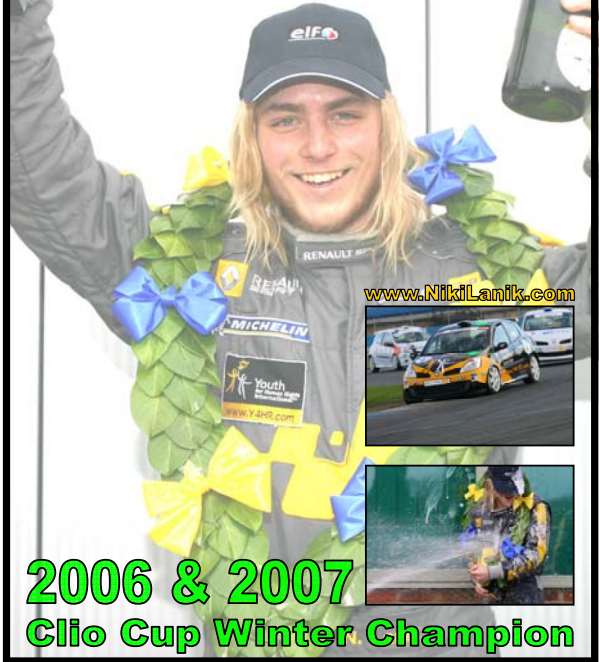


# Niki Lanik Race Driver

## 2005-2007 Press Book



[www.NikiLanik.com](http://www.NikiLanik.com)



## 2006 & 2007 Clio Cup Winter Champion



# 2005 Narconon UK Race Team

## Student's dream is to race and win

By Glenn Garrett

A SIXTH FORMER at Greenfields School, Forest Row, has ambitions of becoming a motor racing champion. Niki Lanik is currently dividing his time between studying for A Levels in physics, maths, chemistry and German, and preparing two white racing cars ready for competition this month.

The 17-year-old said: "My purpose in life is to race and win."

Niki will be competing with his racing partner JJ Vannier, who lives and works on the estate at Greenfields School, in Priory Road.

They will be racing in the Stock Hatch series under the control of the 590 Motor Club. Niki's parents are originally from Austria but had been in America for some time before settling in Sussex about five years ago.

Niki has been racing cars since he moved to Sussex and has his own track in the grounds of his parents' home, in Homestall Road, Ashurst Wood.

Niki said: "We've both been messing around with cars for years. I'm lucky to have the space to work on cars and a space to have our own racing track."

Niki's parents have backed their ambitions. Niki said: "They support us all the way. My father has paid for Le Mans and GT racing as soon as possible."



YOUNG DREAM: Pictured from left are Jim Vannier (JJ's dad), Chris Stewart (advisor, sponsor and long-time racer), Niki Lanik, JJ Vannier, Niki Lanik, and Andrew Chalmers

East Sussex College and been accepted into Coventry University.

The 20-year-old said: "Whether I go really depends on how the next couple of months go. I have a feeling that we'll both be too successful and too busy to take time out for that."

Both want to move into Le Mans and GT racing as soon as possible. Niki and JJ said the type of teaching on offer at Greenfields had enabled them to achieve their goals.

Niki and JJ bought their first white 1992 Clio B car. Three weeks ago and the other car two weeks ago.

However, to get them ready for the first race of the season at Snetterton on March 27 they still need sponsorship money.

Niki said: "We need £15,000 this year and we are actively seeking sponsorship. We have already been sponsored for about half the money."

Chris Stewart (a local resident, well known motorsports enthusiast and well-respected race driver) is supporting us as well as other friends of ours."

Niki and JJ are currently painting the cars in Narconon Blue colours and logo.

Narconon is a Church of Scientology based organization working with drug prevention and rehabilitation. Anyone interested in sponsoring either of the drivers can contact JJ on 07887 503434 or Niki on 07813 032914.

## Student racer Niki tipped for stardom

by Mahesha Kottigoda

A SIXTEEN-YEAR-OLD physics student has been tipped to become a professional motor racing driver by a national magazine after an impressive performance at Brands Hatch.

Niki Lanik, of Homestall Road, Ashurst Wood, showed his prowess at the 7500cc Stock Hatch series on the Friday 23rd after finishing from 10th place in the Stock Hatch race.

His victory within his group, he spent a couple of minutes in the lead before being overtaken on the last lap by another 17-year-old.

Patrick Brown said: "I caught up on the last four cars and over the top my car still had a lead over the leader. I had been handed my slip but he had about 100 yards on me. I was about to pass him but he was able to hold me off."

In Thursday's race, subsequent races (see Observer's website) Niki was a young man with a future who was "very confident" from the start. He was "very confident" from the start. He was "very confident" from the start. He was "very confident" from the start.

He said: "My father and I rebuilt the engine over Friday night and Saturday to be ready for Sunday on Sunday."

Party students from the school were invited to watch the race and see the car of Niki Lanik, a former student of Greenfields School.

Both sets were sponsored by the use of £20,000 in machine money and were managed to reach the halfway mark.

Niki's success in winning the race could be a real motivation for other students to be more active.



