

Rising racing star given boost on road to success

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By Simon Farr



STOKENCHURCH'S answer to Lewis Hamilton has been given a helping hand on the road to stardom from Wycombe District Council's leisure contractor.

Jack Goff is one of the country's most exciting driving talents and won his debut professional race at Donington Park in the MG Trophy last week.

The 18-year-old, who started racing in karts as a six-year-old, has set his sights on becoming a professional touring car driver within five years and has been boosted by a free gym membership at Parkwood Leisure centres.

He said: "I used to go and watch my dad in banger racing and I think that's where I caught the driving bug and it's all I've wanted to do ever since.

"When I was six it was just a bit of fun but when I turned eight I started competing in races and was pretty successful and it has just grown from there.

"I won my first race at Donington last week, which was a dream come true, it is one of the best tracks in the world and to beat some guys who have been doing it for years was incredible.

"The next step is the Clio Cup, which I hope to be competing in next year, and then it's on to the British Touring Car Championships if things continue to go well and this link-up with Parkwood will definitely help with that."

As part of the link-up, Parkwood Leisure's logo will be emblazoned on Jack's MG ZR 190 racing car and marks the first time the company has sponsored an individual.

Wycombe Sports Centre's gym manager, Alan Waistell, said: "Parkwood doesn't just give out free membership and financial support to anyone, Jack is a very, very talented driver and he could go all the way.

"And it is just great that the local sports centre can support a local lad on his quest for success – we are delighted to be backing him."

Jack's dad, self-employed builder Alan Goff, is part of a family team which looks after Jack.

He said: "The whole family muck into support him, a family friend is a mechanic and he works on the car on race days.

"We're all very proud of him, I remember when he was six he was playing a football match and I had just been to pick up what would be his first kart.

"I drove it down to the pitch to show him it at half-time and he didn't go back on in the second half, he was sold and it has been in his blood ever since."

Jack's next race is at Oulton Park, Cheshire on Saturday, May 9. For more information or to help sponsor the team, visit www.jackgoffracing.com