

PRESS RELEASE

“Chicane” is renamed “Thierry Boutsen Chicane”

21 MARCH 2018 - Heusden-Zolder

Big news for all loyal racing fans and sympathizers of Circuit Zolder! The well-known “little chicane», located before the sacrament slope, now bears the name “Thierry Boutsen Chicane”. This is due to an enthusiastic group of employees at Circuit Zolder, who wants to avoid that valuable memories will disappear.

*“The seventies and eighties were **Thierry Boutsen**’s golden age, which was also the case for **Circuit Zolder**. With this new name for the chicane, we want to look back on the glorious history of a Formula 1 hero. We want to express our deep recognition for what he once meant. From now on, **Thierry** is forever and always connected to the circuit!”* said General Manager **Sven Pribylla**.



Great contribution to motorsport

It was in 1978, during the F1, that **Thierry Boutsen** delivered a legendary duel at **Circuit Zolder** for the first time. Granted, he did it in the Formula Ford. The opposing candidate was “**Fonske**” **Taëls**. **Boutsen** dominates that season. One year later “**Racing for Zolder**” came to life and **Thierry**, with the financial support of **Circuit Zolder**, entered the Formula 3 and immediately won the opening race during the **Bergischer Löwe**. One year later, in 1980, **Boutsen** raced for the Oreca team in Formula 3 and won the **Grand Prix of Zolder**.

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April 29th 1984. The **Grand Prix of Belgium F1** was organized at **Circuit Zolder** for the 10th time and **Thierry Boutsen** appeared at the starting line with a brand new and promising **Arrow-BMW A7**. Thanks to **Thierry**, **Circuit Zolder** succeeded in its intention for “**Racing for Zolder**”: a Belgian in Formula One.



This constituted the launch of a glorious career with, among other things, the title of “**Sportsman of the year**” in 1989 and in 1993, his last year as an F1 pilot. The “**Thierry Boutsen Chicane**” must keep this accomplishment alive. **Circuit Zolder** honors his great contribution to the success of the circuit and to Belgian motorsport.

My “Circuit”

Thierry Boutsen: *“I learned to drive here. My first race was at Zolder. In 1978, I won the Benelux championship and that has opened all doors for me. I became the first ambassador of the circuit, in the light of “**Racing for Zolder**”. Thanks to this support, I made it to F1. The fact that I have now become an ambassador for life is a great honor for me. My deepest respect goes to this team and this circuit.”*