Next big thing: Student Niki Lanik has been tipped as the one to watch by a national magazine.

**BRIGHT FUTURE:** Niki Lanik, left, and JJ Vannier, with the cars prior to racing at Brands Hatch

## Engine hitch fails to deter young racers

DESPITE having an engine blow up hours before he was due to race, Niki Lanik got to race at Brands Hatch.

The weekend was certainly eventful, Niki said. "The engine on my car blew up in testing on the Friday and my father and I rebuilt it over Friday night and Saturday to be ready for qualifying on Sunday morning."

It was a similar story for JJ with various bits breaking off his car during testing.

Niki and JJ qualified seventh and tenth respectively for the afternoon races.

Niki, 16, said: "I caught up the first four cars and one by one overtook them until I was back in the leader - but he then knocked me into the barrier at about 100mph which broke my steering and I was forced to retire car."

"I was very pleased with my performance and apparently the track announcer later declared I had been the best driver of the day."

JJ, 20, moved up to eighth but got stuck behind another car - due to the slow speed of his 20-year-old car.

He said: "We're struggling with driving 20-year-old cars, while many of the other cars we are competing with are much newer. But we're improving the cars and getting better drivers so we will be even more competitive at the next meeting at Donington in three weeks time."

Mark McQuade, deputy head of Greenfields, said: "Niki and JJ are showing that they can learn and learn fast."

"I have no doubt they will both become future racing champions."



# 2006 Drive4Life.tv Race Team

**ONE TO WATCH**  
**NIKI LANIK**

**CRUELLY ROBBED** of a likely victory in his fourth ever race at Brands Hatch on Sunday, Stock Hatch newcomer Niki Lanik is a young man with a future. Prior to doing his ARDS course in 2003, Austrian-born Lanik had never competed in anything except racing a school friend around a muddy field in old banglers.

Nik (18) is racing in the 7500cc series for roadgoing hatchbacks alongside his old school chum, in a Fiesta XR2. Both are promoting the UK anti-drug charity Narconon.

Short of cash but clearly not short of talent, Niki possesses an old head on his young shoulders and realises that if his dream of a BTCC drive is to be achieved, a category carrying some serious exposure must be his next target after a learning year.

Having completed his ARDS course at Silverstone, he cites the BRCC Single-Seater series as a possible target for 2006.

Send Chat Attach Address Photo Contact form to [trc@unity-media.com](mailto:trc@unity-media.com)

Subject: Money, Money, Money...

I'm Niki Lanik and I run a car racing team with my father. The car in question has just been entered into the ELF Renault Clio Cup (which is a support race for the British Touring Car Championship, BTCC). There are 10,000 at every race and it is also broadcast live on Motors TV (Sky channel 413). It's also broadcast a few days after the race on ITV1 with an average of 300,000 spectators per showing. On top of that we also get press releases in local newspapers and further press releases and photos are posted on the [www.rtsport.co.uk](http://www.rtsport.co.uk) website.

Currently our main advertiser on the car is the new 'Drive 4 Life - be drug-free' campaign which you can find more about on [www.drive4life.org.uk](http://www.drive4life.org.uk) and [www.drive4life.tv](http://www.drive4life.tv). But I was wondering if you would like to contribute to this worthy cause and advertise Track & Race Cars Magazine in the process? I look forward to hearing from you!

Niki Lanik, Vibrant Motorsports Limited

Thanks for the email Niki but as you can imagine we get a host of sponsorship requests that we just can't contribute to. As you can see, however, you've still managed to give your current sponsor a worthy mention in this publication which can only help develop further funding for the rest of the season. Want some blatant sponsorship about our in TRC? Then you know the address: [trc@unity-media.com](mailto:trc@unity-media.com)

BY CHRIS HOUGH

RACE DATA

Round 10: 1st: Steve Wood (Elf Renault Clio) 1:20.1; 2nd: Niki Lanik (Elf Renault Clio) 1:20.2; 3rd: Steve Wood (Elf Renault Clio) 1:20.3; 4th: Niki Lanik (Elf Renault Clio) 1:20.4; 5th: Steve Wood (Elf Renault Clio) 1:20.5; 6th: Niki Lanik (Elf Renault Clio) 1:20.6; 7th: Steve Wood (Elf Renault Clio) 1:20.7; 8th: Niki Lanik (Elf Renault Clio) 1:20.8; 9th: Steve Wood (Elf Renault Clio) 1:20.9; 10th: Niki Lanik (Elf Renault Clio) 1:21.0; 11th: Steve Wood (Elf Renault Clio) 1:21.1; 12th: Niki Lanik (Elf Renault Clio) 1:21.2; 13th: Steve Wood (Elf Renault Clio) 1:21.3; 14th: Niki Lanik (Elf Renault Clio) 1:21.4; 15th: Steve Wood (Elf Renault Clio) 1:21.5; 16th: Niki Lanik (Elf Renault Clio) 1:21.6; 17th: Steve Wood (Elf Renault Clio) 1:21.7; 18th: Niki Lanik (Elf Renault Clio) 1:21.8; 19th: Steve Wood (Elf Renault Clio) 1:21.9; 20th: Niki Lanik (Elf Renault Clio) 1:22.0.



