

Craig Dawson BEng

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Full Clean EU Driving Licence, International C Race Licence, National A Kart Race Licence.

Personal Statement

I am currently a student at Oxford Brookes University studying for a doctorate in Motorsport design. In 2004 I completed a Mechanical Engineering degree at the University. Having been an avid enthusiast and participant in all forms of motorsport from a very young age, I have chosen Automotive Engineering as the field to follow into my working life. I have run my own race team and won Championships, competed myself winning major titles, and worked for my father throughout, with his own motorsport team. I have had experience in everything from Karts to Formula Ford, to Formula Three, from Minis to Touring Cars. I feel that I have a great deal to offer through my engineering and driving skills, with the ability to develop cars quickly.

Work experience

- Sept 03 – May 04 Placement with Williams Grand Prix Engineering manufacturing the Carbon Fibre tub of the ISIS 04 Formula Student car. My roles included management of other students, Mould making, and tub manufacture.
- Oct 99 – Nov 01 Team manager of InFocus Racing.
Running of my own Race Team. During this time with one of our drivers, Thomas Kimber-Smith, we won the 2000 T Car Championship, competed in the 2001 Slick 50 Formula Ford Championship. I stopped running the team to concentrate on my degree course.
- Sept 97 – Aug 00 The Willison Centre, Northampton.
My roles within the centre involved dealing with users, life guarding, preparation of facilities, collection of payments, and managing others.
- Aug 95 – present Dawson Auto Developments (DAD), Towcester.
During my time with DAD I have worked on Manufacturer Product development and on the company's race team. The vehicles on the race team have been varied, from formula cars to saloon and GT cars. I have spent much of my free time over the years with the company.
- July 96 Cosworth Engineering, Northampton.
During this period I spent time in the design office working on a new V6 engine for a leading Car manufacturer, then spent time in the Dyno cells developing a V10 engine for a prestige Car manufacturer. I found this period very useful, as it demonstrated the design and development processes of a production engine.

Racing CV

- 2005 Ford Falcon - 3rd in Willhire 24 Hours, 750 MC Hot Hatch - 6 races, midseason championship leader by 45 points, 3 race wins, 3 second places, 2 lap records and 5 fastest laps.
Winner of the skid pan event at FSAE, Detroit, with a new World Record.
- 2004 750 MC Hot Hatch – Selected rounds, Oxford Brookes Formula Student team
Technical coordinator, UK Champions
- 2003 750 MC Hot Hatch - Competed in 4 rounds - two 2nd places, a 3rd and a 4th
- 2002 750 MC Hot Hatch - Selected rounds, 8th in the championship
- 2001 Team manager of InFocus Racing Formula Ford team. 15th in the championship with Tom Kimber-Smith
- 2000 BRSCC T Cars. Champions with Tom Kimber-Smith
- 1997 Midland Champion in JICA, TV Masters and Super 1
- 1996 Birmingham Wheels Club Champion in Junior 100B

Education and Qualifications

Aug 04 – Sept 07	Studying for PhD in Motorsport Design at Oxford Brookes University. Currently at MPhil completion. Title: Design, Development and Analysis of a Rotational Damper for a Formula 1 application.
Sept 00 – July 04	BEng Mechanical Engineering degree at Oxford Brookes University. Final dissertation title: Installation, characterisation and development of the Dampers on the ISIS 04 FS car.
Sept 99 – July 00	Daventry Tertiary College, Northants. I undertook two A Levels, Mathematics and Physics in which I gained a B grade.
Sept 97 – July 99	Roade School, Northants. I undertook three A levels, Mathematics, Physics, and Design and Technology in which I gained a B grade
March 95 - July 97	Roade School, Northants. 10 GCSE Qualifications gained, to grade C or above.

Systems Knowledge

- Data acquisition - Pi Club Expert, Pi Toolbox, Stack, AIM, MoTeC
- Engine Management – Pectel, Motec (all units), CADET dyno package
- Design tools - Solidworks, Unigraphics, AutoCAD, ANSA, Gambit, 3D studio Max
- Analysis Packages – ADAM's, MatLAB, Cosmos FEA, Fluent CFD
- General packages - Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and Publisher
- Operating systems - Windows 3.1, 95/98, ME, and XP, UNIX,

Key Skills and attributes

I have a wide range of experience within the automotive industry. This can be seen from the experiences from the different areas of the industry that I have worked in. I have also gained and learnt a great deal about organising events, during my time as President of Formula Brookes, the Oxford Brookes Motor Club. I have spent four years in the role, and still enjoy it greatly. The Club has won the British Universities Karting Championship twice and through the club I have organised major track days at circuits such as Silverstone GP and Goodwood.

Running my own race team has taught me a great deal. I have developed skills in time management, accounting, organisation, and decision-making. The decisions that I had to make were often under great pressure, and with little time.

I have learnt a great deal from being Technical Co-ordinator for the university Formula Student team. This role put me directly in charge of the car build. My major roles include manufacture of the Carbon Fibre tub, development of the dampers and design of the fuel, oil and water systems, and complete mapping of the engines.

Hobbies and Interests

I enjoy many sports, including playing squash, Mountain biking, and swimming. Most of my spare time is spent on my racing, but I fit my other interests in whenever possible.