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IN BRIEF

Charlie Butler-Henderson replaced his TV presenter sister Vicki at Advent Motorsport's first Trofeo Abarth 500 test at Snetterton last week. Charlie drove the car while Vicki was away on TV duty. Advent boss Andrew Crighton said: "We have the opportunity to run a fourth car and Charlie could make a good addition to the team." Advent has already signed James Blyth and Saxmax graduate Josh Wakefield.

Ginetta G20 regular Sarah Franklin will switch to racing in the Trofeo Abarth 500 series this year. Franklin, who also had experience racing in Britcar and the Porsche Carrera Cup GB, moves into the series with Reflex Racing. "Sarah has raced with us for years and we wanted to try something new so the expansion made sense," said Reflex boss Derek Holden. "The Abarths are different to G20s but she's adapting to front-wheel-drive really well."

British GT squad Chad Racing has confirmed it will run a GT3-spec Ferrari 430 alongside its 430 Scuderia entry this year. The Canvey Island team will run Argentinean racers Jose Manuel Balbiani, 32, and Juan Garriz, 19, in the car. Chad has already signed Dan Brown and Chris Hymas to drive its first GT3-spec GT300.

Series to celebrate Ray

Champion of Brands names trophy after marque boss

Photos: Jakob Ebrej

By Rob Ladbrook

The revived Champion of Brands Formula Ford 1600 series will dedicate its highest-profile meeting of the year to the memory of legendary car constructor Bert Ray.

The inaugural Bert Ray Memorial Cup will be awarded to the winner of the races held on the Kent circuit's grand prix loop in support of the World Touring Car Championship on July 17/18.

Bert Ray founded the Ray Formula Ford marque, currently the category's longest running active manufacturer.

Series organiser James Beckett has been in talks with the Ray family about

Beckett runs series

naming a trophy after the marque stalwart.

"It is something we have been thinking of doing for a few years now and we are working very hard to make it happen at the WTCC round," he said "Bert lived for Formula Ford. He was a stalwart of the sport and he never really got the recognition his efforts deserved.

"What better way to honour his memory than by holding a race in his honour at his home circuit on the biggest meeting of the year? I would love to see a grid full of Rays from all years. It would add an extra sentiment to the races and will be a great way to honour a hero of Formula Ford."

Ray was a mainstay of the original Champion of Brands series in the early 1990s.



The revived Champion of Brands FF1600 series will celebrate legendary constructor Bert Ray