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GRAND  
PRIX  
MACAU

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**Times**

SUPPLEMENT

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# *Hickman* *Chasing third win*



# *Rutter* *For ninth*



Renato Marques

MOTOCYCLE GP PREVIEW

**T**HE motorcycle race is always one of the most anticipated moments of the Grand Prix. As in previous editions, the 52nd Macau Motorcycle Grand Prix promises to raise adrenaline levels sky-high and hypnotize spectators with the action on the track. Expectations are high for this year's 12-lap race around the Guia circuit, which will see a very special trio on the entry list.

Michael Rutter, the eight-time winner has high hopes for this year, given his experience and the very special two-wheel machine that he will ride. Under the colors of the "Aspire-Ho Team," as previously announced by the Times, Rutter and the legendary Peter Hickman – another of the great names – will undoubtedly try to lead the pack. The former will attempt to reach a new record of nine wins in Macau and the latter will try for his third win in four years, after having missed his chance in last year's race, which ended prematurely due to the fatal accident involving Daniel Heagarty.

This year, Rutter is celebrating the 20th anniversary of his first win in Macau, and he is taking it seriously. He is bringing a Honda RCV 213V – which could capture the attention of fans by itself – to the Guia Circuit for the first time.

Hickman, the Macau winner in 2015 and 2016, will ride his traditional BMW bike, which proved very efficient in the streets of Macau on several

PHOTOS BY RENATO MARQUES



past occasions.

Hickman has had a good run this season, having placed fifth in the British Superbike Championship and set a new outright lap record at the Isle of Man TT by the time he conquered the win in the Senior TT. With the first two dice rolled, it is time to ask: is this finally the year of Martin Jessop? He has

worked hard for so many years and come close to a win on several occasions. Under normal circumstances, it might be difficult for him to outrun both Rutter and Hickman, but he is certain to try.

Absent from the Grand Prix last year due to injury, the "mythical" John McGuinness will also return to the

Guia Circuit on November 15. The 23-time Isle of Man TT winner ensured that he was making a serious comeback to racing when he won the Isle of Man Senior Classic TT in August.

This year, McGuinness will be at the handlebar of last year's winning machine (and Lap Record holder), the Ducati

1199 Panigale from Tak Chun Group by PBM, teaming with Jessopp. If the Rutter-Hickman pair sounds promising, they could ask for no better opponents than McGuinness-Jessopp.

Another top contender who might make a difference this year is Horst Saiger, who will be returning to Macau for the

## INTERVIEW

# 'Hickman is favorite to win GP,' Rutter says



Renato Marques

**A**HEAD of the 52nd Macau Motorcycle Grand Prix, the Times spoke to eight-time champion and legend of Guia Circuit, Michael Rutter and his teammate and two-time winner Peter Hickman, who are contenders to win this year.

Both are racing for Aspire-Ho by Bathams Racing Team and the chances of seeing one of them in first place on Saturday evening is high.

Rutter noted that despite being hopeful for a good result, he needs to have a realistic approach to the race since his motorcycle is brand-new and has not been tested – especially on a street circuit like Macau.

"We never raced this bike before. We did [only] two small tests in England in Brands Hatch [Circuit] and

Donington [Park] so the possibilities are unknown really. We could have brought the BMW [S1000RR] that we had last year but we thought we wanted to try something different, so we brought this Honda and until we race it, we won't know what it can in fact do," he said.

As for favorites, Rutter has no doubts: "Pete Hickman is the favorite; my teammate has been riding so well in the U.K. and he has also won the Isle of Man TT [among other major road racing events this year]."

Rutter added, "Pete has been riding fantastically this year and we have to say that on paper he is the favorite but as everyone knows, in motorcycle racing sometimes it does not work that way."

Questioned if the partnership with Hickman is the best possible, Rutter said, "Definitely! We are



er ninth



11th time with a Yamaha R1.

Those racing under the flag of the Penz13 team typically score well. This year, the team will bring Ireland's Derek Sheils, Briton Danny Webb and newcomer Davey Todd, all on BMWs, to Macau. Todd could be the breakout of this year as he will race in Macau for the first time, after starting road racing last year with a promising

debut at the Isle of Man in June.

Spectators would do well to keep an eye out for him in the number 74 machine from Penz13.

On the topic of newcomers, this year will introduce several aspiring record-breaking numbers. They will certainly need time to adjust and learn the Macau track, but their sheer numbers could set the scene for an interesting fight

with names like Manxman Andrew Dudgeon, Craig Neve, Dominic Herbertson and Paul Jordan or even Rob Hodson, Phillip Crowe, Daley Mathison, Raul Torras and Erno Kostamo.

