

COLUMNIST

JACK SHERWOOD



The 16-year-old is having a busy first season in single-seaters as he aims for top

Photos: Jakob Ebrey



Sherwood took GB4 win



Eddie Ives (r) at Elite has helped him on journey

My dad Justin raced in Formula 3 so I grew up around motorsport, and it was just natural for me to start racing myself.

When I was five I started karting. I started just in rentals; dad took me down one day and I really enjoyed it. It wasn't until very late in my last year of karting we started thinking about moving to cars and trying to make a career. We'd been speaking to Elite Motorsport for a while and at the end of 2020 I had a test in a Ginetta and I was quite fast and I really enjoyed it more than karting.

Growing up in karting you look up to all of the racing drivers, so the fact that I was now driving a car was really cool. And I liked the way the car felt, you had to hustle it.

In 2021 we were meant to carry on karting and test the Ginetta Junior but then one of the drivers pulled out at the last minute so we did the race season. We didn't have much testing and the results didn't show our pace but we definitely progressed throughout the year and Elite helped me massively. Generally we've been good at racing forward in GB4 and all that racecraft comes from the Ginettas.

Moving to the new GB4 single-seater championship this year was very last minute, same as the Ginetta Juniors was. We were going to do Juniors again and then Eddie Ives, Elite's boss, confirmed he was going to be doing GB4 and the goal of all drivers is to get into single-seaters. They're the pinnacle of motorsport; all the mega drivers and good drivers have raced in them.

I didn't want to move teams and Eddie had already bought the car so we went to Bedford to do a shakedown and I just loved the car: the grip and the power and how light it was. We had a really good testing programme for this year and as I drove the car more and more I liked it more and more. GB4's a mega step to start you on the single-seater ladder; you can go a lot of places from GB4 so it's really helped me for next year.

Recently I took my first win, at Snetterton. It's mega to be able to repay the team and finally show we had the potential to win. After my team-mate Alex Walker left mid-season the team kept going, it would have been easy to stop trying. The team continuously I believe puts out the best car on the grid.

Fair enough, it was a reversed-grid race that I won but it wasn't an easy race: I didn't start on the front row then just drive off. With this win and my other podiums it's been quite a good season.



Sherwood has added British F4 to his schedule

And recently I have also been doing British Formula 4 rounds with Chris Dittmann Racing. It was the story of my career as that was also very late. The Monday before the Snetterton round was when we confirmed we were going to do it. I had never been in the car before the Friday of my debut weekend.

I did British F4 because I wanted to try the new car and get experience in a halo car before we chose anything for next year. Also the more racing you can do the better you'll get, and the more cars you can drive the better for your career.

I really enjoyed the car and the championship. We didn't really have any expectations at Snetterton but we were 1.5 seconds off the pace on Friday and by race three were seven tenths off, which was ideal considering we'd never been in the car before. The CDR crew are probably some of the most professional and easy to work with guys and they helped me massively.

We'll finish the GB4 season because we're not too far off third in the championship – that would be a mega way to end the year – and we've just decided to finish the British F4 season too.

For next year there are a few options on the table. We'll have a few tests at the end of the year and see what's best for us.

Everyone's dream is Formula 1, but so few drivers get there. I would love to make a career in single-seaters – in IndyCar or Super Formula or even Formula E – there's nothing like driving one. But if I have to go to GTs and prototypes that's also fine. As long as I'm making a living from racing cars I'm happy.

"The more racing you can do the better you'll get"