



AUTO+ WOMEN IN MOTOR SPORT

REPRESENTING RACERS

Female racers elected to new
FIA Drivers' Commission PG 8

TAKING THE SAFE OPTION

Rally driver Laura Suvanto joins star racers
to promote road safety in Finland PG 10

TWO FOR THREE

Two ladies line up in new FIA
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TROPHY HUNT

Race begins for
ETCC Ladies' prize





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STORIES FOR THE NEXT ISSUE, WE
WOULD LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU.
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Welcome to the first edition of AUTO+ Women in Motorsport, in which we intend to share news and initiatives from around the world involving the exploits of women in our sport. In this issue we look at the new Ladies' Trophies that have been established in the FIA European Touring Car Cup and the FIA European Rally Championship, two initiatives that aim to encourage women to get involved in top-level motorsport. We also look at how women are becoming involved in motor sport decision-making at the highest levels with the election of two women to the FIA's new Drivers' Commission, a success that again demonstrates that equality is at the heart of the Federation's motor sport agenda. We hope you will enjoy reading about the work of the Women in Motorsport Commission and its support around the world and, as always, we welcome your feedback and input.

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FIA European Touring Car Cup

Three drivers in the hunt for ETCC Ladies' Trophy

Three women racers are contesting the FIA European Touring Car Cup and will also battle for the series' recently-launched Ladies' Trophy.

The series' first event was held last weekend at Monza and saw Switzerland's Andrina Gugger, Germany's Ulrike Krafft, Ukrainian Ksenya Niks battling not just for class honours but also racing for the new prize. Their results across the five-race season will count towards the overall trophy standings.

Supported by the Women in Motorsport Commission, the ETCC Ladies' Trophy aims to create a valid platform for women who are already racing in national series, giving them the opportunity to compete at international level for an FIA title, as well as giving them a chance to win a test in a World Touring Car Championship machine.

All female drivers are eligible to compete for the trophy, irrespective of the category in which they race (Super 2000, Super 1600, Single Make Trophy). The trophy will be awarded to the woman who scores the highest number of points in her own category.

"In recent years we had occasional female participations in the ETCC, and this seems to be an upward trend in today's motor sport," said Marcello Lotti, WTCC and ETCC general manager. "Therefore we have set the goal of increasing our 'pink quota' by establishing a dedicated trophy."

Krafft has already raced two seasons in the ETCC, finishing

second in the 2011 Super 1600 category and racing to third overall in the same class last year. Prior to her entry into the ETCC, Krafft spent two seasons in ADAC Pro Cars and finished the 2010 championship in third place.

Niks, meanwhile is a lawyer by education and works in the Ukrainian city of Kkarkiv. Mother of two Niks only began racing in 2012, after completing a motor sport school. She went on to take sixth place in the Ukrainian Touring Car Championship. She also recently competed in the Cup of Georgia 'Rustavi International Challenge' and finished in the silver medal spot.

Finally, 22-year-old Swiss racer Andrina Gugger comes to the ETCC after a 2011 season in which she scored two podium finishes during a 16-race stint in the European Trofeo Maserati series. She also contested two events of the Blancpain Endurance series, where she scored a podium in the GT4 Cup standings. This time out she is racing in the Super 2000 category for Rikli Motorsport.

In the season-opening round at Monza, Gugger finished race one in fifth place in the 16-car S2000 class (10th overall), while Krafft was an excellent third in the nine-car Super 1600 class. Niks finished race one in ninth place in the same class. Gugger repeated her fifth-place performance in a wet second race, while Krafft was 22nd in her class. Niks took the race two chequered flag in 27th place.



Volkswagen Scirocco R-Cup

Commission to continue support for Gating in R-Cup Pro Class

The FIA's Women in Motorsport Commission is to continue its support of Denmark's Michelle Gating, who won the 2012 WMC-backed Volkswagen shoot-out for young female drivers.

Gating emerged victorious after a gruelling three-day test series in January of last year and was awarded a fully funded drive in the Junior Cup category of the Germany-based Scirocco R-Cup series.

