



MOTOR SPORTS ASSOCIATION
UNITED KINGDOM

PRESS RELEASE

Motor Sports Association presents Cranfield University scholarships

The Motor Sports Association, the national governing body of motor sport in the UK, has presented two scholarships to students on the postgraduate Motorsport Engineering and Management MSc course at Cranfield University.

Vinit Patel and Mark Temple, both aged 23, were presented with their scholarships on behalf of the Motor Sports Association by Colin Hilton, chief executive of the sport's national governing body. Vinit and Mark attained first-class engineering honours degrees, from Brunel and Cambridge universities respectively, and were awarded the MSA Scholarships to study at Cranfield on the basis of prior academic achievement.

"We are delighted that we have been able to provide this type of support to Vinit and Mark," said Hilton on presenting the scholarships. "We viewed these scholarships as part of our overall commitment to supporting and encouraging young talent where we can within the Motor Sports Association's resources. It is vitally important to invest in key areas of the sport's future when the right

opportunities exist and I would urge other segments of the sport and industry in the UK to investigate possibilities to do the same.”

Vinit, from Romford in Essex, and Mark, from Steventon in Oxfordshire, acknowledged the importance of the MSA’s contribution. Vinit commented: “The MSA Scholarship emphasises the value of the Cranfield MSc course within the industry. The funding helps the student complete a year of postgraduate study and demonstrates the MSA’s commitment to supporting the next generation of motor sport engineers.”

Endorsing his fellow scholar, Mark said: “The MSA Scholarship is very encouraging for us as up-and-coming engineers, as it demonstrates the level of support and determination in helping keep UK motor sport engineering at the forefront of the world industry.”

Dr Jeff Alcock, Cranfield’s academic programme director for the MSc course, commented: “Cranfield University applauds the MSA Scholarship as it enables us to provide grants to attract very high quality students. This is extremely important today because of high student debt levels. We would encourage other motor sport organisations to invest in the future of the industry in the UK in a similar fashion.”

Both MSA scholars have spent time in the UK motor and motor sport industries as part of their degree courses and work experience, and compete at club levels in the sport.

Vinit assisted Manor Motorsport’s Formula Renault squad in the 2002 Winter Series and spent his one year industrial placement with Visteon UK, working on projects on the Ford Mondeo and Aston Martin Lagonda programmes. He has restored a Mini 1275GT to compete in amateur rallying.

Mark spent his year's industrial placement in the prototype department at WilliamsF1, and over the next two years enjoyed a 10-week spell in the R&D department at the transmission manufacturer Xtrac, and a 10-week stint at MacAlpine Helicopters researching conversions to the latest night vision goggle systems in police helicopters. Mark runs his own off-roader in the Short Course Off-Road Racing Club.

Editor's note: Copyright free photograph shows Colin Hilton (Chief Executive of the Motor Sports Association) presenting Vinit Patel and Mark Temple with their MSA Scholarships for Cranfield University. Higher resolution version of this photograph is available on request.

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