



AUTO+ WOMEN IN MOTOR SPORT

RACING RETURN

Former F1 team boss Monisha Kaltenborn reveals her latest project – a new F4 squad PG16

DRIVING DANISH MOTOR SPORT

DASU board member Brigitte Klitskov Jerkel on creating equal racing opportunities PG 20

TESTING TATIANA

Colombian racer Tatiana Calderón promoted to F1 test driver role with Alfa Romeo Sauber PG 21



GETTING THE GIRLS ON TRACK

The FIA's new European Young Women Programme is launched at the Geneva Motor Show



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Welcome to the latest edition of the FIA's Women in Motorsport Newsletter.

This issue is particularly special as it marks the launch of the most ambitious project in the Commission's eight-year history - The Girls on Track Karting Challenge.

Launched at the Geneva Motor Show this EU-funded initiative aims to give thousands of girls aged between 13 and 18 the opportunity to try motor sport in karting slalom events in eight European countries. By the end of the programme we hope to have discovered a new generation of female racing talent capable of competing at the highest levels.

Elsewhere in this edition we chat with FIA Women in Motorsport Ambassador and former F1 team boss Monisha Kaltenborn whose latest project takes her to the first step on the FIA's single seater ladder, with the foundation of a new F4 team KDC Racing.

We also hear from newly elected board member of the Dansk Automobil Sports Union, Brigitte Klintskov Jerkel, who outlines the ASN's successes in promoting female involvement in motor sport and its plans for the future.

Finally, we report on Formula 1's latest female driver - Tatiana Calderón, the Alfa Romeo Sauber driver who has been elevated from development driver to the role of test driver.

Enjoy the read!

Your AUTO+ team



FIA launches The Girls on Track Karting Challenge at the Geneva Motor Show

The FIA launched its new European Young Women Programme called 'The Girls on Track' at the Geneva Motor Show last week, with FIA Women in Motorsport President Michèle Mouton saying the initiative represents a "great opportunity to open up the world of motor sport to a new generation of women"

The launch, which was attended by FIA President Jean Todt, programme ambassadors Susie Wolff and Tatiana Calderón and Ambassador Peter Sørensen, Head of the European Union Delegation to the United Nations in Geneva, took place on the eve of International Women's Day.

Targeted at girls between the ages of 13 and 18, The Girls on Track programme aims to promote and develop the presence of young women in motor sport at grassroots level using the karting slalom, a cost-effective and easy to set up format. The two-year project, which will start this month, has received funding from the EU's Erasmus+ education and training programme.

"We are very proud to be launching this ambitious European competition among a young and feminine audience," said FIA President Jean Todt. "I am delighted the European Commission, through its funding, has recognised our strong commitment to the further development of women in motor sport. On its side, the FIA will keep actively promoting an

equal space for men and women in motor sport for years."

In its first year the programme will see karting slalom events staged in central urban locations across eight European ASN partner countries (Belgium, Finland, Germany, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia and Sweden), with the initial phase expected to reach more than 3000 young women.

Three girls from each country's events will then go forward to a European Final in Le Mans in March 2019 for the chance to be among the six drivers selected for a European Team. The six winners will attend FIA Driver Training Camps, where they will be supported by the FIA through a sporting and educational programme. The programme will end with a closing event in Brussels in the autumn of next year.

"This project is a huge challenge, although essential to raise awareness about motor sport among young girls and detect the female champions of tomorrow. With The Girls On Track programme, we have a great opportunity to open up the world of motor sport to a new generation," said FIA Women in

Motorsport President Michèle Mouton.

In addition, a sociological analysis will be conducted in order to support and analyse the success of the programme and make recommendations to the sport's stakeholders and public institutions (such as the EU and the UN) on how to increase their level of female participation and fight gender stereotypes.

The programme is also being supported by Yokohama which will also supply tyres to the events.

"We are very happy to be part of such an ambitious and important programme," said Yokohama Europe communications representative David Oliva. "We fully support this initiative that will help both fight against stereotypes and ensure a bigger space for women in motor sport."

Commenting on the EU's role in the initiative Ambassador Sørensen said: "The European Union champions gender equality all over the world. We have put the empowerment of girls and women at the core of our policies and support it through a vast array of means. The project we launch today, with funding from the European Commission, is a concrete example of this global engagement."

The programme will be promoted on social media through the hashtag #TheGirlsOnTrack. A devoted area on the FIA website will also be developed throughout the project and can be accessed at www.fia.com/TheGirlsOnTrack.



Improving the Game



The FIA's Girls on Track initiative benefits from the support of Erasmus+, the EU's programme promoting education, training, youth and sport across Europe.

