



The coming month is one of huge significance for Gulf in both the sporting and a wider arena.

What makes it so special?

dig through what is to come in this edition of Gulf Sport, you will find a preview to the Endurance Championship, which has its first race in the coming four weeks; World bikes return to Europe and our Gulf teams look to build on solid runs within the top dozen bikes in the field; Manchester United aim to progress through to the semi finals Europa League and make the jump into the top four of the English Premier league final stages of the season; Drag Champion Ian King sets up for his farewell season; Pune Supergiant faces its first innings of the 2017 Indian Premier League cricket sign.

All extremely important to Gulf - but the coming month marks something of historical

and global cultural importance for the Gulf brand, as it was 50 years ago in April that a Gulf car first made its race appearance in light blue and orange and the world's favourite racing livery was born.

Ask virtually any motoring enthusiast around the world about "Gulf Colours" and they will come back with "Blue and Orange" - such is the impact that Pantone reference 290C (the light blue) and 165C (Orange) have made.

For Gulf, in the minds of the public, Blue and Orange embodies some of the world's greatest cars, cool Hollywood film stars, success and speed. In an episode of Top Gear a couple of years ago, presenter Jeremy Clarkson had a limited budget with which to tune his Porsche to beat off the challenge of his cohorts. He spent it all on repainting the car in Gulf livery and, on getting out of the car remarked that the car was significantly quicker, simply because of its new colour scheme!

The cars - and, in some cases, bikes, boats, karts and even snowmobiles have contributed to the spread of the brand with their success - both globally and nationally - and the drivers who have raced under the colours range from future stars through to World Champions - many created behind the wheels of those same blue and orange vehicles.

Through them, over time, a mystique has evolved around the brand, one that has spawned a plethora of licensed products and an income stream Grady Davis, Vice President of Gulf at the time, would scarcely have imagined half a century ago.

The anniversary gives us a chance to both celebrate our unique brand and also to activate it new ways.



This logo has been designed specially for the upcoming season and it will be appearing in all sorts of places. We encourage you to use it wherever you can.

You will find more information on Blue and Orange in this edition and in other material that is to be published in the near future.

Here's to the next 50 years!

Vicki
Vice-President Marketing

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For and on behalf of Gulf Oil International (UK) Ltd.

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GULF RACING PORSCHE CARRYING GULF'S COLOURS

IN ANNIVERSARY YEAR

Gulf Oil International has renewed its partnership with Gulf Racing for both the 2017 and 2018 FIA World Endurance Championship Seasons.

The team's blue and orange Porsche 911 RSR GTE, will contest all nine rounds of this year's WEC, once again carrying the number 86 with which it raced in 2016.



Team owner, Mike Wainwright (left) teams up again with former Porsche Cup racer, Ben Barker. Barker moved up from Silver to Gold status in world driver rankings over the winter, which meant that the team has had to recruit a new silver level driver. Gulf Racing's choice for 2018 is Australian, Nick Foster, who has a wealth of Porsche racing experience in both the Australian and German Carrera Cups.

Both Foster and Ben Barker are well aware of the heritage of which they have become part. This year, as well as the 50th anniversary of the colours also marks a half-century of Gulf's participation at Le Mans. "Absolutely, and it is a real privilege to be a part of it, this year in particular," comments Ben Barker (right). "There should be a lot of buzz, a lot of interest, a really exciting time to be part of it. I know the whole team is looking to produce their very best to deliver a performance that plays well to those that will be following our progress.



"I'm really looking forward to playing my part. The biggest race in the world in a car that thousands will be willing to go well - No pressure!"

"I'm extremely excited about the opportunity to compete in the 2017 WEC and can't wait for it to kick off!," Nick Foster (right) explains. "I am very grateful to Gulf Racing and proud that they have chosen me to join their team. To compete in the WEC is a dream come true and in the famous Gulf



Racing colours is an absolute honour."

The season prologue takes place at Monza this weekend, with the first race some two weeks later at Silverstone, which is very much Gulf Racing's Home Race" - being only a handful of miles from the team's base in Milton Keynes, about fifty miles north of London.

