

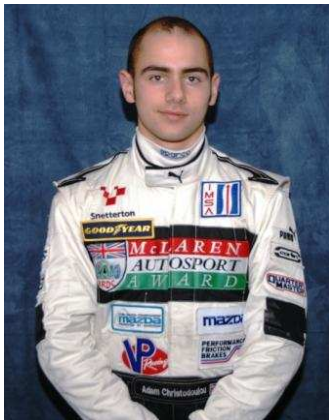


## **STAR MAZDA CHAMPIONSHIP DRIVERS ADAM CHRISTODOULOU AND RICHARD KENT TOP 'BRITS ON POLE' STANDINGS – AHEAD OF F1's LEWIS HAMILTON AND IRL's DAN WHELDON**

Brits on Pole is a site for fans of British drivers in all the major forms of open-wheel motor racing worldwide. By the name, it's obvious they exist to cheer on British open-wheel racers, but they are also completely independent and have no official connection with any team, driver or series. All the major open-wheel series worldwide are ranked, including F1, IRL, GP2, Indy Lights, Atlantic, Star Mazda, Formula Two, Superleague, World Series by Renault and F3. Rankings are based on results, points, the length of a season and the relative strength of competition in various series.

According to their internal formula, Brits on Pole has determined that two Star Mazda Championship presented by Goodyear drivers are in the top-5; leading the Brits on Pole All-Star League is F1 championship points leader Jenson Button, followed by the 2007 Indy 500 winner Dario Franchitti. Adam Christodoulou, currently second in the championship battle for the 2009 Star Mazda Championship presented by Goodyear, is third in the Brits on Pole list, followed by Richard Kent. Rounding out the top-10 are Justin Wilson (IRL), Lewis Hamilton (2008 F1 champion), Dan Wheldon (2005 IRL champion) as well as James Walker and Oliver Turvey (both racing in the World Series by Renault) and British F3 driver Riki Christodoulou, Adam Christodoulou's cousin.

Christodoulou, driver of the #11 JDC Motorsports / Molecule / Alpinestars / Miller Milling Company Mazda, is in his first season of Star Mazda Championship competition and has won



two races (Sebring and Salt Lake City). He has also started from the pole twice (Virginia International Raceway and Salt Lake City) and scored five podium finishes, including a pair of 2nd-place finishes in the Star Mazda Championship double-header last weekend at the Harrah's Autobahn Grand Prix Presented by Mazda. He is currently second in the championship battle (behind four-time race winner Peter Dempsey of Ireland) with 323 points (vs 342 for Dempsey). The Star Mazda Championship awards 44 points for a race win, as well as one point for pole, and four races remain in the 13-race 2009 schedule. Born June 11, 1989 in Sutton Coldfield, Birmingham,

England, Christodoulou currently lives in Lichfield, Staffordshire, England. His credentials include four British karting championships and the 2007 Formula Renault Graduate Cup. In

2008, he won the Formula Renault UK championship and was the McLaren Autosport BDRC Driver of the Year.

Richard Kent, driver of the #33 Andersen Racing / Traka / Lafarge / Allied Interior Products Mazda is in his first full season of Star Mazda Championship competition, but burst on the scene during the 2008 season at Mazda Raceway Laguna Seca where, in his first-ever Star Mazda drive, he won the pole with a new lap record and led every lap on his way to victory. In 2009, he started from the pole and finished 2nd in the 2009 Sebring season-opener and missed Round 2 at VIR due to a non-racing injury. He returned to his winning ways with a win in Round 1 of the Star Mazda double-header at New Jersey Motorsports Park. He has started from the pole three times, finished on the podium three times and is 7th in the championship with 255 points. Born November 27, 1988 in Clifton Reynes, England, Kent was a karting standout in his early career, Kent graduated to open-wheel racing in 2006 with the European Formula Renault Winter Series; in 2007 he finished second in the Formula Palmer Audi championship.



"Adam's speed and commitment were obvious when we watched him race last year at Silverstone in Formula Renault, while Richard's brilliant Star Mazda victory at the close of last season impressed everyone who heard about it," said BritsOnPole.com co-editor Andy Darley. "I'm not surprised to see them both thrive this year - they've earned their places in the top five of the Brits On Pole All-Star League, ahead of the current Formula One world champion and a past Indianapolis 500 winner, purely on merit."

### **2009 Star Mazda Championship Overview**

The Star Mazda Championship presented by Goodyear is now in its 19th year as one of the most prolific and successful driver development series in all of auto racing and is a major step on the MAZDASPEED Motorsports Driver Development Ladder, the only manufacturer-supported motorsports scholarship program that reaches all the way from karting to the top levels of motorsports. The 2009 Star Mazda Championship schedule includes 13 races on 11 weekends, most held on major motorsports weekends, racing in front of the crowds drawn by American Le Mans, NASCAR, ARCA and the Grand-Am Rolex series. Several races are shown live on HDnet, with others syndicated to various national and international cable networks.



Star Mazda Championship races, all 45 minutes long, include road courses, street circuits and ovals. F1-style standing starts, large fields and wheel-to-wheel racing create additional excitement. Countries represented include the U.S., Canada, England, Ireland, Norway, Brazil, Venezuela, Argentina, Chile and Japan. Three of the top four and seven of the top ten drivers in the 2008 championship have returned to battle again in 2009.

Unrestricted testing promotes rapid development of a driver's on-track, car setup and driver/engineer communications skills, and the 'single-spec' engineering of Star Mazda Championship race cars showcases driving talent over big budgets. All Star Mazda Championship drivers race identical high-tech open-wheel cars that feature a carbon fiber chassis, fully-adjustable suspension and a sequential 6-speed gearbox. Power is provided by Mazda's legendary 'Renesis' rotary engine that produces 240 horsepower, top speeds of over 150 mph and 0 to 60 mph acceleration of 2.8 seconds.

Total prizes, with money paid down through 15<sup>th</sup>-place in the championship, approaches \$1.5 million, including a fully-sponsored ride for the 2009 series champion in the 2010 Atlantic Championship Powered by Mazda.

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For a more information on Brits on Pole, visit [www.BritsOnPole.com](http://www.BritsOnPole.com). For the latest driver standings in the All-Star-League, go to <http://www.britsonpole.com/stats-and-standings/the-brits-on-pole-all-star-league>.

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For more information on the Star Mazda Championship and its drivers, as well as the Mazda Motorsports ladder system, please visit [www.starmazda.com](http://www.starmazda.com) and [www.mazdausa.com](http://www.mazdausa.com). For information, interviews and photos, contact Star Mazda Communications Director Peter Frey at (818) 398-5733 or [StarMazdaPR@aol.com](mailto:StarMazdaPR@aol.com).

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On any given weekend, there are more Mazdas on the road-race tracks of America than any other brand of vehicle. At the track, you'll see MX-5 Miata, RX-8, MAZDA3, MAZDA6, RX-7 and other vintage Mazda models competing, because every Mazda has the Soul of a Sports Car.

For more information on the various Mazda spec series, visit:

[www.atlantic-championship.com](http://www.atlantic-championship.com)      [www.starmazda.com](http://www.starmazda.com)

[www.skipbarber.com](http://www.skipbarber.com)      [www.mx-5cup.com](http://www.mx-5cup.com)

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