Niki Lanik gets hit during an ambitious overtaking manoeuvre by Steve Wood at Goddards. Lanik recovered to finish tenth

# Lanik shines in debut race

ON his very first outing in a Renault Clio, 19-year-old Niki Lanik, from Ashurst Wood, debuting in the ELF Renault Clio Cup at Donington Park last week, earned a Driver of the Day award.

The cup was a support race for the British Touring Car Championship. Lanik held fastest lap for most of the race and passed more cars than any other.



# Lanik helps set up JJ for fifth

THE Ashurst Wood-based Narconon Race Team progressed up the rankings last weekend with a fifth-place overall finish in the 750 Motor Club's Stock Hatch final, at Cadwell Park, deep in the Lincolnshire Wolds.

With a good qualifying run netting him sixth at the starting grid position, 21-year-old East Grinstead driver JJ Vannier was the fastest of the Ford Fiesta XR3s. Racing against more modern and technologically superior cars, he out-gunned all but four of the 67 entrants.

A good day's testing had previously allowed the team to make several adjustments to the car, with team-mate Niki Lanik, 19, acting as suspension set-up engineer while his new race car is being built.

Both drivers attended Greenfields School, at Forest Row, and are pursuing their careers as professional race drivers. The Narconon Race Team supports the Narconon drug abuse prevention programme, which educates schoolchildren about drug abuse.

Businesses or other groups interested in supporting or sponsoring the team should e-mail narcononraceteam@hotmail.co.uk.

# Lanik shines again

IN ONLY his second appearance in the ELF Renault Clio Cup, Ashurst Wood-based Niki Lanik, 19, secured another driver of the day award during last weekend's round at Snetterton, Norfolk.



TOP MAN: Niki Lanik, driver of the day at Snetterton



Born to win: Niki Lanik and JJ Vannier

Lanik's Drive4Life team mate JJ Vannier is contesting the 750 Motor Club Stock Hatch Series in his Narconon XR3, which set a lap record at Donington and was fifth at Cadwell Park.

Forest Row-based Design to Print UK is sponsoring Vannier's car which has its next outing at Brands Hatch this weekend.



# Lanik vows to carry on Clios

RENAULT Clio driver Niki Lanik will continue to race in the Clio Cup next season, having finished second in the 2006 series.

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# Brilliant Lanik has a weekend to remember



BRILLIANT: Niki Lanik celebrating his win at Snetterton

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# First and second guide Lanik to Renault Clio Cup glory

ASHURST Wood-based driver Niki Lanik, 19, secured his first and second wins in the Renault Clio Cup at Cadwell Park and Snetterton respectively.

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# Lanik storms to winter cup glory

NINETEEN-year-old Ashurst Wood racer Niki Lanik has won the 2006 ELF Renault Clio Winter Cup.

Originally from Austria, he only made his Clio Cup debut at Donington Park, in round 11 of this year's series and produced a run of decent results, backed up by his mature performance in the Winter Cup, which he won by 24 points with four pole positions, two fastest laps, a second place and three race wins.

The two final rounds were held at Croft's challenging 2.13-mile circuit. Lanik had never raced at Croft before but he again secured pole position for rounds three and four for the final by 0.21sec.

Lanik encountered no problems in race one, making a clean start and pushing the car to its limits throughout the first few corners and chicanes, which gave him a gap of 0.2sec to second-placed James Williams at the end of the first lap, which he had stretched to 1.5sec after three laps.

With every driver racing with equal equipment in the Clio Renaultsport 182 touring car, the gaps remained consistent throughout the 12-lap race.



ON THE GLORY TRAIL: Niki Lanik won the ELF Renault Clio Winter Cup after a series of mature performances

distance, Lanik set the fastest lap of the race on lap four at 1min 34.29sec - a coverage of 0.2sec quicker than the rest of the field.

He cruised home to take his third victory in three races by 0.42sec.

Round four, the second race of the day, brought the 2006 season to a close after a heavy lunchtime rain shower, when the drivers opted for wet weather tyres.

Lanik had an average start and, while not risking too much, got passed by the first corner by Ray MacDowell. Even though MacDowell won the race, Lanik reduced the sec gap between them down to 0.61s, almost making MacDowell win on the last corner on the last lap for a possible fourth win. Even though Lanik had to settle for second place, he had already won the Winter Cup Championship.

Commenting on his victory he said: "It feels great to win the title and have to thank the people in my team, especially Colin (race engineer) for their help in learning this circuit so quickly. I made one and a half mistakes during the race and I was quite comfortable by the end. I almost managed to catch Ray in the second race, but I knew all I had to do was finish, so it wasn't worth risking any overtaking moves."

Lanik will be racing in next year's 2007 ELF Renault Clio winter and summer championships and engineers will win. Everybody in HSV7, partygoers or e-mail niki@lanik.info.