The 2016 WEC season was a case of "so near, so far" for the team, with a hat-full of fourth place finishes, but without the podium result their efforts so richly merited. Competition in the GTE Am category this season will come from Ferrari teams with the latest 488 GTE and the current champions Aston Martin Racing, who will be running one of last year's GTE Pro championship winning Vantages - so it will once again be intense, but the team is relishing the challenge of a second season in the WEC.

www.gulfracing.com

2017 FIA WEC SEASON

- 6 Hours of Silverstone**, April 14th
- 6 Hours of Spa-Francorchamps** - May 6th
- 24 Hours of Le Mans** - June 17th-18th
- 6 Hours of Nurburgring** - July 16th
- 6 Hours of Mexico** - September 3rd
- 6 Hours of Austin** - September 16th
- 6 Hours of Fuji** - October 15th
- 6 Hours of Shanghai** - November 5th
- 6 Hours of Bahrain** - November 18th

GULF RACING FIXTURES



WORLD ENDURANCE CHAMPIONSHIP

Round One - 6 Hours of Silverstone, UK - April 13th-14th



SUPERBIKES 2017

OFF TO A STRONG START ALL ROUND

The opening two races in the 2017 World Superbike Championship have been very positive for Gulf - both on and off track.

At the opening rounds at Australia's Phillip Island Circuit, our two superbike partners Milwaukee Aprilia and Althea BMW hosted around thirty guests from both New Zealand and Gulf's newest distributors in Australia itself.



In the races, three out of the four Gulf bikes went through to the final Superpole shootout and produced top ten finishes in both races. With SBK's new grid system for race 2 at each round, where the first three finishers move back to the third row, it meant that Eugene Laverty's Aprilia, starting from the second row, briefly even led the race for Gulf. In the end both Milwaukee Aprilia and Althea BMW took top ten finishes in race 1 with both Aprilias finishing inside the top ten in the second race.



Two weeks later, the Thai obsession with motorbikes was very much to the fore as 80,000 people crowded into the Chang Circuit. The weekend saw a Gulf ride-out to the circuit of about 100 BMW bikes with the teams again hosting dozens of VIP guests - from the Philippines, and India as well as locals - and taking part in specially organised events by Gulf Oil South East Asia.



With the high level of support, everyone was hoping for performances to match and the Gulf bikes delivered - all four bikes for the final Superpole shootout and then Eugene Laverty's Aprilia disputing fifth place, before coming off the bike leaving - Althea BMW's ebullient Spaniard, Jordi Torres the honour of becoming the first top five finisher on a Gulf bike in World Superbikes (see clip). Laverty, bravely remounted to claim a point-scoring finish while Markus Reiterberger also took a top ten finish.

The championship now moves to Europe for the next few rounds, giving the teams a chance to take stock and plan further development work as they gear up for the next round at Aragon this coming weekend.



MILWAUKEE APRILIA AND ALTHEA BMW FIXTURES



WORLD SUPERBIKES

Round Three - Aragon, Spain - April 1st-2nd

Round Four - Assen, Netherlands - April 29th-30th



UNITED UP FOR THE CUP!

Gulf's sporting partners Manchester United become the first English club to win silverware during the 2016/17 season as their trip to the legendary Wembley Stadium at the end of February, netted them the EFL (English Football League) Cup.

In an extremely close match, where opponents, fellow Premier League team, Southampton, came back from a two goal deficit, it was Zlatan Ibrahimovic who headed in to score the winner for United with only three minutes of play remaining.

The win guarantees European football for Manchester United again next season as there is a Europa League place given to the EFL Cup winners.

In the meanwhile, United have continued to make progress in this year's Europa League competition, defeating Russian side FC Rostov 2-1 on aggregate to earn a slot in the Quarter Final, where they will take on Belgian team, Anderlecht during April in their quest for a second trophy of the season.

Brushing aside a defeat in the FA Cup to league leaders Chelsea, United

returned to winning ways with a 3-1 win away at Middlesbrough. The victory moves Manchester United above Arsenal and into the top five in the Premier League in their chase for a Champions League spot.

United now face no less than nine games in April - a mammoth task, therefore awaits them. However, the results from these games will be critical in maintaining their challenge for a top four Premier League place and progress in the Europa League.



