

## BARC Newsletter #1 - 2019

Welcome to the 2019 racing season, heres hoping the the winter has been good to you and you all are getting ready to GO RACING

Introducing Megan Gilkes: A great write up on Megan's racing history. We wish her all the luck in her future challenge with Formula 3 – Wseries (write up by: Brent Gilkes - photos courtesy of Richard Coburn)



### **BARC Member One Step from Pro Racing Contract in Europe**

18 year old Megan Gilkes from Richmond Hill has been a BARC member since she started racing a Formula Vee with Vallis Motorsport at the end of 2016. Now she is one step away from a pro contract racing with the W Series in a 6-weekend championship at some of Europe's most famous circuits. Between January 25<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> Megan competed in Melk, Austria against 59 other women selected to vie for 18 spots on the grid of the new W Series, where they will be driving identical Formula 3 Tatuus cars.

Competitors from across Europe, Australia, India, China, Japan, Brazil, and the USA as well as 2 from Canada went through a series of in-car and out-of-car tests developed for the FIA drivers search between 2011 and 2015 and were judged by, among others, ex F1 drivers David Coulthard, Alex Wurz and female Indy Car star Lyn St James. At the end of the weekend, 28 drivers including Megan were selected to go for a final shootout in Spain at the end of March which will determine which 18 women will make the first grid at Hockenheim in May.

We caught up with Megan during her aeronautical engineering studies at Imperial College London to ask her about the tests, her hopes for the coming season and how her racing career has evolved.

“When I applied I was hopeful that some of my previous success would get me into the initial trial and was thrilled when I was selected for Austria. I was then, in truth, a little over-awed, as I looked at some of the other girls' racing resumes that ranged from F1 test contracts, to F3 race wins, Spa and LeMans 24 hour competitors, super saloons in Australia, Asian F3, US F4, GP3, Boss F1 and everything in between. Bill Vallis of Vallis Motorsport who has run me in Formula Vee for the last 2 years and has been there for me at every race really helped out in getting my dad's Formula 2000 ready for me to do some testing at Roebing Road and then an SCCA Majors race at Homestead. This went really, really well and boosted my confidence no end, but then a wrinkle was thrown in; despite it being a single seater formula the January test would be done in sedans and they didn't let on what make of road car we'd be using, or even if they were front or rear wheel drive. I had never turned a wheel in anger in a sedan and so at one of my winter tests I arranged to do a day in a Spec Miata, and then I took my Mum's Mini Cooper up to Toronto Motorsports Park over the Christmas Holidays. That was

successful up until I wore out the front tires.

Between the testing in Canada and the USA and going to Austria has been quite a blur. I was invited to represent the W Series at the Autosport Racing Car show in Birmingham, England which was a lot of fun, allowed me to see the car, discover first-hand the huge interest that the series is generating, and be interviewed by among others a remarkable 11 year old who was awarded the UK's BBC Young Commentator of the Year award for 2018.

Obviously I am aiming to make it through the final round, and at least in Spain I will be driving a type of car that I am more familiar with. The Ford Fiesta and Porsche in Austria were both pretty alien to me compared to either the Vee or the 2-litre Van Dieman F2000, but at least with ice and snow on the track my Canadian driving experiences proved valuable.

The W Series is important to me as it would allow me to compete at a high level without having to come up with a huge budget, and I think the way they have selected from multiple car-racing disciplines across the world to try to find and support female drivers on a path to pro racing, whether it be F1, Indy Car or sports cars, is awesome.

I have been extremely fortunate so far in my racing career. I was introduced to karting in 2010 when I lived in Barbados and got to represent the country as their championship winner at the Easykart World Finals in Italy. That didn't go so well, as I crashed heavily in qualifying and broke my wrist. My mum took a bit of persuading to let me race again and I finally got back into the Briggs and Stratton Junior series in Canada in 2014, winning the Ottawa Challenge Championship in 2015 then finishing runner up in the FIA sanctioned ECKC series in 2016. With the help of Vallis Motorsport I transitioned into cars at the end of 2016 and ran in the Canadian F1200 series and select US Challenge and SCCA races in 2017, and was proud to receive the best turned out car award from the grid marshals at the BARC events. Last year I raced in the same 2 series and won the opening 3 races at Mosport for the US Challenge Cup Series, and led the championship until about halfway through. I had a couple of unfortunate results mid-season and not being old enough to compete at the final round at Watkins Glen prevented me from ultimately challenging for the title. Similarly, in Canada there were conflicting rounds which I missed so I ended up finishing runner up here.... But then again, no one beats Phil Wang in a Vee at Mosport ~~2~~. Formula Vee has been a great learning experience and I can't recommend it enough for either juniors coming out of karting or drivers who just want the experience of racing. It is highly competitive, very reasonably priced relative to other forms of open wheel racing and has tremendous camaraderie.