Gating finished last season in fourth place overall after the 10-race series and will now step up to the Pro Class, where she will once again receive support from the WMC.

"I learned an incredible amount [in 2012] and am feeling confident about the 2013 season," Gating wrote on her website. "I have to give a very special thank you to the people at Volkswagen Motorsport, [mentor] Cathy Muller for helping me at each race, and the Women in Motorsport Commission for also having faith in me."

The Volkswagen Scirocco R-Cup is the first single-make cup with natural gas technology, producing 80 per cent less CO2 emissions. The 2013 series takes in six European rounds starting on May 4 at Hockenheim.



Michelle Gating with Women In Motorsport ambassador Susie Wolff.

FIA World Motor Sport Council

Two women drivers appointed to new FIA Drivers' Commission

FIA Women in Motorsport ambassador Maria de Villota and World Endurance Championship racer Keiko Ihara have been appointed to the FIA's new Drivers' Commission.

The establishment of the commission, designed to represent the rights and interests of drivers across all motor sport disciplines was mandated at the 2012 FIA General Assembly and the announcement of the membership of the body was made at the World Motor Sport Council meeting in Geneva earlier this month.

The commission will be headed by double Formula One champion Emerson Fittipaldi, with nine-time World Rally champion Sébastien Loeb acting as vice-president. Villota joins 1992 F1 world champion Nigel Mansell and former Formula One driver Karun Chandhok in representing single seater racers.

"I am very proud to have been chosen to be part of the Driver's Commission and it will be an honour to sit alongside Nigel Mansell and Karun Chandhok in order to represent all single-seater drivers," said De Villota. "I hope to be the voice that can express the thoughts and concerns of all single-seater drivers, as well as representing all females within the motor sport industry.

"This role means a lot to me," she added. "Michèle Mouton became the first president of the FIA's Women in Motorsport

Commission in 2010 and has been an inspiration to me so I hope this will be a chance for me to continue her good work."

Ihara, meanwhile, will have a brief of representing drivers from a wide variety of disciplines not covered by the main categories and will sit alongside 14-time European Rallycross champion Kenneth Hansen and karting legend Danilo Rossi.

"It is a great honour to be selected as a member of the FIA Drivers' Commission and to be allowed to join great names in motor sport such as Emerson Fittipaldi," said Ihara.

"Carbon monocoque chassis have made today's racing cars more demanding in terms of physical strength, which is tough for women," she added. "I also faced social and cultural difficulties in pursuing my motor sport career.

"Motor sport is, however, one of the rare sports where men and women can participate under the same conditions. As such, motor sport has given me invaluable experiences and assets in my life. To show my appreciation, I would like to make as big a contribution as possible to making motor sport a more attractive and popular sport for many people, including women."

Sports cars, GTs and Touring cars are represented by Emanuele Pirro, Yvan Muller and Adrian Fernandez, while rally and cross country rallying will be represented by Nasser Al Attiyah, Marcus Grönholm and Daniel Elena.



Maria de Villota, who has been chosen to represent single-seat racers on the FIA's new Drivers' Commission.



Ekaterina Stratieva (right) with regular co-driver Carmen Poenaru.

FIA European Rally Championship

ERC Ladies' Trophy gets underway in Canary Islands

The Ladies' Trophy category of the FIA European Rally Championships kicked off last weekend with its first event, the Rally Islas Canarias.

Two crews featuring women took part in the rally and it was Bulgarian Ekaterina Stratieva who took the Ladies' Trophy spoils after local rival Emma Falcón went off road on Friday's second stage. Stratieva, accompanied by co-driver Veronica Boni, who was a late replacement for Carmen Poenaru, finished 17th overall and is now targeting the Rally Açores as her next event. "I want to go," said Stratieva. "I don't have big experience on gravel but one day I must learn."

The new prize was launched in February and female drivers contesting the ERC are eligible for the new accolade, with three points handed to the winner, two to the second-placed driver and one to the competitor in third, based on the overall classification of each round, regardless of car

performance. Drivers are allowed to count their best four scores and do not have to be paired with a female co-driver.

