CHAPMAN FREEBORN BECOMES A MEMBER OF BLACKBOOK MOTORSPORT'S INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS NETWORK

News / Business aviation

International air charter specialist Chapman Freeborn has joined BlackBook Motorsport, the global business network connecting key stakeholders across Formula 1, NASCAR, MotoGP and the wider international motorsport ecosystem. Through its membership, Chapman Freeborn gains access to a community of teams, manufacturers, circuits and suppliers linked by industry intelligence, networking opportunities and strategic introductions. The partnership enables the charter broker to strengthen relationships with decision-makers responsible for the complex global logistics of racing operations, while deepening its understanding of the unique transportation challenges teams face throughout the motorsport calendar.

Andy Hutchinson, Director of Passenger Charter – UK at Chapman Freeborn commented: "Every race starts at a fixed time, and everyone involved needs to be in place well before then. Aviation works to the same kind of deadline every day, so motorsport is a natural fit for us. Through the BlackBook community, we can engage directly with the decision-makers responsible for team travel, better understand how their requirements change throughout the season and respond quickly when schedules shift."

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Moving people seamlessly across the racing calendar

In motorsport, speed and precision matter long before the lights go out on race day. Drivers, team principals and senior executives frequently move between factories, race circuits, sponsor engagements and media commitments, often within tight timeframes. Private aviation provides the flexibility to travel on demand, access airports closer to key venues and stay aligned with demanding schedules.

Throughout 2026, Chapman Freeborn coordinated charter flights for Formula 1 teams, drivers and engineering personnel travelling between race destinations and team headquarters. These operations regularly involved adapting to shifting schedules, changing passenger numbers and evolving logistical requirements, while ensuring critical personnel arrived where they needed to be, exactly when required.

As highlighted in Chapman Freeborn's motorsport charter guide, strategic airport access can make a significant difference. Destinations such as Nice Côte d'Azur Airport, located around 30 kilometres from Monaco, and Le Mans Airport, situated adjacent to the famous circuit, help minimise ground transfer times. The company notes that aircraft can often be sourced and deployed within just three to four hours of confirmation.

For larger travelling groups, dedicated charter solutions offer additional advantages. Keeping the entire team on a single aircraft simplifies coordination, reduces the risk of missed connections and provides travel managers with greater control over departure schedules, baggage logistics and last-minute itinerary changes. This level of flexibility is particularly valuable in a sport where operational efficiency can be as important as performance on the track.

Gary Vaughan, Passenger Charter Broker at Chapman Freeborn stated: "I've spent over 15 years organising travel for Formula 1 teams, and it's a constant whirlwind. Every race on the calendar is a separate trip to plan, usually to a different country. Dates and passenger numbers often change while a trip is still being organised, so we have to adjust quickly without losing track of the details. For a team to move smoothly through a full season, its travel manager needs one point of contact who knows how it operates and can fix a problem before it reaches the travelling staff."

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Cars, parts and everything in between

The logistics behind modern motorsport extend far beyond transporting people. According to the organizers of the Miami Grand Prix, each Formula 1 team moves around 50 tonnes of equipment to every race, creating one of the most complex supply chains in global sport. For long-haul events, the majority of this freight travels aboard dedicated cargo aircraft such as the Boeing 747, while less time-critical equipment is typically shipped by sea.

Although these operations are meticulously planned months in advance, unforeseen events can force rapid adjustments. Changes to race calendars, venue relocations and geopolitical developments all have the potential to disrupt established logistics strategies, requiring teams and their transport partners to react quickly while maintaining operational continuity.

Even a single component can become a critical challenge. Damaged parts, delayed upgrades or unexpected technical issues can create urgent transportation requirements that demand immediate action. Through its specialist automotive cargo division, Chapman Freeborn arranges charter solutions for shipments ranging from individual components to complete race and support vehicles. The company also deploys on-board couriers, enabling vital parts to travel as accompanied baggage and reach their destination as quickly as possible.

To support time-critical requirements, Chapman Freeborn introduced its Next Flight Out service in 2026, providing cargo charter quotations within minutes and rapid aircraft deployment for urgent shipments. For shorter routes, alternative solutions can prove equally effective. In one notable operation, the company utilized an AS355 helicopter to transport critical automotive spare parts directly to a manufacturing facility in Frankfurt, landing on a temporary helipad established in a nearby parking area to minimize delivery times.

By joining BlackBook Motorsport, Chapman Freeborn is strengthening its engagement with the global motorsport community, bringing its expertise in cargo charters, private aviation and group travel closer to teams, manufacturers and suppliers. The partnership also provides valuable

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opportunities to better understand the logistical pressures and operational demands that define the modern racing calendar.

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