The Drive4Life UK and the Narconon UK Race Team are throwing an end-of-season party, when JJ Vannier and Niki Lanik will show 'video' and talk about their achievements from the 2006 season.

Other racers, championship winners and engineers will win. Everybody in HSV7, partygoers or e-mail niki@lanik.info.

## InBrief

### MOTOR RACING:

Niki Lanik lifted the Elf Renault Clio Winter Cup series winning three of the four rounds, finishing second once, claiming four pole positions and setting two fastest laps at Brands Hatch and Croft.

The results underline the promise of the 19-year-old from Ashurst Wood, who races for Drive 4 Life with Stanzombe Vehicle Engineering. Lanik said he was delighted to win the title which will be used as a springboard for his assault on the Renault Clio Cup series in 2007.

The teenager graduated with honours from Greenfields School in Forest Row with four A levels, "in racing, knowing a good deal of maths, physics and chemistry really helps my engineer, and I come to a good understanding on how to set the car up and get pole."

## LANIK MAKES IT THREE TO TAKE WINTER TITLE

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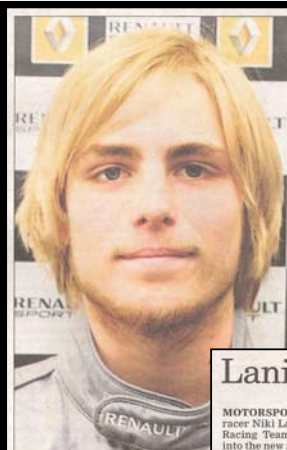
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# 2007

## Youth 4 Human Rights UK Car Racing Team



www.Y4HR.com



# Driver revs up for race

**AN ACTION** packed motor-sport season begins on Saturday for a racing driver from Ashurst Wood.

Niki Lanik will line up at Brands Hatch with 40 other top saloon car racers in the ELF Clio Cup to kick off the 2007 championships.

The 19-year-old will be driving a car that has been specially designed for circuit racing and costs £20,500.

The Clio Cup runs until October with two meetings at Brands Hatch.

Last year he won the ELF Renault Clio Winter Cup with three wins and a second place.

A spokesman for the talented driver, Simon Murray, said: "The Clio Cup



# Lanik makes solid start

**MOTORSPORT:** Ashurst Wood racer Niki Lanik, racing for YHRH Racing Team, made a good start in the new race season last weekend in round two of the Clio Cup at Rockingham Speedway.

Lanik ended up with only two 20-minute test sessions, because of overbooking in the cup, instead of two 50-minute try-outs.

With lots of engineering work to do since the disappointing Brands Hatch race on April 1, Lanik and his engineer, Colin Stancombe, had to take a stab in the dark for the race car's set-up change.

"We changed the cumber on both the front and the back of the car. We also dramatically changed the tracking on both ends of the car, and its ride height in the front. And what we got out of it was amazing!" Lanik said. "I was only 0.6sec off pole position."

Lanik earned himself and the

Clio seventh on the grid for the race. He had a great start and, staying out of trouble, slotted back into seventh after being ninth before the first corner.

The next few laps Esling, Heron and Lanik were fighting for fifth place.

Lanik got into sixth for a few corners, but was forced to back off and let Heron take the place.

"I was all over the bumpers, but somehow could never find a place to get by. But I'm very happy about this weekend," said Lanik.

"It was definitely quicker according to the time sheets, while looking at the sector times and speed traps, I'm really going for a top-five finish at round three."

Lanik finished seventh, only five seconds behind the winner, Robert Lawson.

The next race will be held at the UK's fastest race circuit, Thruxton, at Andover, on May 5-6.



# Lanik fails to master Brands

**MOTORSPORT:** Ashurst Wood-based racing driver Niki Lanik, 19, has had a disappointing start to his season in the YHRH UK Car Racing Team's Renault Clio Cup with a 17th place finish at Brands Hatch.

The event acted as a support race for the British and Young Car Championships with the TV coverage and the 19-year-old Ashurst racer and 41 other drivers lined up for 15-minute qualifying sessions on Saturday morning, with Lanik qualifying 11th for Saturday's race.

"I don't know what it is but I just cannot get my rhythm with the Clio - I've always been around 4-5 seconds off the pace here. I had a great start for the British Young Car Championship with the TV coverage and the 19-year-old Ashurst racer and 41 other drivers lined up for 15-minute qualifying sessions

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# Lanik shows promise at Thruxton

**MOTORSPORT:** Round three of the Clio Cup was a successful race weekend for 20-year-old Niki Lanik, from Ashurst Wood, and the Youth 4 Human Rights race team.

The British Touring Car Championship was held at Hampshire's Thruxton race circuit and Miracle Dry Wash-sponsored Lanik was 0.2 seconds off pole position, which earned him sixth on the grid for Saturday's race.

He had an average start in the heat, losing two places through the famous complex, a double chicane, but fought back overtaking Benham on the inside of Goodwood, a 120mph corner. He finished a solid seventh, only seven seconds off the leader of the race. The eighth-placed driver was eight seconds behind Lanik.