With all these ingredients, the 52nd Motorcycle GP is shaping up to be an interesting race that will pit experience against young blood.



strong and that's why we want to win for the sponsors. We wanted to put a strong team together and he was the strongest rider," adding that putting the teammates in first and second place on the final podium "would be a dream!" Nevertheless Rutter also noted, "there are very good

people [on the grid] like Martin Jessopp with the Ducati and he has been riding really well in the U.K. and then we have Gary Johnson on the Kawasaki. There are groups of riders that have a very good chance, including myself."

In conclusion Rutter said, "If this bike does what it's

meant to do, we could surprise a few people."

Hickman also shared his expectations about the upcoming Grand Prix (GP) based on his results and performance so far, saying, "I'm really looking forward to this year's GP. 2018 has been a strong year for me road racing-wise. I have

won at the Northwest 200, Ulster GP and Isle of Man TT so I'm looking to top it off with the Macau GP too!"

Upon being asked if Rutter is the "best match possible," Hickman said, "I think you hit it right, Michael [Rutter] and I make a great team and between us we have 10 Macau wins so the podium is a strong possibility for us both."

In Hickman's viewpoint, riders have to be consistent in order to win in Macau. He said, "For me it's about being able to be consistent, not always the fastest, but the fastest over the full race distance. That's what I always concentrate on during practice and qualifying, rather than [just] one fast lap."

There is something else that the teammates agree upon. If, for Rutter, it is Hickman who holds the best odds of winning the GP this year, Hickman agrees. Questioned on who will win this year's edition, he responded, "me, of course!"

## APDCGM celebrates 2nd anniversary with exhibition and talks

RENATO MARQUES



**Renato Marques**

To celebrate their 2nd anniversary, the Macau Guia Circuit Promotion and Development Association (APDCGM) is once again holding a series of events related to the Guia Circuit, its heritage and its importance in the context of the Macau SAR.

With these ideas in mind, on Monday evening an exhibition was inaugurated at the Ritz Building, located in Senado Square. The exhibition features works from several local artists and in different mediums. From photography to painting, sculpture and jewelry, the exhibition showcases works from 20 different artists, always with the Guia Circuit as the main motif.

The exhibition will be on display until Nov. 21.

Within the same space, a series of other activities are planned, including autograph sessions with driver Andre Couto, Formula 3 race winner in

2000 and Sir Kevin Bartlett, winner of the 1969 Grand Prix, as well as three talks with guests: historian Vincent Ho, architect Rui Leão and journalist João Guedes.

The guest speakers, according to their expertise, will address the main topic "The Guia Circuit and its Future," in sessions held in Cantonese, English and Portuguese.

Dr. Ho kicks off the series with a talk in which he addresses the topics of the Circuit and heritage sites in Macau, the Grand Prix, media, the geography of Macau and the Macau Grand Prix as collective cultural heritage.

The following day, Leão will address the heritage of the Guia Circuit and on Nov. 19, Guedes will close the talk series by addressing several important historical moments that have shaped the city and its early roots.

All the activities are free admission. Talks will begin at 6p.m.



# 'I will do my very best to win this weekend,' Mick Schumacher says

Renato Marques

GERMAN racer and son of seven-time Formula 1 World Championship winner Michael Schumacher, Mick Schumacher will strive to attain the top spot on the podium on Sunday when the lights go green for the FIA F3 World Cup, one of the most anticipated events of the 65th Macau Grand Prix.

"This is a race every Formula 3 driver wants to win, and I will be doing my very best to do just that," Schumacher said during Tuesday's press conference, where Theodore Racing by Prema were presented to the media, as well as sponsorship support from Sociedade de Jogos de Macau (SJM).

The German added, "The Macau Grand Prix is very historic and has been won by some of the world's most successful racing drivers. It would be a huge honor for me to add my name to that list. I will do my very best to win this weekend."

Schumacher's teammate at Theodore Racing, Ralf Aron, acknowledged the good results



obtained in the latest GP and expressed his ambition to achieve more. The Estonian, who last year finished third overall, said, "I am very excited to be in Macau

again. Standing on the podium last year was a career highlight for me so I'll be going all out for the chance to stand on top as the winner," he said. "After a race

winning season in the FIA Formula 3 European Championship, another strong result here is the perfect way to conclude my season. This is the race we have all

been looking forward to and it is the one everyone is keen to win."

Racing once again and also seeking a better result is Chinese driver Guanyu Zhou, who said, "It is the event I truly look forward to and one I would love to win so close to home. I have had some memorable moments this season with two FIA Formula 3 European Championship victories and I feel confident we have the package to challenge for victory."

