three, Mansell's chosen career path blows the 'walk before you can run' notion out of the water.

Mansell, from Tamworth, is just 18 but has been racing a Formula One car since the end of last season. The Benetton B197 Mansell drives in the EuroBOSS series isn't as high-tech as the ones used in modern-day F1, but with a 760bhp Judd V10 engine, it is no less of a handful to drive.

While EuroBOSS has a reputation for attracting gentlemen racers with cash to splash on exotic machinery, Mansell breaks the mould.

With no family money to count on - Mansell is no relation to the former F1 champion of the same name - he has had to raise sponsorship to pay for his racing. His performances to date have been staggering given his age and lack of competition mileage.

He won the opening two races of the season from pole position and shattered the outright lap record at Silverstone and Donington Park in the process. He heads to Brands Hatch for the third round this weekend not only looking to add to his tally, but also to break the 38.210s outright lap record set by Adrian Fernandez's Lola Champ Car last May.

Mansell has chosen EuroBOSS because he thinks it could be a good training ground for F1.

"We looked at Formula Ford but simply couldn't raise the £100,000 budget you needed then. Then we thought 'why not EuroBOSS?'"

"I've got to learn to drive these cars at some point in my career so why not now? I am certainly able to learn a lot more and it's also much easier to attract sponsors when you tell them you're name is Mansell and you're going to be driving a Grand Prix car!"

NATIONAL RACING PREVIEW



No, not that Mansell: Scott (above and inset) is currently blazing a trail in the EuroBOSS series, but he's got his sights...

From karting, Mansell stepped up to Formula Honda as a 16-year-old in 2001.

A couple of Formula 600 races in South Africa followed, before he jumped to the Formula 3000 division of the EuroBOSS series in 2002 for four races.

Mansell says: "I was all set to drive the Glebe Formula Ford car in 2003, but the deal collapsed and I thought that would be the end of my season until the opportunity to drive the Benetton came up."

He was an instant hit, leading his first of two races and finishing sixth in the championship. It was a good springboard to a full-time assault on the series this season.

"I want to get to Formula One and I think by doing well in this series I'll have a good chance of getting noticed and hopefully getting an opportunity in Dallara Nissan or the new GP2 formula," he says.

If he continues his unabated start to the EuroBOSS season at Brands on Sunday, don't count against the Mansell name reappearing in Formula One within the next few years. ■

Hill heads Lotus fun

One of the highlights of this year's CSMA Classic Festival will be a track parade to mark the 50th anniversary of Team Lotus.



Hill: parade

Two decades of the once legendary Formula One team's achievements will be celebrated by six of the marque's cars, two of which will be driven by Sir Jack Brabham and Damon Hill.

They include the 79 that Mario Andretti steered to three Grands Prix victories in 1978, the controversial 88B which was outlawed from racing at the 1981 British Grand Prix and the 97T in which Ayrton Senna claimed his first Grand Prix win in Portugal in 1985.

Damon Hill will be driving the 49B his father Graham used to claim the 1968 F1 World Championship. The Gold Leaf-liveried car was also raced by Jochen Rindt, Mario Andretti and Emerson Fittipaldi.

Former Lotus F1 drivers Julian Bailey, Martin Donnelly and Johnny Dumfries will be at Brands Hatch on Saturday to lend support to David Brabham's

CSMA Classic Festival timetable

Saturday qualifying	
09.00 - 09.10	Classic Motorcycles
09.15 - 09.30	Modified Production Saloons
09.40 - 10.00	EuroBOSS (session one - untimed)
10.05 - 10.20	Classic Saloon and Historic Touring Cars
10.30 - 10.45	Classic Clubmans
10.55 - 11.15	Classic FF2000
11.20 - 11.35	Mini Se7en
11.40 - 11.55	Post Historic Touring Cars
12.00 - 12.15	MGOC Classes B and Z
12.25 - 12.45	EuroBOSS (session two - timed)
12.45 - 13.30	lunch break
13.00 - 13.10	Classic Lotus Grand Prix Car Parade
13.15	Royal Marines helicopter display
13.20 - 13.30	Classic Lotus Grand Prix Car Parade

racing	
13.40	Lansdowne Classic Motorcycles (12 laps)
14.00	Denny Dobson Super Advanced Aerobatic display
14.05	Toyo Tyres Modified Production Saloon Championship (14 l)
14.40	Classic Saloon & Historic Touring Car Championship (14 l)
15.15	Fuelforce Classic Clubmans Championship (14 laps)
15.50	Universal Racing Services Classic FF2000 Championship (14 l)
16.15	Aerostars Yaks WW2 Soviet fighter aircraft display
16.20	RAF Falcons Parachute Display Team
16.25	Dunlop Mini Se7en Championship (14 laps)
16.55	York Fitness Post Historic Touring Car Championship (14 l)
17.00	Sukhoi 26 Aerobatic Display
17.25	Lancaster Insurance MGOC CC Classes B and Z (14 laps)

Sunday qualifying	
10.00 - 10.15	Classic Motorcycles
10.20 - 10.35	MGOC Classes A and F
10.45 - 10.55	EuroBOSS (warm-up)
11.00 - 11.15	Classic Group One Touring Cars
11.20 - 11.35	Thoroughbred Sportscars
11.45 - 12.00	Classic FF1600
12.10 - 12.25	Mini Miglia
12.35 - 12.50	Austin Healey
12.55 - 13.10	Classic Thunder
13.10 - 13.55	lunch break
13.15	The Falcons Parachute Display Team
13.20 - 13.40	Classic Lotus Grand Prix car parade
13.35	Royal Marines Helicopter display

racing	
14.05	Lansdowne Classic Motorcycles (12 laps)
14.30	Lancaster Insurance MGOC CC Classes A and F (14 laps)
14.50	Denny Dobson Super Advanced Aerobatic Display

A day in the life of a teenage Grand Prix car racer

06.00: Time to wake up. Scott sets off on a 15-mile bike ride
08.00: Mansell jumps into his Renault Clio for the trip to Bishop Veesey grammar school in Sutton Coldfield. He pays for his road car by instructing at Silverstone
09.00: Design and technology class begins. It's one of four A-Levels. Mansell is sitting in June

kick-a-bout with his mates
14.00: The afternoon gets off to an easy start with an art lesson. He's ahead with his A-Level course work so his teacher doesn't give him too much grief
15.30: Home time for his mates but Mansell heads to his local gym for a two-hour workout
19.00: A plate of fish and pasta awaits