On Sunday Lanik started 13th on the grid out of 38. He got off to a great start, but lost two places through being cautious through the first section of the track, but on the next corner got his place back, having dived down the inside of PVI House, double VW Beetle champion.

He continued to overtake cars with ease, passing the race winner of round one, Ed Ford, on the last lap. Lanik finished ninth over the line, only 1.2 seconds behind third-placed Ben Winrow.

Round four of the Clio Cup will take place at Croft.

**Fatal**

East Grinstead Football Academy recently organised a football tournament in association with East Grinstead Town Football Club.

Results (winners and runners up): Super League: East Grinstead; East Grinstead; FC Power League: Ashurst; Super League: East Grinstead.

The Super League player-of-the-tournament.

**MOTORSPORT:** Niki Lanik, race driver of the Ashurst Wood-based Youth 4 Human Rights UK Car Racing Team, qualified in third position in round four of the ELF Clio Cup, at North Yorkshire's race circuit, Croft, at the weekend.

Contact early in the race saw Lanik damage his car but he nevertheless held on for fifth.

From ninth on the grid in round two Lanik got a decent start. But on lap five of 12, the 20-year-old was forced to retire, at Croft.

# Lanik collects peace award

**MOTORSPORT:** The Youth 4 Human Rights UK Car Racing Team was invited to London on Friday May 25 to receive their Ambassador For Peace award from the Universal Peace Federation (UPF).

The award recognised Niki Lanik, Ashurst Wood race driver of the YHRH team, as an ambassador of world peace for his dissemination and promotion of the Youth For Human Rights International group and acknowledge the fact that he is doing his part to make living

fair and without discrimination for everybody.

The YHRH Race Team and Niki Lanik are next out at Croft racing circuit in Yorkshire on 2-3 June. "Croft will be a fantastic race weekend! After having tested there on May 17 I'm confident about the car and how quick I can be," explained Lanik. "I was fifth quickest, only 0.2 seconds slower per lap than Stefan Hodgets, winner of Round 2 and 3. I was also top five in the majority of speed traps and sector times."



# MOTOR RACING Clio ace walks away from 70mph smash

**NIKI Lanik** walked away unharmed from a 70mph crash at Oulton Park in the latest round of the Renault Clio Cup championship.

The 20-year-old ace from Ashurst Wood crashed when a steering rod snapped on the third lap.

He had qualified third but missed Sunday's races as well.

The Youth 4 Human Rights UK Car Racing Team is next out at Donington Park on July 14 and 15.



turned out to be a hard race, but he held on to fifth place, but he was not happy with the support of the YHRH team.

At Oulton Park, "but I was fifth quickest, only 0.2 seconds slower per lap than Stefan Hodgets, winner of Round 2 and 3. I was also top five in the majority of speed traps and sector times."

# Lanik crash is under investigation by Renault

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# MOTOR RACING: CHAMPION racer Niki Lanik was voted Driver of the Day for his storming drive through the field in the Renault Clio Cup at Donington Park.

He charged from 32nd on the grid to finish a stunning 12th having been forced to the race the previous day.

Lanik, 20, from Ashurst Wood, drives the Youth 4 Human Rights UK Car Racing Team car and now heads for the next round at Snetterton later this month.

# MOTOR RACING: NIKI Lanik heads for the next round of the UK ELF Clio Cup at Brands Hatch later this month hoping for better success than in the latest races at Snetterton.

The 20-year-old Ashurst Wood racer managed one top 10 finish having been excluded from the results in the first two races at the Norfolk track.



# Lanik has team-ethic and a podium target

**NIKI Lanik** came away smiling despite finding himself on the wrong end of some rough luck at Snetterton.

The 20-year-old driver was 10th on the grid for the first race of the ELF Clio Cup, but he was later excluded from the first race, due to an incident on the track but he did not let this affect his mood.

"I was a bit disappointed but I was still able to race with the top drivers, from 10th, and I was in the top 10 in the second race."

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# Donington Park looms large for Lanik

**MOTORSPORT:** Ashurst Wood-based racing driver Niki Lanik is gearing up for the biggest race meeting of his career so far as the ELF Renault Clio Cup prepares for its sixth event of the year this weekend.

The series makes its annual appearance on the support bill of World Series by Renault with more than 350,000 free tickets already issued for the huge motorsport festival at Derbyshire's Donington Park circuit.

Lanik is set to race for the Youth 4 Human Rights with



when the Clio Cup links up with World Series by Renault, second only to the British Grand Prix in terms of contemporary racing action in the UK.

All the cars are identical and changes to the technical set-up are limited to prevent teams with larger budgets from gaining an advantage over privateers. It is a format that has wonned spectators throughout Renault's 34-year involvement in UK motorsport, since Renault's 71 racing began in 1974.

# Lanik is lapping up crazy times in his Clio

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# Lanik's panic in crash drama

**MOTORSPORT:** Ashurst Wood racer Niki Lanik ended his 2007 Clio Cup Championship race on Saturday in a crash involving Lanik and four other leading drivers.

