



SPEED DEMON: Kasia Nicklin competing in her Nissan Micra 1000cc rally car

Picture: Contributed

Kasia's breaking all the rules

by Sam Murley

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WHEN it comes to stereotypes surrounding rally driving, Kasia Nicklin is breaking all the rules as she sets her sights on having a long career in the sport.

Despite only being 15, and not legally allowed to drive on the country's roads, Kasia, from Bury St Edmunds, spends her weekends thrashing around her Nissan Micra rally car, competing in the Kick Energy Pirelli Junior 1000 Rally Championships.

Explained how she got into racing, she said: "My father was really into the sport when I was young. We went to the Ipswich indoor karting for my eighth birthday and I really enjoyed doing it.

"Since then it has been about progressing through competitions. I took part in the club 2000 championships and was awarded promising driver and best lady driver in 2008. After that I progressed through to the

National Championships for karting before moving into the rally cars.

"Driving the rally car is a great opportunity for me as I'm not allowed to legally drive on the roads yet.

"It has taught me some skills for when I'm ready to take to the road because I have been driving in snow and gravel so it is preparing me. I know on the road it will be totally different because I will have to drive safely where as rallying is a bit of fun."

Usually seen as a male-dominated sport, Nicklin, who became the first female to compete in in the F1000 Junior Championships, has become used to being seen as a novelty on the circuits and spoke of the men around her who have, and

continue, to help her progression.

She added: "I have got used to being the only, or one of very few, girls in the sport. All the other drivers treat me normally and like any other racer so it doesn't seem strange to me at all.

"I started out with Mark Ellis and now have Garteth Short as my co-driver. It was fantastic for me to be sitting next to Mark in the beginning because of his rallying experience. It built up my confidence and he taught me some hints and tricks and it was fantastic to gain that experience.

"Now I have that knowledge, Gareth Short has become my co-driver and he is crucial to me in the races. If he wasn't there I wouldn't know where I was going.

"I would love to progress in rallying and have a career in the sport."

Dominant display sees locals lo

A LOCAL venue and local drivers – most of them in locally-built cars – contesting a championship sponsored by a local business, what more could you ask for – the races dominated by these outfits?

There you have the AB Performance RGB Championship races, held at Snetterton last weekend.

The 750MC laid on two races for these cars

he lined up in the Spire GTR.

Richard Wise was further back as AB Performance fielded a second car, this new one still ironing out a few teething problems.

At the start, Cutmore split the Contours, but to no avail as an incident brought out the red flags.

At the restart, the Contour drivers made sure that Cutmore

MOTORSPORT

Green saw to it that the weekend finished as it started, as he brought his Spire from ninth to complete the top five.

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Stephen Glasswell was the only local competitor in the Formula Vee event, held on Saturday, in his only race of the

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