

motorsport



WITH DEPUTY MOTORS EDITOR **JON DORAN**

Golden Brown

CAROL'S TIPPED TO BE BE QUEEN OF SCOTS

MEET the girl tipped to become Scotland's greatest racing driver EVER.

CAROL BROWN has stormed to titles in karting and the Scottish Legends – before missing out on the Best Newcomer title in the Scottish Formula Ford Championship last year, *below right*, by just one point.

The 22-year-old loves nothing more than handing out a beating to the boys and flying the flag for the girls.

Now the pretty Falkirk flier is determined to move up to the Renault Clio Cup as a stepping stone to making waves in the British Touring Cars Championship.

And the bubbly star insists she wants no favours – she wants to beat the guys on equal terms.

She said: "It would mean everything to clinch the Clio drive. I have wanted to be in touring cars since I was little so to get on that ladder would mean a lot."

"I have been named best woman racer in Scotland for the last four years, and that's great, but when I pull the helmet on I am racing – it is not about being female."

Hailed

"I just want to win and there's no reason why I can't do as well as the guys can."

"I don't want any favours or special treatment, I can win without that."

Brown is working flat out to get the Clio deal, with Xtreme Karting ready to back her bid by funding part of her racing package.

And she has been hailed by two of the sport's biggest names as the big hope to become the queen of Scottish motor racing.

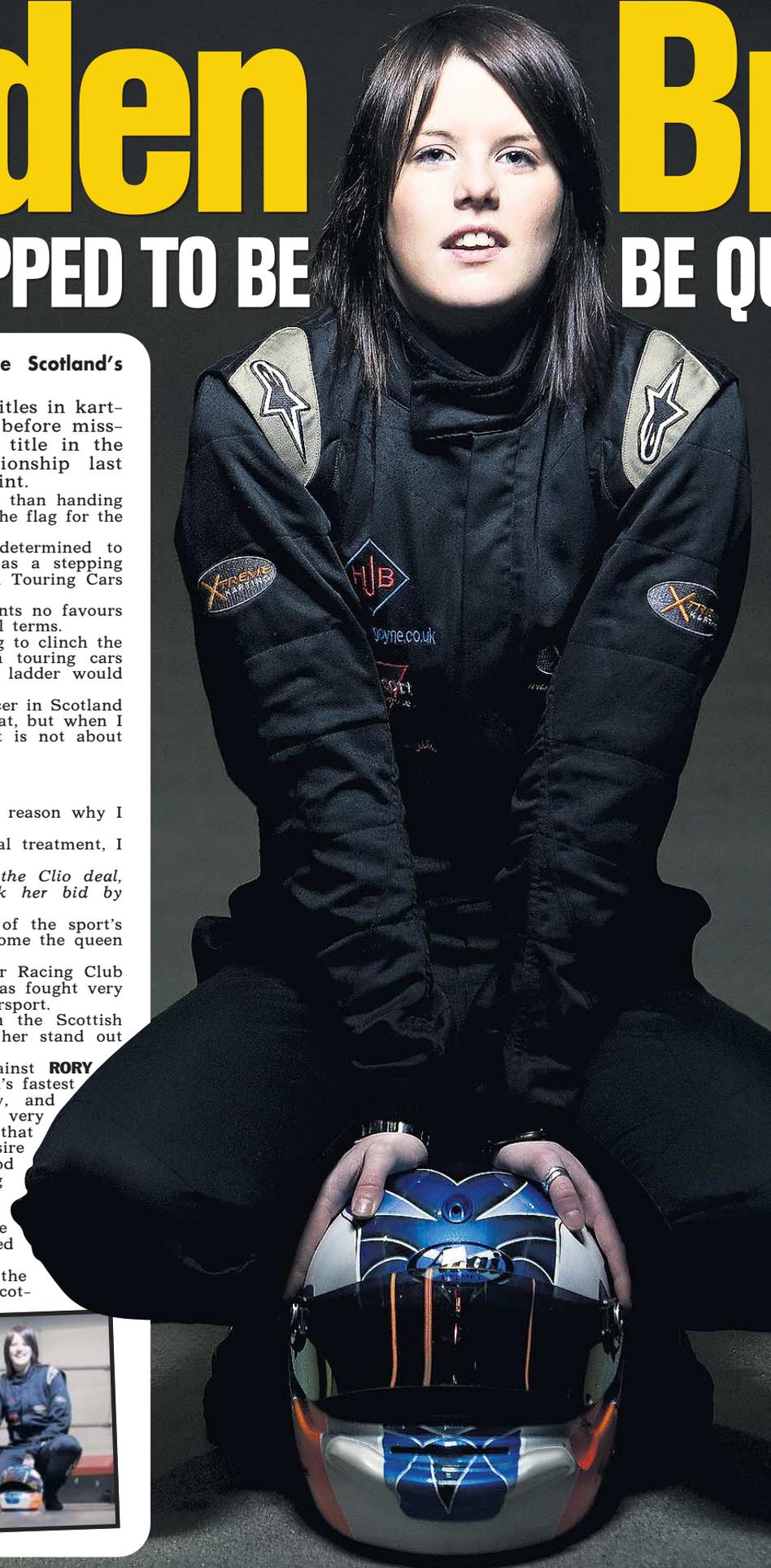
Le Mans legend and Scottish Motor Racing Club president **ALLAN McNISH** said: "She has fought very hard for all she has achieved in motorsport."

