



DEREK DALY'S BP BRITISH FORMULA 3 CHAMPIONSHIP YEAR

About this time last year I was trying to make my mind up whether to drive a Works Royale Formula Ford in England and Europe or whether to drive a Super Ford for Ken Hersley Racing. These were the two offers I had and what ever way I looked at it, I was going to have to struggle through another season because I didn't have a sponsor to back me for Formula 3.

At Christmas time the prospects of moving up to F3 became a reality when Derek McMahon agreed to support me on what you could call a trial basis. He gave me a small budget to do the season and said that when it is spent whether it is in April or October that's it — finito!

I secured trade support from Goodyear (Ireland) through Fitt Tyre Services; B.P. and Champion and Jaycessories who kitted me out with all my fireproof clothing.

DEREK DALY'S OWN STORY OF HIS OWN SUCCESSFUL SEASON IN F.3



I then put a deposit on Rupert Keegan's Chevron and my little team was now taking shape. Derek then decided that I should have a new car so the new engine was fitted to a brand new Chevron B.38. By the time the car was finished the first race was only ten days away so there was precious little time for pre-season testing.

Silverstone — first F. 3 race

We ended up transporting the car to the first test day at Silverstone in a "Kenning hire van" and the only spares we had were the two wooden planks used to load the car! That first day was a shambles because we didn't even have a spare battery to use after we flattened our

only one. I towed it in the teaming rain to start it and got everything drenched including myself before it eventually fired up. If only I had known there was a "choke" on it, it could have started first time on the garage.

Four days before the first race I contacted ace mechanic Nevil Sanders who I had met while working at Hawkes and asked him whether he would like to work for me for the season. He agreed and we went to Oxford on that Thursday to see a van which I considered would make an ideal transporter. I bought it for "a song" and drove it straight to a steelworks and had some ramps fitted inside and an elastic winch.

Two days later we arrived at Silverstone with a car, some spare wheels and a spare nose cone, and Neil's tool box. After troubles in practice and using a

Derek Daly in the Derek McMahon Racing Chevron B38 in a typically close Formula 3 dice, leading Geoff Brabham in a Ralt and Geoff Lees in another Chevron B38, in the BP Formula 3 Championship final at Thruxton, won by Derek with Lees second and Brabham (son of triple World Champion Jack Brabham) retired with fuel leakage problems.