The establishment of the trophy was welcomed by Women in Motorsport Commission president Michèle Mouton, who said: "We want to do all we can to encourage more women to participate in motor sport. Hopefully this will encourage more women on to our rally stages and give a clear message that motor sport is open to all."

François Ribeiro, Motorsport Development Director of Eurosport Events, added: "Since the FIA has created the Women in Motorsport Commission, we felt it was appropriate to do something at a high level in the ERC. While female drivers take part on ERC events on an equal footing with their male counterparts, an award like this will provide an additional incentive for women to contest rounds of the ERC and give them the opportunity to showcase their ability."

2013 CIK-FIA Academy Trophy

Prudent the choice of CIK and WMC

Fourteen-year-old Adeline Prudent has been selected for support by the CIK and the Women in Motorsport Commission. The youngster from Saint-Etienne in France will be aided with a 2013 drive in the Karting Academy Trophy.

At just 13 years of age Adeline won the "Coupe de France Féminine" in 2011. She then achieved fourth place in the Iame International Final. However, her biggest results to date have come on the international stage in the Academy Trophy, in which she took a best result of fourth place in Braga. She finished ninth overall and was the leading female driver.

FIA Action for Road Safety

Finnish rallying's first lady of safety

Eighteen-year-old rally driver Laura Suvanto has joined forces with the country's ASN to take part in a unique road safety promotion fronted by a group of rising stars of Finnish motor sport.

Suvanto, who is currently contesting the Finnish Junior Championship as well as the Suomi Cup series, was asked by AKK-Motorsport to take part in its *Turvassa tiellä* (Safety on the Road) campaign which hopes to bring traffic awareness education and moped driving practice to 14 and 15-year-old pupils across Finland.

Along with Williams Formula One driver Valtteri Bottas, Skoda rally driver Esapekka Lappi and rallycross star Toomas Heikkinen, Suvanto will be present at educational happenings in eight cities around Finland.

The initiative, organised in support of the FIA's Action for Road Safety campaign, will also be a high profile feature at Finland's round of the World Rally Championship, which takes place from 31 July to 3 August.

Meanwhile, Suvanto's 2013 season has begun promisingly. She finished third in two consecutive JRC rounds and scored a number of fastest stage times driving a VW Golf in the V1600 class.

In the Finnish Championship round Vaakuna Ralli in Mikkeli – the first pace-note event for Suvanto and co-driver Reeta Hämäläinen – the girls claimed the third best time in their class on the first stage, only two seconds behind the fastest time. The joy turned to disappointment on the very next stage, however, as the duo were sidelined by technical problems.



Laura Suvanto and co-driver Reeta Hämäläinen in action in their VW Golf 1600.

Young Driver Programme

Karlsson aims to aid next generation of racers

WRC rally star Ramona Karlsson has launched a programme to promote the careers of female motor sport competitors in her native Sweden.

The Young Female Drivers programme was launched with the aid of Sweden's National Sports Federation as part of its *Idrottslyftet* programme to encourage young people's participation in sports. Karlsson, in association with the Swedish Motorsports Federation, selected seven girls aged between 15 and 20 from across motor sport disciplines including rallying, rallycross, stock cars and crosskart to receive mentoring as they attempt to build a career in motor sport.

"I want to share the experiences of my career and hopefully to help them save time, money and energy in their career," said Karlsson, who currently competes in the Swedish Rally Championship. "It also aims to create a platform for women and girls in motor sport so that they can meet, share experiences and feel fellowship. It's designed to create motivation, inspiration and to get to know more female drivers with the same interest."

Speaking about her own career in motor sport, Karlsson said: "Since I started in motor sport when I was 12 years old, I have always competed against boys. I have created my own team and my own career, without any contacts or money. I want to inspire these girls and show them that nothing is impossible, as long as you love what you do, that you are stubborn, think positive and believe in your dreams."

"It can be quite special to be a woman in a 'man's world', so I want to help these girls to keep their confidence, and to feel proud and happy with what they do; not to listen to prejudice. I missed out on this kind of support as a young female driver, so I'm very happy that I now have opportunity to help others."



Ramona Karlsson (front) with her racing protégées.

