



DTM

**Interview with Andy Priaulx: “I can handle whatever this new challenge throws at me”.**

Munich, 15<sup>th</sup> July 2011. Andy Priaulx (GB) is one of the most successful touring car drivers of all time. The BMW works driver currently has one European Championship title and three World Championship titles to his name. However, Priaulx has also impressed in GT racing, winning some of the most prestigious races in the world.

In this interview, he speaks about his preparations for the DTM, the new BMW M3 DTM, and how he relaxes at the race track.

**Andy, what are your expectations for starting the next chapter of career and racing in DTM?**

Andy Priaulx: “I have a very open mind on what to expect as this is a totally new series for me. I have only seen races on television so have not got the real feel of the atmosphere that surrounds each event, which I understand is immense. The one thing I know is that we have some tough competition so it’s going to be an interesting start to the season.”

**Is it strange for such an experienced and successful racing driver to suddenly find himself a ‘new boy’?**

Priaulx: “That is one of the joys of racing. I like the idea of being a ‘new boy’. I have a wealth of experience in both touring cars and with BMW so this makes me feel very confident that I can handle whatever this new challenge throws at me, also being part of the test programme I will have many miles in the car before we start racing.”

**How are you getting prepared for this?**

Priaulx: “I am keeping up with my usual fitness programme. I think this is important to have both mental and physical strengths. I am also looking to get as much time on a simulator learning the different tracks. The DTM car will create much more *g* force so I need to prepare my core strength, especially the neck muscles. I am delighted the series comes to the UK, so certainly I shall feel at home at Brands Hatch, one of my favourite tracks and one where I have been a winner.”

**How do you see the BMW in comparison to the opposition?**

Priaulx: “This is a difficult question to answer as we are just at the beginning of our testing programme. However, I know how busy the BMW engineers have been both designing and building the car. BMW doesn’t go into anything new without a lot of preparation, and its entry to the DTM will be no different. I know and love the BMW M3 from racing different versions, so this is an exciting element to be in a car that has become very much an integral part of my current racing programmes.”



**How will the DTM car compare with the WTCC car that you won three world titles with?**

Priaulx: "It will be massively different, not only because the power output is so huge, but also the aero package will make the cars handling more like an F3 car than a touring car, so the cornering speeds alone will take a bit of getting used to. However, we have been really fast through the corners even with this year's BMW M3 GT. I'm sure to get used to it very quickly – and then I will try to push to the limit."

**You have often lived in a motorhome over the WTCC weekends. Why is this and will you do the same in the DTM?**

Priaulx: "I like to be as close to my team and car over race weekends as possible, as sometimes we are still discussing set up at midnight; and I also like to have somewhere to relax when there is any down time. Having a motorhome at the track provides both of these elements for me. It has also meant that I have been able to bring my family along to races and they have been able to leave me to get on with my job. It is great between sessions to be able to go back to a home environment, put your feet up, and have a cup of tea to relax with Jo and the kids."

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