

Race Ace Broke neck in high speed crash

Australian race car driver James Horley was involved in a high-speed accident on Sunday whilst competing in the South East Asian Touring Car Championship. Horley suffered serious injuries in the crash including a broken neck.

The accident happened on turn 5 of the Grand Prix circuit where Horley was lapping Phil Ward's Mercedes AMG on Lap 14. Amazingly, Horley managed to evacuate the wrecked car after hitting the wall at over 170k/hr and climbed over the track wall before collapsing.

Horley, a 28-year-old professional driver and engineer based in Singapore was rushed directly to R.A.H in a serious condition where he was stabilised and transferred to the spinal ward awaiting surgery.

There was confusion following the accident where race control could not confirm any details in the media briefing. A spokesman for the Grand Prix Corporation advised "the accident is being investigated by the stewards and a review of race procedures is being undertaken to ensure race control are informed when a driver is involved in incident.



James Horley awaiting surgery in R.A.H

Horley was 'missing' for over an hour following the crash due to the emergency services bypassing the on course medical facilities, Race Control where not aware where Horley was immediately following the crash and remained 'unaccounted for' for over an hour until the hospital confirmed his condition. We spoke to Horley from his hospital bed where he wanted to assure everyone that he hopes to return to racing next season.

"I don't remember much of the incident.... but I know I'm lucky to be here" Medical reports indicate that Horley has fractures to the C2 & C3 vertebra and some spinal cord damage resulting in paralysis down one side of his body caused when he hit the concrete barrier at high speed; commonly known as a 'Hangman's' fracture. Horley is awaiting surgery which will determine his chances of walking again.

Mr Horley has been racing internationally for 6 years competing throughout Asia and Europe in Sports cars and is a regular competitor in the Touring Car endurance events in Australia. Horley is expected to remain in Hospital for months where doctors believe he will be transferred to his hometown of Melbourne to commence rehabilitation in his hope to compete again

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