FIA Formula 3 European Championship

Calderon and Cerruti chase Euro F3 glory

Colombian Tatiana Calderon and Italian Michela Cerruti lined up on the grid in Monza last weekend for the opening round of the FIA's new Formula 3 European Championship.

Nineteen-year-old Calderon has secured a seat with the Double R Racing team and the Colombian, who comes to the series after taking ninth place in the 2012 European F3 Open, admits that the series is the most competitive she has faced so far in her career.

"The FIA Formula 3 European Championship is a very competitive series. You have to give the best of yourself to be on top," she said. "To start with it's hard to be a girl in the middle of all the men. You have to prove you are able to go fast, and then you are one of them. You have to gain that respect. When you are fighting with them, no matter if you are a boy or a girl, you are a competitor."

Perhaps naturally, Calderon got into motor sport through her support of a famous compatriot.

"I followed Juan Pablo Montoya when I was kid. For Colombia that was so huge to have him in F1. Motor sport grew a lot with him," she added. "I started racing with my sister. I raced in the USA, then in Europe. I was the first female to win the Stars of Karting championship in the USA. Then I came to Europe to do the Euro challenge in Rotax."

"A girl needs to work harder physically," she said of single-seater racing. "A Formula 3 car is pretty physical, so to be able to concentrate on all the other stuff, such as getting the car balance right, you have to be really well prepared. I'm getting there. I'm working hard."

It's a story familiar to Cerruti, who is racing with Romeo Ferraris this season. The 26-year-old comes to the new championship from the 2012 Italian GT Championship in

which she finished 10th, with three podiums, and the ATS Formel 3 Cup where she finished 15th overall.

"The big step for me was to race in the Superstars Series in 2010," she admitted. "The first year was hard, but I won a race in my second year. It was incredible to race against drivers like Andrea Bertolini, Thomas Biagi, Johnny Herbert and Gianni Morbidelli."

"Romeo Ferraris, my team in Superstars Series, decided to go to F3, with me," she added. "It's great to have their trust. We have to work, but we could do something. The first tests were difficult. It's a new team, so we are facing the usual things a new team with a new car faces. The team is new to F3 but has huge experience in GT."

Cerruti agreed with Calderon that F3 cars are a physical challenge. "A Formula 3 car is much more physical than a GT, so you have to work harder," she said. "I had to train twice as hard as the others, as I need to develop more muscle as I start from zero."

Cerruti confessed that having another female competitor in the series is a bonus.

"It's fun to have another girl on the grid," she reveals. "Tatiana is much more experienced than me in single seaters. She is fast and is one of the most promising girls, so it will be great to fight with her."

The two women took part in three races over the Monza weekend, with Calderon faring best overall. The Colombian finished race one in 19th place from a field of 30 and in the two wet races that followed finished 23rd and 22nd respectively. Cerruti, meanwhile, was 21st in the dry opening race but failed to finish race two. The Italian race finished race three in 21st position.



Michela Cerruti (left) and Tatiana Calderon (right).



Michela Cerruti in action for the Romeo Ferraris team.



FIA European Rally Championship

Taylor targeting eight ERC rounds

Australian rally driver Molly Taylor is aiming to compete in eight rounds of this year's 13-round European Rally Championship, starting at next month's Rallye Açores in Portugal.

"I'll be driving the same Citroën DS3 R3T in which I competed in some selected ERC rallies last year, so it will be a great opportunity to take what I learned last year and focus on a full championship," said Taylor, who is also a Drivers' Representative on the FIA's Women in Motorsport Commission. "I still have a lot of growing to do as a driver, but we will be targeting the 2WD Championship."

Commenting on the launch of the ERC Ladies' Trophy, Taylor said: "I am happy to hear about the introduction of the Ladies' Trophy. Personally my target is the overall Championship, however if this class can encourage more females to take the step into the ERC it can only be a positive thing."

A graduate of the FIA's WRC Academy in 2011, Taylor competed in a number of series last year, including undertaking events in the ERC, Intercontinental Rally Challenge and the World Rally Championship. She ended last season by being awarded the Richard Burns Trophy as the highest placed young non-priority driver.