

Car stars in chase for glory

TWO Welsh motor-racing stars hit the glory trial at Silverstone on Sunday.

The 1985 Marlboro British Formula 3 series starts there, and after almost 12 years without representation Wales will have two genuine con-

tenders to follow Tom Pryce.

His last Formula 3 race at Monaco put him into the front rank of grand prix drivers.

Glory comes quickly at times in motor racing, and both Lampeter's Tim Davies and Rhiwderin's Phil Kempe will be hoping it will happen to them.

With 30 entries for the opening race, it is clear

that both men will have to be at their best to make an impact.

Davies has already made his task more difficult after destroying the first Swallow Reynard in a testing crash. He might have started as favourite but for that.

The new favourite must be Brazilian Mauricio Gugelmin, runner-up to Davies in the 1983 FF 2000 championship.

Gugelmin was also runner-up in the 1984 series, but eventually won the 1984 Townsend Thoresen Euro series and looked the strongest runner at the end of the year.

Driving one of the new lopsided Ralt cars, the Brazilian has been the pace-setter in pre-season testing.

Winning the 1981 Dunlop-Autosport Star of Tomorrow series made Kempe a trend-setter.

Although he went on to a short season in Formula 3 with Hicks International, it was not until he found sponsorship from the Autoclenz group, who specialise in car cleaning, that anyone realised that he harboured a genuine ambition for the 1985 season.

Also running a Ralt, Kempe looked hard and tough in pre-season testing and could turn out to be a useful outsider.

Another dark horse could be Sandro Sala, the 1984 British 2000 winner.

Unlike his rivals, Sala will not be using the Volkswagen engine but the experimental SAAB motor, and much will depend on that development.

Also open to doubt is the Brazilian's wild streak, which caused so much anguish for Tim Davies and probably lost Sala the Euro-title which went to his countryman Gugelmin.

All in all the 1985 Marlboro series looks like the most competitive since the days of Tom Pryce.

He had to contend with the likes of James Hunt, Jody Scheckter and Carlos Pace in one of the hottest seasons on record.



● Phil Kempe — looks a useful outsider.