

PARR FOR THE COURSE



Porsche Club Motorsport and Parr Motorsport have joined forces to create a unique trackday experience

One of Porsche Club Motorsport's most popular offerings is their extensive calendar of trackdays at the UK's leading circuits, and Parr Motorsport's new Porsche Cayman now offers a unique 'arrive and drive' experience that is adding an exciting new element to those days.

Developed by Parr's Paul Robe using his many years of Porsche and motorsport experience, the car is designed to offer something to drivers of all abilities and provide a great day at any circuit.

"A year or so ago, I spoke to the Porsche Club Motorsport division and said we wanted to do a car that would give people the experience of driving a semi-modified

car within a sensible budget," explained Paul Robe. "The car isn't an expensive racer, so it let us put together a package where the insurance is cheap, running costs are low and, although we have to have an Association of Racing Driver Schools instructor in the car, we can still do a rental for the day at very reasonable cost.

"It would be a full arrive-and-drive deal; we would have someone there as well to run the car. It isn't a hard car to drive, but we wanted to make it a step up from a road car. We have upgraded the suspension, the wheels – it is on Pirelli Trofeos, the same as the Porsche Classic Boxster Cup cars – and it has GT Cup brakes, because it's always important to stop well.

"It still has the standard interior, but we have showcased what you can do to a car to develop it at a very reasonable

cost, really gain some performance and have a taste of what a car is really capable of on track. With the instructor as part of the deal, it also works for someone who has thought about trackdays but not wanted to take their own car out the first time – a great introduction to getting out on a circuit.

"We have already done a couple of trackdays with the car just to prove the idea and they have gone really well. The car does what we want and both the drivers and the instructors were delighted with how it went. We are looking forward to getting more people out on track with the Cayman."

One of the first people to get to sample the Cayman in its intended environment was the Club's Events and Motorsport Creative Chris Pruden, and he is hugely positive after working with



experienced instructor Brian Saunders.

"The car is great to drive, it's really well-balanced and it's very forgiving of any mistakes!" said Chris. "I like taking my 911 SC out on track, but she is an old car and I really don't want to risk any damage. The Cayman is a modern car but it still gives you that raw driving feel on track."

"It feels different to being in a road car. The Cayman sits in the sweet spot where it's you doing the work with the car and not all the gizmos, but it also isn't going to throw you off into the kitty litter. Having the instructor there was great; he isn't necessarily there to make you a racing driver, but to give you the understanding of what you and the car achieve together. That was fascinating and it really makes you realise what you can do."

"Parr have a long history of working in motorsport and with Porsches, and that really shines through in this car. It is great to drive and they are understandably very proud of what they have built."



It is that second person in the car that really lets any driver explore the full envelope of the performance the Cayman can offer and having an instructor such as Brian Saunders there allows anyone behind the wheel the chance to gain the most they can from their day.

"You are aiming to give the driver an enjoyable learning experience," said Brian. "You try to help people understand the principles and processes of driving a car on the track. A lot of it transfers to road driving as well but, with the Cayman, we can really explore the track side of things."

"The car has been built up to a high standard and it is a brilliant trackday car. It hasn't got a silly amount of power and it has a huge amount of grip, which we can work with the driver to learn to exploit. I'd be more than happy to have someone with me in the car who had never been on the track before and we could give them a really good day or work with someone who wants to take their trackday experience to a new level." **PP**