



## **Hillclimbing at Saint-Goéno**

- Rob Right, this is your first time here then, it is, Charlie?
- Charlie First, first time here this weekend.
- Rob And why have you come here?
- Charlie Erm, I heard about it quite a few years ago. And, erm, ever since I started doing hill climbing I've always watched a lot of the European hill climb videos on YouTube and things like that and just thought it looked incredible. I mean, I love competing in England but just the experience of coming somewhere like this and the fact that the tracks are a lot longer, so you know you've got more time actually driving and the speeds seem a lot higher and ... it just looks, you know, really thrilling.
- Rob ...How long is this race likely to last? I mean how long does it take to ... the course?
- Charlie I gather a good time in a car like mine is something like one minute forty, erm, that'd be a very good time.
- Rob Right,
- Charlie Erm, so I don't know, I mean I suppose that's a good target to aim for by the end of the weekend but I don't know, I mean, hopefully it'll stay dry...
- Rob Yeah... one minute forty of adrenalin probably
- Charlie I think so, yeah. Probably a bit afterwards as well...
- Rob You'd better tell us about your car because we can't see it on radio.
- Charlie Right, OK, yeah.
- Rob It's bright yellow
- Charlie Bright yellow... it's got martini stripes down it. But obviously my surname's Martin, so I've take the 'i' off Martini Racing although not many people spot that. I think they just tend to read Martini racing ... but I quite like having some kind of a colour scheme ... it. It's got a Ford Zetec 2 litre engine... running about 215 horsepower

at the moment which is, you know, it's quite a bit...although in my class it's quite down on power. So I'm hoping, maybe to get a Duratec for next year if I can find some money from somewhere... I mean yeah in the last 2 years I've done quite a bit of work to it... and it's going a lot quicker now. And you know ... I feel like I've bonded with the car quite a bit, I've built up quite a bit of confidence which is, you know, nice to have coming somewhere like this when you're trying to learn a new hill which is also probably, you know, twice if not three times longer than the UK hills, so it's quite a challenge to earn a hill like this.

Rob How many times do you get to, to go?

Charlie Erm, we get three practices today and then we get three competition runs tomorrow. The first practice isn't timed this morning which is probably quite a good thing... I can go a bit steadier and try and ... I've got to go pro camera so I can watch it back on my laptop and try and, you know, try and absorb as much as I can between the next ...

Rob It looks like ... ready to get going I can hear engines starting up.

Charlie Yup, I think so, I think this is gonna be us, so

Rob OK, Lots of luck

Charlie Thank you.

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Rawdon Erm, hi, your name is?

Greg Yeah, my name is Greg Geal.

Rawdon Greg Geal and you're... from ... Britain?

Greg I live in the Channel Islands, I live on Guernsey.

Rawdon Right, and you're racing here today ... with what?

Greg I have a Porsche 911, a 1980s Porsche 911.

Rawdon And do you have a racing history?

Greg Yes, I've been competing in France for about 15 years now, but I've actually been racing cars since the early 1980s. So, this is err, this is my sort of, err, retirement now.

Rawdon Thank you very much. And you, sir, are?

David I'm David Strange. I'm running this Porsche here. And this is my 9<sup>th</sup> Saint-Guéno.

Rawdon Always in this Porsche? Or...

David Yes.

Rawdon So it's a good luck charm? ...

David I hope so...

Rawdon I wish you the best of success, have a great ... So you're all from Cornwall, this group?

Drivers Well, we've got a couple here from Somerset, Taunton, Somerset... Windsor...no, you're still from Cornwall.

Rawdon Did you all drive over here in the last couple of days? Or...

Drivers Yes ... several of us came over together on the Wednesday night ferry from Plymouth to Roscoff, so we've been here since Thursday lunchtime.

Rawdon How many years, then, have you been coming to this?

Drivers This is only the 3<sup>rd</sup> time that I've been but I think ... has been every year.

Rawdon And how many do you think there are here today?

Drivers About 55 in the GB Masters category, yeah.

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Rob Well, Charlie, you've just done the circuit. How did it go?

Charlie Very well, thank you, yeah ... I,er I mean I was quite nervous at the start, but fortunately they moved us along quite quickly, so I didn't really have too much time to sit and wait and think about it. And, erm, you know, within a minute or two, we were off, well I was off, and err, yeah it was, it was good, I mean, amazing course, quite, a little bit scary but thankfully I managed to remember the sequence of corners as I came to them, which, you know, sort of made me feel quite confident, but, erm, I had a bit of a moment coming into the hairpin here, I was going too quickly and nearly span.

Rob I saw you.

Charlie So I've not watched the video back yet, but, erm, you know, I'm looking forward to, err, to seeing that.

Rob And what were your time, what was your time like?

Charlie They don't give us a time for the first practice this morning, which is probably a good thing because I guess the idea is to discourage

you from trying too hard the first run, so you can concentrate on learning the sequence of corners and maybe thinking about your line rather than just going like a bull at a gate which is a little bit what I did, but...

Rob Yeah, well, there were a lot of people doing that I noticed, some people almost came off on the hairpin there.

Charlie Really? Oh, it wasn't just me then. It's, you know, all the best intentions, I think sometimes you start with a plan, but everything's going well and you just think 'Oh it's nice and dry, the sun's shining', and before you know it you're going quite quickly.

Rob I don't suppose you can help it in that little car?

Charlie No, it's quite, it's quite hard to...

Rob To go slowly

Charlie Yeah, definitely. Ermm, I mean there was one section where you come round a very fast, left, ermm, long, 4<sup>th</sup> gear left-hander, and, ermm, into a tight set of s-bends, and the light and the shade is very, ... I just couldn't really see temporarily where the... although I knew more or less where the track goes, I couldn't actually see... it's probably one of the fastest sections and that's quite, quite scary.

Rob Well, let's hope you have great success this weekend, and it encourages you to come back and we'll see you again.

Charlie Certainly, I look forward to it.

Rob Thanks very much Charlie, OK, bye.