His charge up the order. Lanik then challenged third- and fourth-placed Ben Winrow and Paul Rivett three laps before the end before his steering suddenly went light. The move

other drivers encountered the same phenomenon, as Lanik retained no control whatsoever, sliding off the track and hitting

the crashed cars of the first- and second-placed racers, Robert Lawson and Chris Hodgett.



**HEAD-ON COLLISION:** The aftermath of Lanik's high-speed crash

None of the drivers were injured. "It was very strange," said Lanik. "None of us really saw the yellow flag, and we don't have comm systems with our pit line team, so the top five drivers, being two-three seconds apart, had no idea what the situation at the chicane was, so we all slid on the oil and crashed."

"I've never been in such a heavy accident. I came off the road at 50 mph and hit the back of another stationary crashed car, and it didn't feel that good! All top five drivers were annoyed. But what can you do - this is motorsport!"

The car was fixed overnight by Colin Stancombe and his engineering team.

Starting fourth on the grid in front of 25,000 spectators, Lanik edged into third place by the Complex, the first chicane. He then lost out by being pushed

side and was forced to take the wrong racing line through the corner, losing three places.

Running in sixth, he was charging back through the field, about to make the move into fifth, when there was a knock from the rear right of his race car - somebody had broken too late and tapped Lanik off the track, he hit the wall at 100 mph and dropped to last.

Lanik got his car off the grass and drove to the pit to get his geometry on the suspension set up checked. He went back out half a lap behind second to last place, but caught up to finish sixth.

The driver who knocked Lanik off was penalised. The 2006 champ added: "It was a tough season. All top 10 drivers have won the Clio Cup before or other championships, ranging from the Madada MX3 to Formula 3. I've beaten most of them in races, but not all of them at once in one race. The team and I will be up there in the top five in the majority of races in 2008's championship."

**MOTOR RACING:** Niki Lanik had a disappointing end to his season in the Clio Cup Championship at Thruxton where he only finished one of the two final races in the series.

The 20-year-old, driving the Youth 4 Human Rights Racing Team car, was involved in a multi-car pile up in the first race while challenging for a podium place, and in the second was second of the track, finishing 20th.

Ashurst Wood driver Niki Lanik took plenty of positives despite a share of disappointment when competing in front of 20,000 fans in the ELF Clio Cup at Donington Park.

Lanik, 20, was looking sharp in qualifying where he initially made pole position, only to be knocked down to fourth due to some problems with a faulty timing system.

In race one he was soon up to seventh place before being hit from behind which saw him drop to 10th before eventually finishing 11th.

Starting 21st on the grid for the second race, Lanik was up to 15th place after the first corner following a great start but his race ended with a blown radiator.

# Lanik's 'insane'

**MOTORSPORT:** Niki Lanik, from Ashurst Wood, reigning 2006 Clio Cup Winter Champion, and the Youth 4 Human Rights UK Car Racing Team supported the Renault World Series last weekend, at Donington Park, in Derbyshire.

Wednesday's test day went very well for Lanik, being fifth quickest out of 38 Clio racers.

Saturday started well, with 55,000 enthusiasts turning up from 7.30am to watch the morning qualifying session. 20-year-old Lanik set his fastest lap on lap four - a time 46.3sec - 0.7sec quicker than second-placed qualifier Doyle.

However, after a four-hour investigation Lanik was demoted to 10th place on the grid, owing to what was considered a "faulty timing beacon", and his second best lap determined his starting position for Saturday's race.

Lanik had a great start, charging from 10th to seventh by the time the field of Clios reached the chicane. He got a bump from behind, causing him to oversteer and lose nine places. He then charged back up the

field to finish in 11th place, a bent steering rod costing him two seconds a lap.

In Sunday's race, Lanik started 21st out of 38 starters. The Ashurst Wood racer slot into 10th place after Redgate corner. He then challenged Jonathan Pridley (2003 Clio Champion), Jim Edwards (2000 Clio Champion) and Ben Winrow (2007 podium and race winner).

Out of the blue Lanik's radiator blew, forcing him to retire.

"It was an insane weekend," he said. "From pole position to 10th on the grid, being knocked off the track, then charging through the field, and so on. I just have to do everything perfect on one weekend, and unfortunately that's much easier said than done."

The race will be shown on ITV's Motorsport UK on November 11 around midnight.

Lanik will be in the last round of the season on October 12-14, at Thruxton, supporting the British Touring Cars at their final three rounds.

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# Lanik on course to keep winter title



**IN GOOD RIE:** Niki Lanik won the opening two rounds at Donington Park

**MOTORSPORT:** Ashurst Wood driver Niki Lanik has taken a double win at Donington Park at the opening two rounds of the series at Donington Park last weekend.

Two third places in this weekend's final two races at Croft in Yorkshire are likely to be enough for Lanik to be crowned champion for the second successive year.

The winter series has attracted a

strong field that last year and a disastrous qualifying session left Lanik facing a mountain to climb. However, he was the first race from fourth on the grid and then the second race after starting seventh.

Lanik, who races for Youth 4 Human Rights, said: "I had an incredible weekend. I thought my hopes of

winning the championship for a second year in a row were now after qualifying in all five races in the qualifying list I was wrong.

