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ASHER JOHNSTON DOMINATES SA FORMULA VEE TITLE FIGHT

IT'S NEVER AN EASY THING to start something completely from scratch, from the ground-up.

Especially in Motorsport, a sport filled with variables and a general need for large budgets and lots of resources in order to develop a car.

And yet, despite only minimal budget and a small family-run team at their disposal, that's exactly what Asher Johnston Racing set out to do throughout the 2009 racing season following their conformation of a return to Formula Vee racing with a previously untested (In Australia), British-built GAC Chassis.

After twelve months of hard slog and solid development, the hard work has paid off with the team finally crowned the South Australian Formula Vee champions following the final round held recently at Mallala Raceway near Adelaide.



Photo: Johnston will look for big National-level results over the month of June

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With the car improving every time it hit the 2.8km circuit – and with the odd interstate sojourn thrown in for good measure – Johnston dominated the title this season and won all four rounds and 12 of the 15 races despite strong competition,

The performance of both car and driver was exemplified at the final round when even protests from another competitor – subsequently thrown out following a post-event hearing – couldn't stop the team from enjoying the title success.

After some time on the sidelines, Johnston – from Glenelg – said he was thrilled with the results witnessed this year, but warned that there was more to come from the car now dubbed 'The Spitfire' thanks to its inventive new livery.

"We are still a little way from the targets we set out at the start of the year. There is more to come," Johnston said.

"It was great to have some of the leading Victorians come over and race at the final round. It was a good gauge for us and showed where we were at with the car. There is still more to come from it which is very promising for the long-term."

Johnston praised the GAC Chassis, the successful British Formula Vee title-winning constructor making its debut on Australian soil in Johnston's hands this year.

"It's a fantastic, consistent and very solid race car," he said.

"It has made our lives very easy with the development work we have been putting in and it's probably the reason why we have improved the way we have. Yes, we didn't quite reach our performance goals, but we set them very high for a reason and at this stage I'm happy where they are.

"Hopefully 2010 will give us more of an opportunity to showcase the potential of this car on a more national level.

"I need to give special thanks to Leon Gagliardi, Dad, Kev Hill and Tom Sherwin. I'm so happy we could win this together and the championship is more of a reflection of their work than anything I could do out on the track and their support means a lot.

"I'm itching to go again next year!" he said.

Asher Johnston Racing would like to thank the support of Cartek, Duplex IT, Drive to Live, Race Torque Media, Bridge Crash, Exhaust Technology, West Torrens Dyno, AGSportspix, and Wayne Richards Auto.

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