"In 2008 she came out on top in the Scottish Legends championship – that made her stand out from the crowd."

"Then last year she went up against **RORY BUTCHER**, who I would say is the UK's fastest Formula Ford driver around today, and really showed her desire. She had a very strong second half of the season – that proves that she has the talent, the desire and the mentality to really have a good career in the sport and I am looking forward to watching that develop."

And **LOUIS DI RESTA** – the man who has helped steer son **PAUL** to the brink of Formula One – is convinced Brown can be a major star.

He said: "I really do believe she is the best female talent to come out of Scot-



land in a long time. Dare I say it, I think she's better than **SUSIE STODDART**."

"I've known her since she was 12 years old and racing karts at Larkhall."

"She could be a touring car driver – I think that is where she could end up."

"There is no reason why she couldn't do DTM like Susie, she has the talent."

"She has fought her way through. She beat all the boys in Legends, and she was beating the boys in Formula Ford. She is definitely a good prospect, and if this programme comes together she would be a front-runner."

Brown is also a marketing dream for firms. Xtreme managing director **BARRY HENDERSON** reckons he is backing a winner and believes other firms will soon be flocking to sign her up and back bid for the top.

He said: "We were delighted to back her. She is talented and dedicated and she is a great advert for women in motorsport."

"We spotted the potential for the company. She is female and a racer, so she opens the way to a whole new market for us because girls come down and try to copy her."

Front

"She shows that they can drive karts quickly, and it is good for us to be connected to a successful female racer."

"But she knows how to give something back by helping the firms who help her."

Brown is determined to tie up a deal for this year and get back out on track.

She said: "There are a few options we are looking at. We'll be doing everything we can to get it together and ideally I would like to be in the Clio Cup because I would like to get into touring cars one day."

"I can't wait to take on the guys – anywhere, any time. I don't see why I should fear it."

"I've beaten them in karts, beaten them in Legends and did well in Formula Ford last year. There's no reason why I can't keep beating them. I will always try to get to the front."

"The Legends were a great learning experience because you have to work out what to do in race situations, fighting your way through from the back of the grid and you only have eight to 10 laps."

"That holds you in good stead for other types of racing."

"I want to be out there racing. If firms think it's good that I'm a girl, that's great."

"But I want to be there because I'm a very good racer."



DEAL ME IN . . . Carol with Xtreme's Barry Henderson



Pictures by MIKE SCHOFIELD

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