"I am now leading the championship by a healthy margin and my engineer Colin Stancombe and the team really believe in me which is

what I need. I finished his maiden season in like racing with four podium finishes. Pickett, from Brighton, has been

making good progress in the BRITCZ British GT Championship and at Lydden Hill he achieved three third places, a fourth and a double of the day trophy.

The results meant he jumped up to seventh in the overall standings for the season.

The 20-year-old said: "It has gone really well this season and I think have asked me to ride for three more years when I will be stepping up to Superstock 600."

# Perfect weekend for super Lanik



**PERFECT WEEKEND:** Ashurst Wood driver Niki Lanik in race gear from Donington Park at the weekend

he had to win the first race. He held the lead for six laps after the first corner but for the tricky weather conditions as light rain and low temperatures at the start the performance of the race slick tyres of his race Clio. Lanik then had a big sideways crash, causing him to drop to third. With the temperature dropping, he adopted race tactics, putting the two drivers in front in awkward positions, each as forcing them off the racing lines. Lanik took the lead back on the second lap, but looked up his front tyre on the last corner of the second lap and lost the lead by 1.2 seconds. But he then made the move for the lead at Coppen, the second last corner, which put him in the right position for the last corner, the chicane. Lanik then won the race by 0.124 seconds.

"This was the most intense race I've ever raced," he said. "I had an awesome start, then I had a bit of a while, then I got really nervous when the steam began of the light rain, while he had a bit of a sideways crash, but I was able to hope and after finishing my first win of 2007."

Based late of the championship last Lanik starting seventh on the grid. Once again, the youngster got a brilliant start, cutting time 10th before the first corner and going into second place overall.

Banking in second for most of the race, Lanik made the move at Coppen to take the lead again. Therefore, he led the race to the flag.

"This was an incredible weekend for me, adding to my title hopes in the championship, but I was wrong. I'm going to be looking for a healthy margin."

POP THAT CORN: Niki Lanik celebrates his win

**in the fast lane...**

## Miracle worker

**Niki Lanik talked exclusively to Sean McGreevy about his racing career, his work with Human Rights and extreme sports.**

Niki Lanik was born in Vienna, Austria in 1987 but now resides in Sussex. He races in the ELF Renault Clio Cup Championship for the Youth 4 Human Rights with Stancombe Vehicle Engineering Team and is the 2006 ELF Renault Clio Winter Cup Champion. I asked what made him want to get into racing.

"We moved to the UK when I was 12 and I got interested in racing because I started to watch the World Rally Championship with drivers like Colin McRae. Then, when I was 14, I bought my first car, a Ford Capri - and because we lived on a farm I used to put goats in the ground and make my own rally track! When I was 16, I decided I wanted to get a race licence so did an intensive course at Silverstone."

Niki chose the ELF Renault Clio Cup Championship because it is seen as a key stepping-stone to touring car and GT racing, with star graduates including Briton GT Champion Andrew Kirkaldy, British Touring Car Championship star Jason Plato, and twice World Touring Car Champion "Moby" Pickett. I have

never been interested in racing in single-seaters but would like to race in the BTCC, WTCC or sports cars in Europe - or even in the US in the future and the Clio Cup is a great grounding."

**Massive crowd at Donington**

Youth For Human Rights International promotes and works with the race team and Niki explained the background: "Our aim is to make people around the world aware of the 30 Human Rights and the organisation has put together an online video and campaign which has proved to be a great opportunity to raise the profile of the cause with all age groups. At the recent Renault World Series race meeting at Donington we showed the 30 Rights, 30 Acts Human Rights DVDs and handed out 'Know your Human Rights' booklets."

The Donington event was a massive one with an estimated 137,000 people there over the weekend of 8-9 September. I told Niki that at least 40,000 of them were there as a result of a farm I used to put goats in the ground and make my own rally track! When I was 16, I decided I wanted to get a race licence so did an intensive course at Silverstone."

**Sponsored by Miracle Drywash**

One of the most important factors for any race team is a sponsor so I asked him about his involvement with Miracle Drywash. "We have a great working relationship and, budget permitting,

they would like to see me in touring cars in the future. When I first used the product I was amazed at just how good it was for cleaning the car. It's great and I always use it on a race weekend, especially when it's damp, because the car gets really dirty throughout the event. The Miracle Drywash doesn't require any water, it's quick and easy and great for keeping the car clean.

I know that the product has been extensively advertised in **Motoracing & Leisure** magazine and growing very popular with readers.

Motor racing is a very physical sport so away from the race track Niki keeps fit by being an avid extreme sports fan. In the winter I like to go to Australia or Switzerland and go snowboarding and in the UK I like to go mountain biking. I am not a person who goes to the gym every day but I enjoy any activity to do with speed or hitting your limit!

