



Brat pack battle at Knysna Hillclimb
11 May 2011

The Knysna Hillclimb is approaching fast, taking place on the 21-22 May and this year there is something extra special in store

Six of South Africa's drivers from the notorious days of national touring car racing in the 1990s – Mike Briggs, Geoff Goddard, Deon Joubert, Grant McCleery, Robbi Smith and Duncan Vos – who were collectively known as the Brat Pack, have been invited to revive old rivalries and compete against each other in the Renault Knysna Hillclimb on May 21 and 22. The event forms part of the Knysna Speed Festival that is being held in the Garden Route town from 13 to 22 May.

So, as a special treat for racing fans, Renault South Africa has invited six of the old adversaries to compete against each other up the demanding Simola Hill in Renault Mégane RS Cup cars, a challenge that will doubtless bring down the red mist and rekindle old battle flames in a thrilling race against the clock and each other – a comeback of the Brat Pack that should not be missed! It is time to see who still 'has it' – and who has not.

Mike Briggs was one of the big characters of the scene and raced for Opel, winning the SA Touring Car Championship twice and was runner-up once. Mike also competed in eight rounds of the British Touring Car Championship.

Geoff Goddard was a BMW team-mate of Robbi Smith and the pairing won the 1993 Castrol 9-Hour at Killarney, going on to dominate the event for the next few years. Geoff gave the E46 its world first victory when he won in a 328i in Port Elizabeth.

Deon Joubert initially drove BMWs before switching to Opel. He once held the second-highest win rate in local touring cars. Deon raced at a WTCC round at Monza and has even driven in NASCAR. He has been awarded Springbok colours.

Grant McCleery drove for Opel. 1995 was his best season when he raced the Vectra and recorded two wins, 15 podiums and three fastest laps in 22 races, finishing third in the championship.

Robbi Smith drove for BMW and in 1987 helped introduce the Firestone Firehawk tyre to the local racing scene. Robbi won the SA Group N Class A championship in 1993 and was particularly adept in endurance racing, particularly when paired with Geoff Goddard.

Duncan Vos drove for Nissan and helped the manufacturer become the most successful in the SA Touring Car Championship, registering more than 50 wins and 50 pole positions during the period. The Battle of the Brat Pack will take place over both days, with the winner announced on the Sunday.

In addition to the Brat Pack, former 125 and 250 FIM World MotoX and AMA triple-title champion rider Jean-Michel Bayle will also be competing in a Mégane RS