

Motor Sport

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WHAT'S HOT



● KIMI Raikkonen is refusing to make any promises with regards to this year's Formula One world title, but he is convinced he is in with a chance of claiming the championship.

On his return to the sport last season after two years experimenting with rallying, Raikkonen concedes he surprised even himself with his third place finish in the standings behind Red Bull's triple world champion Sebastian Vettel and Fernando Alonso in his Ferrari.

However, it means much is now expected of the Enstone-based marque for this season that starts in Australia in just over three weeks' time, despite the fact its budget does not compare to that of its main rivals.

Even so, Raikkonen firmly believes he is in the hunt as he said: "You have to be realistic about your chances, but after last year we should have a chance."

"We don't have the budget, but if we get it right, can be consistent and reliable then we probably can put ourselves in a position where at least we do have a chance. We will try, but I'm



GOING SOLO: AutoSolo events appeal to drivers of all ages in their everyday cars

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Budget motorsport thrills

MOTORSPORT can be expensive, of that there's no doubt, but there are ways of competing without the need for any specialist equipment, maybe except for a waterproof coat, but more of that later... writes PHIL JAMES.

AutoSolo events are one of the fastest growing motorsport disciplines in the UK and the reason for their ever-increasing popularity is primarily cost, or lack of cost to be more precise! They are similar to Auto Tests but only utilise forward gears and most importantly the vehicle you use is the one you drive to work or

In addition to using your everyday drive you don't need a helmet or fire-resistant race suit, nor do you need a competition licence. It all sounds too simple to be true but that's why its popularity is growing faster than Lewis Hamilton's Mercedes!

AutoSolo events have a series of short timed courses run on a sealed surface and are suitable for a variety of cars be it a family saloon or hatchback. Driver skill is more important than speed or power, as while timing does count, accuracy in following the correct route and not touching any of the cones that define it is of far

tandem with the AutoSolo in order to allow those not holding a driving licence aged 16 years or over to take part.

Steve Johnson, regional development officer for Go Motorsport, says "It's a great way of enabling young people to drive and learn driving skills in a controlled environment and dovetails with Go Motorsport's aims encouraging people into the sport while at the same time promoting safe driving."

For more information visit www.gomotorsport.net or email: northwest@gomotorsport.net to contact Mr Johnson directly.

Zoom out



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Competitors are split into three groups, one competing, one resting with the third marshaling and that's where the waterproof coat comes in, as it's very handy if it happens to be raining!

More and more north west motor clubs, such as West Cumbria and Wigton, are making AutoSolos a regular feature of their events calendar with entry fees of around £20-£25. Some clubs, most notably the Under-17 Motor Club, run a Production Car Auto Test in

tandem with the AutoSolo in order to allow those not holding a driving licence aged 16 years or over to take part.

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North West Motor Clubs which run AutoSolos include:

- West Cumbria Motorsports Club: www.wcmcrallying.co.uk
- Wigton & District Motor Club: www.wigtonmc.co.uk
- Under-17 Motor Club: www.u17mc-northwest.org.uk
- Morecambe Car Club: www.morecambecarclub.co.uk

Zoom out

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