

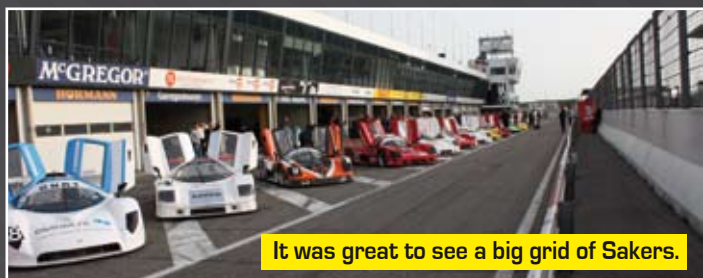


## Season Opener

The Saker Challenge started its 2011 season in style with three rounds at the fantastic Zandvoort circuit on the 10th April, in the most glorious sunshine. The race format consisted of two sprint races of 12 laps each, whilst the 3rd round was a longer sixty minute endurance race, with one mandatory pit stop.

All three UK runners finished in the top 10 of the main endurance race, against a field of class opposition who race at Zandvoort several times every season. Jan Lammers, ex Le Mans winner and F1 racer, was also behind the wheel of one Dutch Saker.

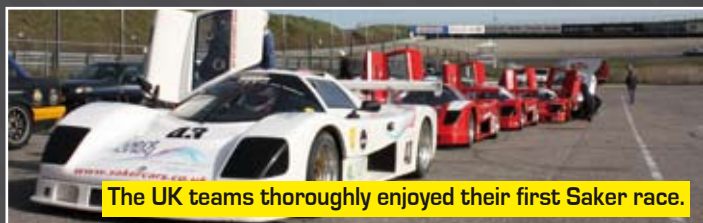
The UK teams definitely made an impression on the locals! Zandvoort circuit is long, technical and great fun. The Dutch say you need years to master it – they had a total of forty minutes. The stage was set for three interesting races!



It was great to see a big grid of Sakers.

The grid swelled to around 45 cars on Sunday with some V8 Nascar and powerful BMW Touring Car lookalikes, taking part in the same race, although the grids were staggered, so all of the Sakers started together, but separately from the other cars. The first race of the day saw the UK's Steve Harris finish 9th, Tim Wheeldon 10th and Ben Lack 14th. The second race was red-flagged and the result taken from Lap2 giving Steve 8th, Paul Rose 11th and Tim 12th.

Race three was sixty minutes long with a compulsory pit stop of sixty seconds having to be taken between twenty five and forty five minutes into the race. Harris and Wheeldon drove solo, but Paul Rose and Ben Lack shared a drive with Lack taking the first stint.



The UK teams thoroughly enjoyed their first Saker race.

Wheeldon pitted early and by the time the pit stops were over, he had a twelve second advantage over Harris with Paul Rose behind after the hand over from Lack, but catching the two UK Sakers. With six minutes to go, Wheeldon threw it down the track in an unprovoked spin and lost twenty seconds, allowing Harris to pass him for 8th place. Three laps later the Brits took the flag in formation, with Harris in 8th, Wheeldon in 9th and Lack/Rose in 10th.

Tim Wheeldon commented: **"So what lessons did we learn from the first race of UK Sakers? There were many, but perhaps the most important of all is that Zandvoort is an amazing track and the Saker is an amazing car. We had a fantastic time and now I can't wait for round two!"**

Following a successful season opener, Saker Challenge UK are looking forward to welcoming the Dutch teams to Snetterton for the next round on the 29th May



Fiercely close racing for all three races.



Post racing...back in the pits.

Kindest regards

Roxie Marandi Rose  
Race Co-ordinator  
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