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NEWS

Ingram ready to fight for European title



Chris Ingram is confident he can win the FIA European Rally Championship this year after securing a deal to drive a Skoda Fabia R5 for Toksport World Rally Team.

The Manchester driver won the ERC Junior U27 championship for Opel last year, and will step up to the ERC Junior U28 series as he makes his four-wheel-drive competition debut.

The Junior U28 championship takes in six different rallies across the season, but Ingram is aiming for the overall title so will also contest the Acropolis and the Cyprus Rally that aren't rounds of the Junior series.

"I have been aiming to compete in the top tier of the European Rally Championship for a long time," Ingram said.

"There were many, many discussions and options on the table so it has been an incredibly difficult task to choose the right one.

"Having met with Toksport in Germany last month I am very confident with my decision, they want to win as much as me so it makes perfect sense.

"I can't wait to drive the Fabia R5 for the first time and to start a new title fight in the Azores next week. It's one of my favourite rallies in the world but I'll face a big challenge."

Yates considering a full season in ERC

British Rally Championship front-runner Rhys Yates has entered the opening round of the ERC, and is open to contesting a full Junior U28 season depending on his performance in Portugal.

The Chesterfield driver finished fourth overall in last year's BRC in a Ford Fiesta R5, but has [switched](#) to a Skoda Fabia R5 for 2018.

He will be ran by CA1 Sport on the Azores, alongside multiple BRC rally winner Fredrik Ahlin.

"The plan was just to do Rome [Rally di Roma Capitale], but due to a couple of cancellations in the UK we put an entry in for the Azores against what is looking like a seriously competitive entry," Yates said.

"If we go there and really enjoy it, we do a full European season as well as the British Championship.

"I'd like to say I'm going there to have a bit of fun and to soak up the experience but I just can't help but be competitive.

"I'm not going there thinking I'm going to win the event but I think if I can keep my nose clean and survive through it then we can be there or thereabouts with a good result."