



Press Release - Gold Coast Indy300 2008  
**JOHN MARTIN JOINS PICCOLA FOR INDY**



# John Martin to drive for Piccola at Indy.

Tuesday, 14th October 2008

AMSF International Rising Star and current Australian A1GP lead driver – John Martin is set to race for Piccola Scuderia Corse at the Gold Coast Indy300 later this month (23-26th October). On the back of a successful A1GP round in Zandvoort, NL (where he finished 4th in a rain-affected feature race), John brings a wealth of international experience to the Surfers Paradise event, and will visit the team’s Sydney headquarters this week for a complete seat-fitting in the PSC F307 Dallara.

This year, John competed in the prestigious British Formula 3 championship with Raikkonen-Robertson Racing; a team co-owned by current F1 champion Kimi Raikkonen. Combined with Martin’s latest exploits in the Ferrari-powered A1GP series, John’s decision to race with the team also highlights the growth of Piccola Scuderia - now Australia’s largest independent Ferrari establishment.

The new A1 car - heavily based on the Ferrari F2004 F1 chassis with an upgraded spec of the F430 V8 engine, presents quite a different animal in terms of performance than a Dallara Formula 3 car. Boasting a 640kW/tonne power-weight ratio (a staggering 215% more than what is prescribed to F3), the latest evolution of this burgeoning international category has been described by John as the ‘fastest car he has ever raced’.

“The car sounds great with Ferrari Power, these carbon brakes once you sort the best way to get heat to them, stop you so much quicker with less distance to the corner than ever before. There is a lot to learn with the new car, it offers a driver a lot more on-track options with higher down-force and more horsepower.”

Current PSC drivers Justin Tate and Ash Bettridge are conserving precious funds for their 2009 championship ambitions, allowing John to fill the seat for this remaining non-championship race. Interestingly, John represents the 7th new driver for Piccola Scuderia this year, and the team are optimistic about replicating the dominating performance they unleashed at the Adelaide Clipsal500.

With an anticipated crowd estimated in-excess of 300,000 people, and an economic and tourism impact-value of \$50 million within Queensland, The Nikon Indy300 is an epic motorsport event. On-track practice, qualifying and racing begins next Thursday.

## RACING SCHEDULE:

Thursday	23/10/08	09:00 – 09:30	Practice session 1
Thursday	23/10/08	11:50 – 12:15	Qualifying
Thursday	23/10/08	14:25 – 14:50	Race 1
Friday	24/10/08	12:30 – 12:50	Race 2
Saturday	25/10/08	08:55 – 09:15	Race 3

Piccola Scuderia Corse would like to express their appreciation to partners and sponsors: QANTAS, XENITH CAPITAL, BILSTEIN, HEASMAN'S STEERING, KOKEN TOOLS, BEEF-EATER BARBEQUES, BERLINA BODYWORKS, IRACE, NEXUS-MG, POGGIPOLINI TITANIUM, UBER CONSULTING, FERROCON, TOP-HAT ROOFING, FIBRE-GLASS INTERNATIONAL