Hopefully this gives you a taste of my racing adventures and I hope that you will follow the W Series at [wseries.com](http://wseries.com). A huge thank you to BARC, Vallis Motorsport, Miller Oils and the F1200 Association. Even if I do get onto the W Series grid, I still intend to come back and take another shot against Phil, Sid, Jeremy, Bill, Ian, Johan and all the other Vee guys at least once this year!"



On February 5, 2018 BARC awarded trophy to its outstanding members:

**2018 BARC AWARD RECIPIENTS**

**Ray Lloyd-spirit of BARC**

*Paul Subject*

*Phil Delahaye*

**Gord Wakeling** –Driver with the most competitive spirit

*Graham Lobban*

**Dan Clark Award-Board member** deserving of recognition

*Kyle Bast*

**Sterling Moss Award**-Driver showing determination and strength

*Robert Wickens*

**Bob Attrell Best New Driver Award**-Highest placing BARC rookie in the Ontario Region Championship

*Kellen Ritter*

**Kendall Award**-most successful competitor outside Ontario Region

*Kyle Marcelli*

**High Performance Tuning Award**-Highest scoring BARC driver in the Ontario Championships

*Phil Wang*

**Willy Clelland Award**-Driver demonstrating enjoyment of racing

*Rocco Marciello*

**Rogers-Barker Award**-Most Consistent club worker

*John Jensen*

**President's Award**-BARC member deserving recognition as decided by the club president

*Marlene Rashleigh*

*Brandon Rashleigh*

**Bruce Bell Award**-Best prepared car in both open and closed wheel as decided by the grid crew

Open Wheel-*Neil Castell*

Closed Wheel-*Lindsay Rice*

**Outer Limits Award** Person/persons who personify the spirit and love of all things racing

*Marlene Rashleigh*

*Brandon Rashleigh*

**Dulmage Memorial Ice Race Award**-Highest placing BARC member in the 2018 Ice Race Championship

*Phil Wang*







*Bryan Rashleigh, Kyle Bast, Paul Subject and Phil Delahye*



*Bryan Rasheigh and Kyle Bast*



*Bryan Rashleigh, Kyle Bast and Graham Lobban*



*Bryan Rashleigh, Kyle Bast and Kyle Marcelli*



*Bryan Rashleigh Kyle Bast and Rocco Marciello*



*Phil Wang and Wayne Wannamaker*



**BARC-OC Appreciation Awards**

In recognition and appreciation of your contribution to the British Automobile Racing club as a sponsor in 2018

**Kevin Harding  
Of  
Cornerstone Courier**

In recognition and appreciation of your contribution to the British Automobile Racing Club as a sponsor in 2018

**Khai Luu of  
Subaru of Brampton**

In recognition and appreciation of your contribution to the British Automobile Racing Club as a sponsor in 2018

**Levitt Safety**

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**John Cosgrove  
Global Warehousing**

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**John Somerville  
Abrams Towing**

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**Terry Fletcher  
Lubrico Warranty**

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**Green-Savoree  
Toronto Honda Indy**

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**BARC Ice Prix 2019 Report**

The checkered flag has dropped on another ice race weekend for BARC and it was a successful weekend. The weather was excellent on Saturday. Sunday was a bit milder and it drizzled all day. We had over 170 entries over the 2 days. This an increase of 30 entries over last years numbers. Part of the

increase in numbers is due to the introduction of the Lexus Sport Cup by Russ Bond. This is essentially a series within our ice race series that is limited to Lexus IS300s. We also saw a large increase in passenger waivers this year with 45 waivers being signed.

This year the worker accommodations were at the Motel Minden which was handy being only 5 minutes from the track and across the street from Timmies. Our worker dinner was held at Mark's Restaurant beside the Motel Minden. As usual I handed out the worker trophies. Slip n Slide Male went to Tom Hyland for slipping in his birthday on Saturday. Slip n Slide Female went to Miss Peyton Rashleigh because she was sliding down the snow banks and being slid around in a toboggan most of the day. Best Imitation of a Mountain Goat went to Angela Ward for her ascending and descending of the infield snow bank. The Best Short Joke of the weekend went to Alisha Rashleigh. Let's just say it was a short joke.

Thank you to all the volunteers that came out and did what they had to do. It makes my job easy when I have the right people on the job.

Looking forward to an even bigger and better event in 2020.

Wayne Wanamaker

BARC Ice Race Organizer



Quick report on BARC-OC Member Robert Wickens..... Last report we received was a video of Robert riding a stationary bike under his own power..... a true inspiration to us all. Keep on Keeping On Robert. #GetWellWickens.

With race season coming up super fast, hope your getting those cars ready and you volunteers are planning you weekends off to work at the track. Can;t come soon enough

