



The unlikely duo's wild dream comes with a price tag of 25 million kroner.

Foto: Michael Andersen / TV2 Nord

By **Josefine Blicher Brader**

Palle and Asger Dream of Racing at Le Mans

Just a few years ago, 52-year-old Palle Birk Nielsen from Brønderslev set foot on a go-kart track for the very first time.

It was during his friend's bachelor party, and two moments from that day remain vividly etched in his memory.

The first was the sight of his friend, dressed in a mankini, racing around in a go-kart. The second was the feeling of sitting behind the wheel himself and speeding off for the first time.

"I was hooked immediately. A bomb could have gone off next to me, and I wouldn't have noticed," says Palle Birk Nielsen.

Working Relentlessly

At the Vandel Go-Kart Track near Billund, Palle met 20-year-old go-kart racer Asger Radsted.

Unlike Palle, Asger brings a wealth of experience and several podium finishes to the table. Notably, he claimed the title of Danish Champion in rental go-kart racing in 2021, and he dreams of making a living from racing.

Despite the 32-year age gap, the two quickly hit it off and agreed that Palle would become Asger's apprentice.



“It’s rare to see someone start at Palle’s age and then outperform many of those who have been racing for years,” says Asger Radsted.

An Ambitious Goal

Palle Birk Nielsen, who works as a teacher at Aalborg Business School, describes himself as a "steam engine."

When he commits to a goal, he gives it everything he has to see it through. For instance, he drives 2.5 hours each way to train with Asger and has shed 25 kilos of muscle mass and water weight. Every extra kilo a driver carries costs valuable seconds on the track.



Palle Birk Nielsen before shedding 25 kilos of muscle mass and water weight.



Palle Birk Nielsen after shedding 25 kilos of muscle mass and water weight.

That fighting spirit will come in handy in the coming years. Asger and Palle have set themselves a very ambitious goal.

"We want to be in a GT3 race car at Le Mans in five years. That's the dream," says Palle Birk Nielsen.

An Expensive Dream

The duo's plan is to buy into a team with endurance race car driver Mikkel O. Pedersen, who has previously participated in the legendary 24-hour Le Mans race three times.

Additionally, they need to find a third driver.



And as is well known, motorsport is anything but free.

"The car costs around 250,000 euros. If we knock off a front fender, it might cost 200,000 to 300,000 kroner. We have to budget for spending up to a million kroner a

year just on tires," explains Palle Birk Nielsen.

In total, they expect to need 25-30 million kroner to make their dream a reality.

They don't have the money themselves, so it is crucial to get sponsors to believe in the idea and see the value in supporting the unlikely duo.

"If we don't try, it's as certain as the amen in church: it will never happen," says Palle Birk Nielsen.

Watch *"The Dream of Le Mans"* on TV 2 Play.