MANCHESTER UNITED FIXTURES



EUROPA LEAGUE

RSC Anderlecht vs Manchester United - Constant Vanden Stock Stadium - April 13th

Manchester United vs RSC Anderlecht - Old Trafford - April 20th



ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE

Manchester United vs West Bromwich Albion - Old Trafford - April 1st

Manchester United vs Everton - Old Trafford - April 4th

Sunderland vs Manchester United - Stadium of Light - April 9th

Manchester United vs Chelsea - Old Trafford - April 16th

Burnley vs Manchester United - Turf Moor - April 23rd

Manchester City vs Manchester United - Etihad Stadium - April 27th

Manchester United vs Swansea City - Old Trafford - April 30th



SUNSET ON A STELLAR CAREER

GULF TO PARTNER IAN KING IN HIS SWANSONG SEASON... IN THE USA

Ian King has announced that he is to retire from professional Motorcycle Drag Racing at the end of this season and Gulf Oil International has again renewed its technical partnership with the rider of the world's most powerful motorcycle for what will be his swansong year of two-wheel competition.

The ten-time European Top Fuel Champion, European and World Land Speed Record holder does not plan to defend his European title in 2017 but instead is travelling to America to fulfill a long held ambition to take on the top contenders from the USA. He will join the current and fifteen-time USA National Champion and previous champions competing in the American Manufacturers Cup series, which will effectively amount to a Top Fuel World Cup.

King has raced in the USA before, in 2014 when he won the Spring Cup, with a 5.87 second quarter mile pass - which gained him entry to the prestigious Sub-Six Second Club - before returning to Europe to defend his European crown.

"I'm extremely excited about the upcoming season" enthuses Ian King, "and I'm hoping that as we are in the USA, Gulf distributors and licensees in places like Canada, South America and Mexico - where I know they are extremely keen on Drag Racing - will take the opportunity to come to some of the rounds, sample some hospitality and cheer us on!"

The five round series kicks off at the Valdosta track in Georgia on 7-9th April.

There will be opportunities to activate Ian King's 2017 programme with tickets, pit garage tours and hospitality at all of the rounds. Contact Elzanne Kroese at GOI for more details: elzanne.kroese@gulfoilltd.com

MANUFACTURERS CUP 2017

Spring Cup - Valdosta, Georgia, **April 7th-9th**

Memphis Internationals - Memphis, Tennessee - **June 3rd-4th**

MTC Nationals - Galot Motorsports Park, North Carolina - **July 15th-16th**

Rock - Rockingham Dragway, North Carolina - **September 23rd-24th**

World Finals - Valdosta, Georgia, **November 17th-19th**

DRAG RACING FIXTURES



MANUFACTURERS CUP 2017

Round One, Spring Cup - Valdosta, Georgia, USA - **April 7th-9th**



SUPERGIANT

IN SEARCH OF SUCCESS

Gulf's cricket partner, Rising Pune Supergiant (RPS), has made cricketing headlines over the course of the close season in its preparations for the upcoming 2017 Indian Premier League Cricket championship (IPL).

Now in its second season in IPL, RPS has added to an already strong squad with players won at the annual auction the league held in February.

The team signed England star Ben Stokes for a record fee and he joins T20 cricketing giants like Steve Smith, Faf du Plessis, Ravichandran Ashwin, Ajinkya Rahane and, of course, Gulf's Brand Ambassador, MS Dhoni.

It is also worth noting that the official team name has changed slightly, this week, with "Supergiants" losing its final "s" to become Supergiant.

In its first year RPS finished in seventh position with five wins, however, the pundits are rating it as one of the teams set to make a real challenge for honours this year.

The 10th Indian Premier League commences on 6th April and RPS's first match will be at home to Mumbai Indians.

RISING PUNE SUPERGIANT FIXTURES



INDIAN PREMIER LEAGUE

RPS vs Mumbai Indians - Maharashtra Cricket Association Stadium - **April 6th**

Kings XI Punjab vs RPS - Holkar Stadium - **April 8th**

RPS vs Delhi Daredevils - Maharashtra Cricket Association Stadium - **April 11th**

Gujarat Lions vs RPS - Saurashtra Cricket Association Stadium - **April 14th**

Royal Challengers Bangalore vs RPS - M. Chinnaswamy Stadium - **April 16th**

RPS vs Sunrisers Hyderabad - Maharashtra Cricket Association Stadium - **April 22nd**

Mumbai Indians vs RPS - Wankhede Stadium - **April 24th**

RPS vs Kolkata Knight Riders - Maharashtra Cricket Association Stadium - **April 26th**





BLUE & ORANGE

