



3rd European Cleaner Racing Conference at Autosport International



Winning Real Value from
Energy Efficiency in Motorsport

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Speaker Biographies

Dr Pat Symonds – Renault F1



After beginning his career in automotive engineering as an undergraduate apprentice at the Ford Motor Company, Pat Symonds' first job in motor racing came in 1976 when he joined Formula Ford Manufacturer Hawke as Chief Designer. This first season included a 1-2-3 finish for the make at the prestigious Formula Ford Festival at Brands Hatch.

In 1978 Symonds joined rivals Royale as Chief Designer replacing Rory Byrne. During this time his cars set records for the most number of wins in season and secured countless Championships worldwide. Byrne had left Royale for Toleman, then a Formula 2 team. After winning the F2 championship in 1980, Toleman announced plans to enter F1 in 1981. By 1982 Symonds was working full-time for the F1 team, responsible for the race engineering. By the age of 29 Symonds found himself running the team!

Symonds retained responsibility for race engineering through the transition from Toleman to Benetton and from 1986 to 1991 Benetton scored 5 race wins and twice finished third in the World Championship. In 1991 he and a group of former Toleman employees departed the team to join Reynard's nascent F1 Operation. Intended for a 1992 debut, this project never got off the ground and Symonds returned to Benetton that year to be race engineer to Michael Schumacher, whilst also looking after R & D.

The subsequent seasons were the most successful in Benetton's history and Symonds engineered Schumacher to two first World Championships. Following the departure of Schumacher to Ferrari for the 1996 season, and Ross Brawn's similar move at the end of that year, Symonds was promoted to the role of Technical Director at Benetton.

Benetton was purchased by Renault in March 2000 and Symonds continued in the role of Technical Director until late 2000. He then moved to a new role of Executive Director of Engineering, assuming responsibility for all track-side engineering with the team and representing the team in all liaisons with the FIA. It is in this role that he has helped guide the Renault F1 team's progress to the front of the field, culminating in double World Championship victory in 2005/6.



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