

## CARDIFF

## F1 career beckoning

CARDIFF'S Gareth Rees is on the verge of an F1 racing career.

He faces a busy August at the European F3 championship starting this weekend in Austria before it moves to Hockenheim and Spa circuits.

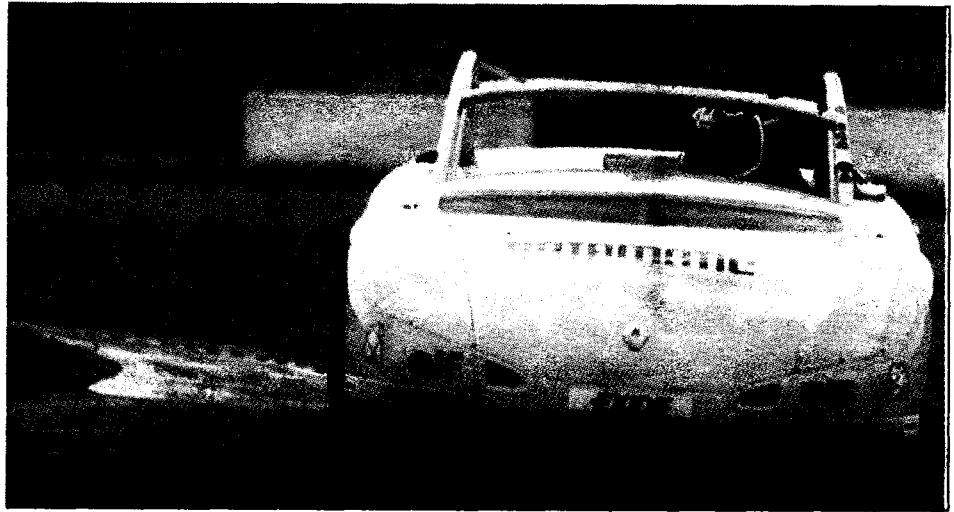
After a disappointing start to the season he has swept up the board to 9th place.

He is driving for the Danish team, Den Bla Avis feels at home.

"All the mechanics and engineers are British," said Gareth.

Success in F3 is often regarded as a step into F1 and Gareth hopes he will take the championship and join one of the elite.

## SPIDERMAN JULIAN JUST ONE WIN AWAY



**POLE POSITION:** Julian Westwood from Caerphilly has been setting the Renault Sport Spider series alight with his private entry this season supported by Cardiff's Datamatic. He is now within a win of taking the championship.

**HEADING OUT:** Customers and staff of Newtown Motors leaving Gwent for the French classic race

## Battling Westwood forced to accept fourth position

WELSH drivers Alvin Powell and Julian Westwood made a big impact in the Renault Spider Sportscar Trophy at Le Mans last weekend.

Westwood who was in 2nd

place in the championship at the start of the race, was the star performer. After holding 5th place early on, Westwood moved up to join a four car battle for the lead, as the race entered the closing

stages.

However just as Westwood looked to be in a position to challenge for the lead, German driver Ralf Drukemuller barged past as the cars headed down the famous

Mulsanne Straight. Westwood was not to be denied and returned the compliment as the battle continued all the way around to the next lap. Westwood ended in fourth place.

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#### EUROPEAN FORMULA 3000: Happy with sixth place

## Wet track doesn't stop Gareth

GARETH REES scored a valuable point with a fighting sixth place in the latest round of the European Formula 3000 championship at Hockenheim on Saturday, after a strong drive in changeable conditions.

Rees was disappointed to find himself in 13th place on the grid after practice, but with rain sweeping the track the race was stopped and restarted following an accident involving several backmarkers.

After the restart the rain stopped and the track began to dry out, but the mayhem continued with cars leaving the circuit everywhere.

"We started again behind the pace car but as the track dried out the timing

#### ROB ALLENDER

of the pitstop was going to be crucial," Rees explained.

"Unfortunately, my team took their time about calling me in and I reckon I lost an even better placing. Even so, I am reasonably happy. Finishing sixth after starting 13th is a good result after such a difficult race.

"Hockenheim when it is raining is not a nice place - the spray hangs in the air and doing 170mph when it's like that becomes a bit scary."

The next race in the European Formula 3000 championship is in Hungary in two weeks' time.

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WRC runs on huge 16-inch slick-  
shod wheels in asphalt trim and  
features two electronically-controlled  
differentials as well as  
massive 376 mm brake discs with  
six-piston calipers.

### BRIEFLY

#### Julian clocks up a second place

WELSHMAN Julian Westwood is keeping alive his title chase in the Renault Spider Sportscar Championship with a second place in the fourth round at Spa last weekend.

Weather was once again a problem at the Belgium circuit, but he set the fastest lap in the race. He now lies second to Italian leader Andrea Bellichi before the next round in Germany.

Meanwhile, the Welsh Racing Drivers' Championship is set for a round on June 27 at the Donington Park circuit.