

Championship bosses upbeat despite few confirmed Clio drivers

Renault Clio Cup organisers are confident of a strong grid this year despite the series struggling to attract double-figure entries at its first official test at Snetterton last week.

Only ten cars turned out for the single-day test prompting fears about numbers ahead of its opening rounds at Thruxton in support of the British Touring Car Championship this weekend.

Despite the low turnout, series promoter Simon North remains confident the Clio Cup will retain

solid numbers. "The test wasn't a true indicator of numbers because we were originally supposed to test at Silverstone but we had to reschedule around the circuit development work there and many drivers couldn't make the new date," he told *Motorsport News*. "Clios are traditionally slow on entries and the bulk of our drivers do deals at the last minute. We expect that to happen again. We know of many drivers on the verge of joining and we are working hard behind the scenes to tempt them in.

"The TOCA package offers coverage second only to F1, and Clios is still the only saloon car series alongside the BTCC. I'm sure we will have a strong season."

Total Control Racing boss Lee Brookes, who is running two cars in the series, added: "It's a mystery why we haven't got more cars on the grid as the budgets have remained the same."

Team Pyro's Dave Newsham was fastest during the test setting a time of 1m 18.358s (89.67mph), two tenths clear of TCR's Sam Tordoff.

LEADING ENTRIES

| | |
|---------------|-----------------------|
| Sam Tordoff | Total Control Racing |
| Dave Newsham | Team Pyro |
| James Colburn | Westbourne Motorsport |
| Tom Carnaby | JHR |
| Jack Goff | Team Pyro |

Sam Tordoff will be one to watch this weekend

