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Julien Apothéloz and Riccardo Leone Cirelli to spearhead BWT Mücke Motorsport challenge in the 2024 Prototype Cup Germany

- The BWT Mücke Motorsport Team is about to embark on its second season in the Prototype Cup Germany
- Riccardo Leone Cirelli and Julien Apothéloz will share the cockpit of a Duqueine D08 LMP3 prototype in BWT livery
- The season commences at the legendary Formula 1 circuit in Spa-Francorchamps on the weekend of 19th - 21st April
- Stefan Mücke: “Julien already has a lot of experience and, as last year’s runner-up in the Prototype Cup Germany, knows the ins and outs of the series.”
- Stefan Mücke: “At just 16 years of age, Riccardo is a highly talented youngster who really impressed us during test sessions.”

BWT Mücke Motorsport go into their second season in the Prototype Cup Germany with a new driver pairing. Julien Apothéloz and Riccardo Leone Cirelli will be sharing the cockpit of a Duqueine D08 sporting the livery of BWT (Best Water Technology) over the course of seven race weekends. In 2023, its debut season in this particular racing series, the team registered three podium finishes and took third place overall in both the drivers’ and team championships.

This will be Julien Apothéloz’s second Prototype Cup Germany campaign. The Swiss 23-year-old made his debut in the racing series in 2023, ascending the podium on seven occasions (including three as winner) and booking two pole positions. He and his team-mate finished the championship in second place overall. Julien discovered his passion for racing at the age of nine when he first ventured out on the kart track. After claiming four Swiss championship titles, he won the biggest Swiss motorsport talent scouting competition and graduated to senior motorsport with a seat in the 2019 ADAC TCR Germany. The following year, he switched to the ADAC GT4 Germany, which he came very close to winning in his debut year.

His team-mate will be Italian Riccardo Leone Cirelli. The 16-year-old has been go-kart racing since the age of nine and was the only Italian national to be selected by the ACI Federal School to take part in the 2022 FIA Academy Trophy. He also gained experience in a Formula 4 car and an LMP3 prototype. His performance has been so consistently good that he has been signed to make his full motor racing debut in 2024 at the tender age of 16.

“We are delighted to welcome the very exciting duo of Julien Apothéloz and Riccardo Leone Cirelli to our ranks as we prepare to contest the Prototype Cup Germany,” says Stefan Mücke. “Julien already has a lot of experience and, as last year’s runner-up in the Prototype Cup Germany, knows the ins and outs of the series. In pairing Julien with the young Riccardo, we are fielding a team that is capable of making an impact right from the start and fighting for top positions. At just 16 years of age, Riccardo is a highly talented youngster who really impressed us during test sessions. He has a steep learning curve ahead of him, but we are confident he will be able to translate this into strong results together with his

experienced team-mate Julien. We are proud that we once again enjoy the support of our long-standing partner BWT this season. Our eye-catching livery has been a familiar sight and popular with fans for many years now. It is an honour for us to continue to represent BWT on the race track.”

The Prototype Cup Germany commences its third season in 2024, with a calendar featuring seven race weekends on four current or former Formula 1 circuits. Three of these fixtures will take place as part of the support programme to the DTM. The series organisers are also delighted to be returning to the legendary Ardennes rollercoaster at Spa-Francorchamps for the opening race of the season (19th – 21st April) and to be making a debut appearance at the Sachsenring for the grand finale (6th - 8th September).

The cars will be competing in the LMP3 class, which was created by ACO (Automobile Club de l’Ouest) in 2015 to provide an entry level to Le Mans prototype racing. The 950 kg prototypes are powered by homologated Nissan V8 engines with an output of 455 horsepower, though there are no fewer than four different chassis manufacturers registered. The chassis chosen by BWT Mücke Motorsport for its Prototype Cup Germany entry will be a Duqueine D08.

About BWT

The BWT - Best Water Technology - Group is a leading water technology company in Europe, boasting the support of a dedicated team of 5,500 professionals. Their core mission centers on pioneering cost-effective and eco-friendly water treatment solutions. BWT is dedicated to delivering the safest, healthiest, and most hygienic water to households, industries, businesses, hotels, and municipalities. They provide cutting-edge water treatment systems for various purposes, including drinking water, process water, pool water, and, notably, Water for Injection (WFI) for the pharmaceutical and biotech industries. The company’s research and development team continually explores innovative techniques and materials, employing cutting-edge methods to create economical and ecologically friendly products. Employees are committed to developing products that utilize fewer resources and less energy, resulting in a reduction of CO2 emissions.

Sustainability lies at the heart of BWT’s identity, with each product playing a significant role in conserving our most valuable resource - water. The guiding claim, “For You and Planet Blue,” underscores the company’s commitment to addressing challenges on a global scale. BWT actively champions the vision to “Change the World - sip by sip” through sustainable initiatives, with a notable emphasis on reducing single-use plastics. Furthermore, their expertise is globally recognized in the development and production of high-performance membranes for fuel cells, serving as a key energy converter in the 21st century.

More information about BWT Group and their products and services is available at www.bwt.com.



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