**More information**

FOR MORE ON RACING ON THE ROAD VISIT [www.miracledrywash.com](http://www.miracledrywash.com) OR [www.youth4hr.com](http://www.youth4hr.com)

FOR MORE DETAILS ON MIRACLE DRYWASH VISIT [www.miracledrywash.com](http://www.miracledrywash.com) SEE THE ADVERTISEMENT ON PAGE 48 FOR SPECIAL 10% DISCOUNT OFFER

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\*Newest Super Cup Champion

## Lanik aims to take winter form into 2008

Double Clio Cup Winter Series champion Niki Lanik has put pressure on himself to carry on his form into next season and win his first race in the main championship.

"The Austrian driver clinched three wins out of four races. He will now return to the championship in 2008 test with the Renault Clio Cup."

"I've felt comfortable racing in the main championship this season but I've been unlucky at times," said Lanik. "But my pace is solid now and I'm better every time I get in the car. Next year there will be no excuses. I must be in the top five."

The 20-year-old plans to return to next year's championship with Stancombe Vehicle Engineering.

**Niki Lanik was in superb form in the Clio Cup Winter Series.**

## Lanik seals back-to-back titles

**NIKI LANIK** won his second successive Renault Clio Winter Cup title at Croft last weekend.

The Austrian (below) only scored one top 10 finish in the main championship this season, but regained his form to see off the challenge of series frontrunner Andrew Herron and ex-SEAT racer and Croft instructor Harry Vaukhard.

Lanik arrived at the North Yorkshire circuit with the series lead following his double win at Donington Park the previous weekend. He finished second to Herron in race one and reversed the positions with a strong drive

## What a finale as trio clinch titles

**MOTORSPORT:** In a season of double wins, Niki Lanik has taken a double win at Donington Park at the opening two rounds of the series at Donington Park last weekend.

Two third places in this weekend's final two races at Croft in Yorkshire are likely to be enough for Lanik to be crowned champion for the second successive year.

The winter series has attracted a strong field that last year and a disastrous qualifying session left Lanik facing a mountain to climb. However, he was the first race from fourth on the grid and then the second race after starting seventh.

Lanik, who races for Youth 4 Human Rights, said: "I had an incredible weekend. I thought my hopes of winning the championship for a second year in a row were now after qualifying in all five races in the qualifying list I was wrong.

"I am now leading the championship by a healthy margin and my engineer Colin Stancombe and the team really believe in me which is what I need. I finished his maiden season in like racing with four podium finishes. Pickett, from Brighton, has been making good progress in the BRITCZ British GT Championship and at Lydden Hill he achieved three third places, a fourth and a double of the day trophy.

The results meant he jumped up to seventh in the overall standings for the season.

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# Lanik's living in a winter wonderland

**MOTORSPORT:** Austrian World Rally Champion Niki Lanik is usually found in the snow of the Clio Cup winter series back to back.

The 2006 Winter Champion came away with a second and a win at Cuffull racing circuit, Yorkshire, to retain his title from last year.

Going into rounds three and four, Lanik, racing for Youth 4 Human Rights with Stancombe Vehicle Engineering team, led the championship by nine points.

In the final session at Cuffull, he had been fourth, second and seventh, which gave him third and fourth in the final round. Round four ended well for Lanik, as he started into second place before the final corner.

Lanik started fourth but lost place to champion, but this gave an advantage to Andrew Horton, tying second in the championship, and he pulled away on the final lap.

Lanik finished second, but some led the action by only five

points. Round four found Lanik, starting fourth, just behind Horton, second, but the young driver had a blistering start straight into second with the first lap through the first series of corners.

One lap later, coming up to Tower bend at Edgworth, Lanik made his move down the inside of Horton, braking as late as he dared.

Lanik owned the overtaking and came out of Tower bend in first place.

He had to drive defensive lines for the next three laps in an attempt to get the second and third placed drivers to slip during each corner.

This did happen on the penultimate lap as the young driver and Lanik drove side-by-side to the finish line, with Lanik winning by 1.341 seconds.

"I had a fantastic start, made a perfect overtaking manoeuvre, but some of the other drivers late in the race were not as good as they seemed to be," said Lanik.

"It was the perfect way to finish off my 2007 race season. I want to thank Colin Stancombe and Stancombe Vehicle Engineering for being the most professional team around, and sponsors - and - other than Youth For Human Rights in Yorkshire, - Human Rights Country House, Atlantic City World, G and G Victorian Woodwork, Brewster and Lee very high praise.

Lanik has definitely not lost, my parents for always believed in me."

The annual winter party will be held at Niki Lanik's. Find out more about Niki Lanik on his website, December 8. Lanik on www.NikiLanik.com 01566.



**CHAMPAGNE CHARLIE:** Niki Lanik gets sprayed on the podium after his historic double.



**ON TRACK:** Niki Lanik



**NIKI'S RACING ACHIEVEMENTS:**  
**2006 Clio Cup Winter Champion**  
**2007 Clio Cup Winter Champion**  
 Niki Lanik races with Stancombe Vehicle Engineering since 2006



**Niki Lanik**  
 17<sup>th</sup> April 1987  
 Austrian  
[www.NikiLanik.com](http://www.NikiLanik.com)  
[myspace.com/lanik140](http://myspace.com/lanik140)  
[niki@lanik.info](mailto:niki@lanik.info)