"This is my third appearance in Macau, and since experience can make a big difference here, I feel well prepared for this year's event."

Speaking on behalf of the team, principal Teddy Yip Jr. noted the team's long history and its direct relationship with Macau, also noting the long-term partnership with SJM.

"It is a pleasure to be here in Macau together with our loyal partner SJM, with whom we have enjoyed an excellent relationship. We were Macau Grand Prix winners together in 2013 and 2015, and we believe we are in excellent shape to return SJM Theodore Racing by Prema to the top of the podium in 2018," Yip said while noting the talent and ambition of the five drivers that compose the GP team. "I am certain that they will be contenders for victory this weekend," he concluded.

## NOVEMBER 15 - 18

### 15 November (Thursday)

06:30 ~ 07:00	Circuit Inspection
07:30 ~ 08:30	Suncity Group Macau Motorcycle Grand Prix - 52nd Edition - Free Practice
09:05 ~ 09:35	Suncity Group Macau Guia Race - FIA WTCR - Free Practice 1
09:55 ~ 10:35	Suncity Group Formula 3 Macau Grand Prix - FIA F3 World Cup - Free Practice 1
10:50 ~ 11:20	Suncity Group Greater Bay Area Lotus Cup - Free Practice
11:35 ~ 12:05	FOOD4U Macau Touring Car Cup - Free Practice
12:25 ~ 12:55	SJM Macau GT Cup - FIA GT World Cup - Free Practice 1
13:30 ~ 14:00	Suncity Group Macau Guia Race - FIA WTCR - Free Practice 2
14:20 ~ 15:00	Suncity Group Formula 3 Macau Grand Prix - FIA F3 World Cup - Qualifying 1
16:00 ~ 16:45	Suncity Group Macau Motorcycle Grand Prix - 52nd Edition - Qualifying

### 16 November (Friday)

06:30 ~ 07:00	Circuit Inspection
07:30 ~ 08:15	Suncity Group Macau Motorcycle Grand Prix - 52nd Edition - Qualifying
08:50 ~ 09:30	Suncity Group Macau Guia Race - FIA WTCR - Qualifying
09:50 ~ 10:20	Suncity Group Greater Bay Area Lotus Cup - Qualifying
10:40 ~ 11:10	FOOD4U Macau Touring Car Cup - Qualifying
11:30 ~ 12:10	Suncity Group Formula 3 Macau Grand Prix - FIA F3 World Cup - Free Practice 2
12:30 ~ 13:00	SJM Macau GT Cup - FIA GT World Cup - Free Practice 2
13:35 ~ 14:50	Suncity Group Macau Guia Race - FIA WTCR - Q1, Q2, Q3
15:10 ~ 15:50	Suncity Group Formula 3 Macau Grand Prix - FIA F3 World Cup - Qualifying 2
16:10 ~ 16:40	SJM Macau GT Cup - FIA GT World Cup - Qualifying

### 17 November (Saturday)

06:30 ~ 07:00	Circuit Inspection
07:10 ~ 07:50	Safety, Rescue and Extrication Cars - Testing laps
08:00 ~ 08:40	Special Event
09:00 ~ 10:00	Suncity Group Formula 3 Macau Grand Prix - FIA F3 World Cup - Qualification Race - 10 laps
10:25 ~ 11:25	FOOD4U Macau Touring Car Cup - 12 laps
11:50 ~ 12:10	Suncity Group Macau Motorcycle Grand Prix - 52nd Edition - Warm Up
13:05 ~ 14:05	SJM Macau GT Cup - FIA GT World Cup - Qualification Race - 12 laps
14:25 ~ 15:15	Suncity Group Macau Guia Race - FIA WTCR Race 1 - 8 laps
15:55 ~ 16:55	Suncity Group Macau Motorcycle Grand Prix - 52nd Edition - 12 laps

### 18 November (Sunday)

06:30 ~ 07:00	Circuit Inspection
07:10 ~ 07:50	Safety Rescue and Extrication Cars - Testing laps
08:20 ~ 09:10	Suncity Group Macau Guia Race - FIA WTCR Race 2 - 8 laps
09:35 ~ 10:35	Suncity Group Greater Bay Area Lotus Cup - 12 laps
11:00 ~ 12:00	Suncity Group Macau Guia Race - FIA WTCR Race 3 - 11 laps
12:25 ~ 13:40	SJM Macau GT Cup - FIA GT World Cup - 18 laps
14:00 ~ 14:35	Special Event
15:10 ~ 15:20	Lion Dance
15:30 ~ 16:30	Suncity Group Formula 3 Macau Grand Prix - FIA F3 World Cup - 15 laps