

British GT champion Gornall takes Audi seat after Blundell's exit

Matt James

Autosport 9 Jan 2020, 14:22



GT champion takes Audi seat after Blundell's exit

Trade Price Cars Racing has signed 2009 British GT champion James Gornall to contest the '20 British Touring Car Championship season at the wheel of an Audi S3.

The 35-year-old, who won British GT in a Brookspeed-run Dodge Viper alongside John Barnes, will line up alongside Bobby Thompson in the AmDTuning-overseen TPCR team, following the exit of the now [retired ex-F1 driver Mark Blundell](#) from the team.

Gornall was also a class winner in the 2009 Britcar 24 Hours before taking a sabbatical from motorsport, not returning until 2014 to race in the BMW Compact Cup, racing alongside TPCR

What to read next



**Who won the NASCAR race
Wednesday's Toyota 500 at**

Sporting News



Football rumours from the

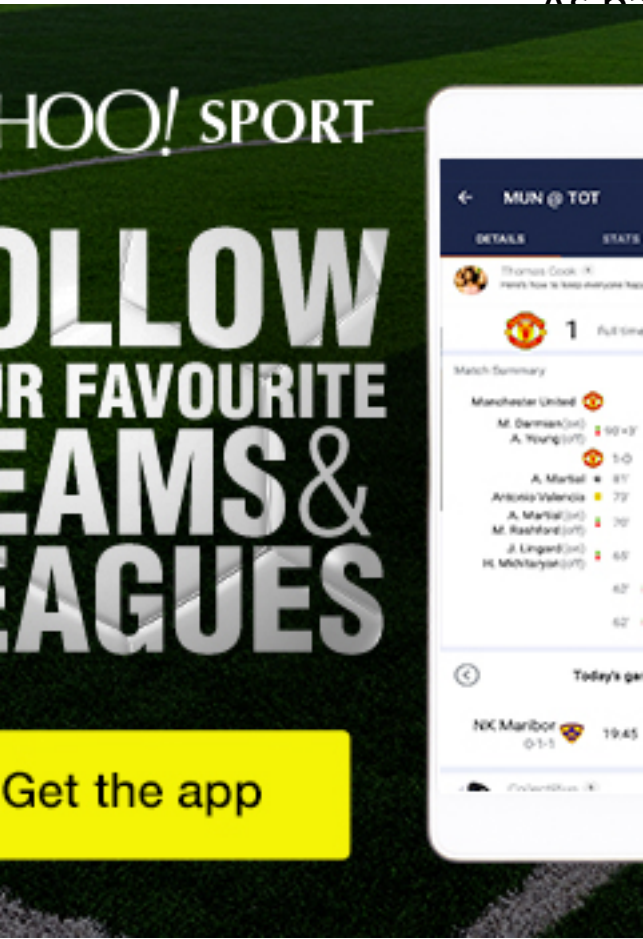
PA Media: Sport

team boss Dan Kirby.

Gornall then switched to the Mini Challenge last term, his first competition in a front-wheel-drive car, and he took five wins and 13 podiums on his way to the overall title.

As part of his prize for success in the Mini Challenge last season, he won a test in a Motorbase Performance Ford Focus, which he undertook at Snetterton at the end of the season.

Gornall said: "When I decided to enter the Mini Challenge last season, it was with the aim of learning the skills required to move on to competing in British touring cars in the future.



GT champion takes Audi seat after Blundell's exit

"The test I did in the Focus as a reward for winning the title only increased my desire to join the grid, as I felt comfortable straight away and knew that I would be able to do myself justice.

"As a driver, you always want to win races and if you don't go into a new season feeling you can win, then you won't do.



Emre Can sends Sancho Man City
admits he could never join R
Goal.com



Rangers great Ally McCoist
Celtic were 'awarded' the tit
PA Media: Sport



Karl Malone respects Michael
bad SOB, too'
Sporting News

"The team has shown that it can fight for victories and that has to be my target in 2020; to fight for silverware and to challenge for both the Independents' title and the Jack Sears Trophy [fought out between drivers who have not had a BTCC podium at the start of the season]."

Kirby added: "As a newcomer to the series, James is a driver who fans might not be too familiar with," said Kirby.

"However, I'm confident that they will soon see what James can do when the season gets underway as you don't become a multiple British champion in a range of disciplines without being a quick driver."



GT champion takes Audi seat after Blundell's exit

AmD Tuning has also completed its BTCC line-up for 2020, with second-year driver Sam Osborne joining to race a Honda Civic Type R.

