



Photo courtesy of Steve Newman from the U17 Car Club

2008 has also seen the launch of BTRDA® Motorsports Future Drive, a scholarship scheme to give the chance to two drivers who have never held a competition license to gain a years motor sport in three BTRDA® disciplines. The prize is entry to a minimum of six BTRDA® events, two Car Trials, two Autotests and two Autosolos. The car will be prepared by a technical team and transported to the events, so all the two winners have to do is turn up and compete.

In December 2007 Motorsports Future formed a relationship with the Under 17 Car Club, they chose eight finalists who came along to a selection day to choose one of the two winners. On Sunday 24th Feb the eight members of the Under 17 Car Club arrived at Castle Coombe to complete a day of car tests, interviews, presentstions, team building

and media relations. The winner from the Under 17 Car Club is 16 year old Julian Archard from Reading, Berkshire, pictured above with Emma Trevaskis, Alistair Moffatt, Sam Williams, Gemma Price and Andy Gowen.

Julian has been driving for 2 years since the age of 14 in the U17 CC and won Best Newcomer in 2006, as well as coming runner up in the two Team Challenges he has taken part in. He is studying his GCSEs at Theale Green Community School and is hoping to go on to University to study automotive engineering. "I am absolutely thrilled to be the Under 17's winner of the Drive scholarship with the BTRDA®. It's an amazing opportunity for anyone, but at only 16 years old it could change the direction I take in my future. My Dad is really proud of me for winning and is totally up for being my taxi to the events for the year!"

Andy Gowen commented that "deciding on the winner was a very difficult process today, the eight drivers that the U17 CC put forward were all of an exceptionally high quality, not only in driving ability but also in interview techniques and media relations."

This selection day was covered by BBC South in a full 3 minute news report please see the link at the end of the news.

The second of our selection days was held on the 28th Feb at the Bill Gwynne Rally School. These 9 finalists were chosen from the competition run in Motorsports News, again the drivers were put through their paces in the Micra around an Autotest/Autosolo course and then had the privilege of driving 5 laps of a rally stage in a Mark 2 Escort with Bill Gwynne. After a lunch provided by the rally school, the finalists were then put through their paces in team building exercies, presentations and interviews, as well as Matt Burt, Motorsports News editor gauging their medi relations skills. Matt commented that he was "amazed by the overall quality and enthusiasm shown by the finalists."



Photo courtesy of Nick Pollitt

John Fox pictured right with Motorsports Future members, Andy Gowen, Duncan Stephens, Gemma Price, Alistair Moffatt, Sam Williams, Jo Preston, Emma Trevaskis and Jess Fack, was crowned the inaugural winner of BTRDA® Drive from Motorsports News. Motorsports Future member Josh Veale commented that "it was really difficult to pick a winner, they were all very different and stood out in individual ways. In the end we opted for the best all rounder bearing in mind that they are taking part in a range of disciplines." Fellow member Sam Williams commented that "we couldn't believe the high standard of driving they all displayed. When you select from a newspaper you have no idea what they are like at all, so to get such a good bunch was a shock!"

Both winners will now go through a training programme with a number of experienced competitors and members of the Motorsports Future group before competing in the BTRDA® All Rounders Championship during 2008.

