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Road racing



SIDECAR TT CHAIR SWAPS

Maria Costello visited the island last week for some physio and a few visits to the hyperbaric chamber after a spill in her first outing as a sidecar driver at Cadwell Park the previous weekend. Her long-term aim is to ride both a solo and sidecar in the TT the same year **JW**

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The annual sidecar merry-go-round of driver and passenger swapping has started slightly earlier than normal for the 2017 TT.

After a season back with Dave Molyneux, Dan Sayle has already decided not to race with the 17-time winner next year. He is not committed to anyone else at present, but the Lightweight MGP winner said yesterday that he had 'too much

on with the solo thing' to worry about the sidecars.

Sayle is currently nursing a shoulder injury after a spill with Michael Dunlop at Brands Hatch last month.

In Dunlop's first outing on a sidecar for five years, the pair borrowed the Birchall brothers' TT-winning LCR Honda for the combined F1/Sidecar 600 Cup race, finishing fifth in the latter class despite up-ending the outfit after a big slide.

Despite injuring his left shoulder, Sayle chaired for Dunlop again the following day when, in damp con-

ditions, they finished fifth overall, second in the 600 Cup class behind British F2 champions Peter Founds and Jevan Walmsley.

'Michael is good in a sidecar, but I think the TT thing is on hold for a few years yet,' added Dan.

Rumours were circulating that Sayle was to rejoin John Holden in the Ian Barnes/Silicone Engineering backed LCR Honda, but he has denied such a move.

'John was after me at the end of TT Week, but I was hap-

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Maria visits island for treatment

Maria Costello's ambitions of contesting a solo and sidecar TT in the same year have not been dented, despite an incident in her first serious outing as a driver at Cadwell Park. At the end of her best season on two wheels, in which she finished a personal best 12th in the Supertwin TT, became the fastest woman in the history of the North West 200 and scored a 'dream' podium finish in the Senior Classic TT, she recently took up the offer of a test run in the chair of a sidecar.

That led to a proper outing as a driver in the Auto 66 Sidecar Bash at Cadwell with passenger Harry Payne. After three steady finishes, their fourth race was brought to an abrupt conclusion when they hit a tyre wall in greasy conditions at Hall Bends when on course for their best finish of the meeting. 'I suffered some soft tissue damage to my arm and shoulder, but I've kindly been helped by Cath Davis of Rex Physio and the Hyperbaric Chamber who squeezed me in,' she said.

Football

Union Mills hit by points deduction in top flight

Union Mills have been plunged into the Canada Life Premier League's relegation zone after they were hit by a three-point deduction by the Isle of Man FA.

The Millers were handed the penalty after it emerged they fielded two ineligible players in the opening game of the season against Colby.

Mills won the game in question 1-0, but have now lost the points in addition to the three-point penalty, and will now have to replay the fixture.

The deduction leaves Mills second bottom in the standings on two points, two behind third-bottom Colby and safety.

The Millers' first team aren't the only side to fall foul of the FA's disciplinary committee.

Fellow Premier League side Ayre have also been zapped with a three-point deduction, also for fielding an ineligible player.

This leaves the Tangerines, who have yet to gain a point this season, further adrift at the foot of the top-flight standings.

Michael United, Ramsey and Union Mills' combination teams have also been rocked by points deductions.

Combination Two side Michael have accrued a three-point deduction for fielding a non-registered player as have Combination One team Mills.

Ramsey have received a three-point penalty for failing to fulfil a league fixture. Clubs have the opportunity to appeal the decisions.

● Two games were called off on Saturday afternoon after the appointed officials failed to notify the Referees' Society that they were unavailable.