He will line up alongside Jake Hill in the Honda, which the West Thurrock operation took to third place in the teams' contest last season when Independents Trophy winner Rory

Butcher, Sam Tordoff and Mike Bushell handled the cars.

Osborne graduated from the Mini Challenge and the Renault UK Clio Cup joined the BTCC with new team ExcelR8 Motorsport in 2019 in an ageing front-wheel-drive MG6. He scored a best finish of 14th place at Snetterton in the reversed-grid race.

Osborne said: "It hasn't really sunk in yet, but this is a fantastic opportunity for me and one that I want to try and grab with both hands.

"From the moment I first spoke to [team principal] Shaun Hollamby, I knew that this was the right deal for me and I'm hoping that this can be the start of something long term with the team."

2020 BTCC grid so far

| | |
|--|---|
| Team Dynamics Honda Civic Type R FK8 | Matt Neal, Dan Cammish |
| WSR BMW 330i M Sport | Colin Turkington, Andrew Jordan, Tom Oliphant |
| AmD Tuning Honda Civic Type R FK2 | Jake Hill, Sam Osborne |
| BTC Racing Honda Civic Type R FK8 | Josh Cook |
| Laser Tools Racing Infiniti Q50 | Ash Sutton, Aiden Moffat |

Trade Price Cars Bobby Thompson,
Racing James Gornall
Team Hard VW CC Mike Bushell, Jack
Goff
Team Hard BMW
125i M Sport Carl Boardley

Get unlimited access to the world's best
motorsport journalism with **Autosport
Plus**



 **View reactions (2)**

[Sign in to post a message.](#)



Coronavirus: DFL will not sanctio...

11



Hertha Berlin boss Bruno
Labbadia defended his...



Omnisport

Man Utd trigger one-year...

10



Timothy Fosu-Mensah will
be contracted to...



Omnisport

Messi to Inter? Of course Nerazzu...

15



Benoit Cauet was asked about the possibility of...



Omnisport

Coronavirus: Buttler World...

An auction of Jos Buttler's World Cup final jersey ha...

2
💬



Goal.com

'If I was Barcelona...

The former La Masia academy star, who is no...

17
💬



Omnisport

Bayern president expects transfe...

Transfer fees had spiralled in recent years, but...

19
💬



David Beckham's 100th England...

The midfielder played 63 minutes in a 1-0 friendly...

24
💬



Goal.com

'Pogba isn't bigger than Ma...

The former midfielder has suggested in the past th...

💬



Goal.com

'Berbatov only spoke to team-...

A former team-mate of the enigmatic Bulgarian...

💬



Omnisport

Coronavirus: 2020 IPL on the...

The Indian Premier League may still go ahead this...

💬



Omnisport

Teaching Bucs offense to Tom...

He may have six Super Bowl rings, but Tom Brad...



Evening Standard

UK coronavirus LIVE: NHS leade...

The clock is ticking for the Government to finalise a...

4



Evening Standard

Who's in the Space Force cas...

Space Force is set to be Netflix's new must-see...



Goal.com

Emre Can sends Sancho Man Ut...

A current colleague of the England international...



Evening Standard

Researchers studying king...

Scientists studying a colony of king penguins i...



Evening Standard

Which European countries have...

The UK Foreign Office (FCO) is currently advisin...



Evening Standard

Ant and Dec poke fun at Premier...

Ant and Dec have shared a hilarious photoshopped...



Evening Standard

Bundesliga



fixtures on RT

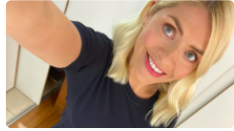
Bundesliga football is back this weekend following a...



Evening Standard

Welsh government...

The Welsh Government has been reported to the...



Evening Standard

Where is Holly Willoughby's...

Holly Willoughby, 39, has firmly cemented herself ...



Goal.com

I knew De Reuck would be the be...

The experienced shot-stopper feels that the...



The Independent

The Independent's...

.full-article .article-wrapper .main-content-...



Evening Standard

Best fake tans for your face and...

Spending the past couple of months confined to o...



The Independent

Liverpool preparing for...

Liverpool are preparing for a shorter break...



The Independent

NWSL planning month-long...

The National Women's





Goal.com

'I'd love to be part of it' – Bruce...



The Magpies could soon be given a hefty cash...



Evening Standard

V&A museum invites viewers ...



The V&A; museum is giving viewers a second...