Launched in 2014 and set to continue until the end of 2020, the programme has a budget of €4.7 billion aimed at providing opportunities for over 4 million Europeans to study, train, gain experience, and volunteer abroad.

A key element of Erasmus+ is sport and the programme promotes events and collaborative partnerships, with funding available for up to 1,200 projects. The programme supports transnational projects involving grassroots sport organisations, and promotes – among other things – good governance, social inclusion, the fight against racism, dual careers, and physical activity for all.

Thanks to support from Erasmus+, the FIA European Young Women project aims to further develop and organise the development of motor sport for young women across Europe and to share and disseminate the methodology and the results of the project with public institutions, including the European Commission, the European Parliament, the United Nations, the Council of Europe, and through the FIA's member clubs' national Governments around the world.

‘I hope we find girls with a dream’

Michèle Mouton, President of the FIA Women in Motorsport Commission explains why the Girls on Track initiative is the Commission’s biggest project to date, how it aims to attract nearly 4,000 girls to motor sport and her hopes for unearthing future champions

We have been working on this plan for three, if not four years, and to finally see our ‘baby’ being born is so exciting; it is such a concrete project aimed at encouraging young women to come and try motor sport, the biggest thing we have ever done. To have the approval and support of the European Union, as well as the FIA, is also hugely satisfying because it is true to say this is not just a Women in Motorsport Commission initiative but an educational project too.

Honestly, I really think one of the best ways of attracting girls to our sport is to have this kind of selection, actually giving the chance to drive a kart and hopefully feel the thrill. It is also an important way of supporting our ASNs and the development of motor sport in their own countries; that is also so important for the future of our sport.

We expect a lot from this programme and, like many things, it is all about communication, spreading the word and reaching those young women who might never have given motor sport a thought. We want to attract nearly 4,000 girls over the course of the national selections, but it’s not just about numbers.

I hope we will find girls with a dream, ones who realise they have a possibility to come, try and potentially go further. Some may never have even been aware of motor sport, whether it is because their family or friends are not interested, or they may never have even considered they could try it, but this is the chance for them to find out for themselves. I hope, as much as anything, that the environment will inspire and arouse interest.

The success at the end would be to find three or four girls who have real promise, ones we can help train and then support through a Women in Motorsport Academy we are looking to establish. This would be immensely rewarding.

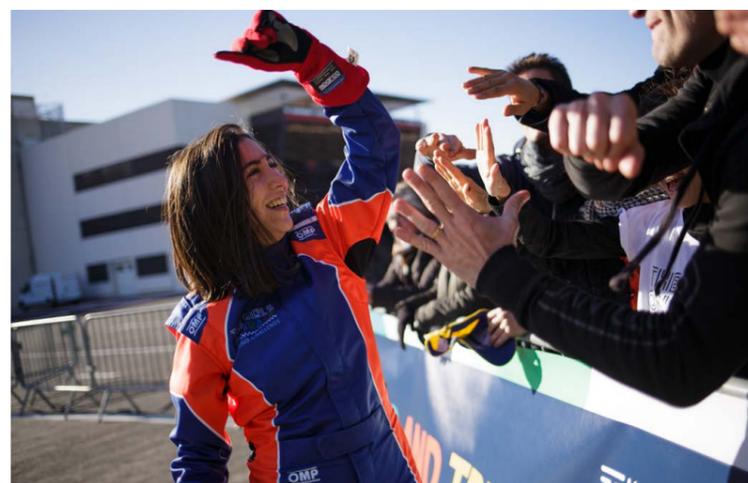
We also have the opportunity to promote the FIA’s Action for Road Safety campaign to a very significant audience of young women, those who are approaching the age when they can drive on the public roads. We want to play our part in helping to save lives among a critical age group who can also influence so many around them.”

“

**‘SUCCESS AT THE END
WOULD BE TO FIND
THREE OR FOUR GIRLS
WHO HAVE
REAL PROMISE’**

- MICHÈLE MOUTON -





Finding future champions

Take young girls aged from 13 to 18 years old, three karts, some cones and barriers and let battle commence in the city!

The Girls on Track format allows for up to 200 young girls a weekend to try their hand at karting on a slalom circuit constructed using cones and barriers.

Each competition will be overseen by one of the three FIA designated Sport Coordinators – WRC co-driver Nicolas Klingner, off-road legend and 2001 Dakar Rally winner Jutta Kleinschmidt and Tiina Lehmonen formerly of Finland's AKK motor sport organisation – whose role it will be to coordinate the events, ensure guidelines are respected and that selections are conducted fairly.

The selection process itself is divided into two phases. The first phase gives each driver, who should be aged between 13 and 18, the opportunity to get comfortable with the kart through a short practice run and then they conduct two competitive timed runs. During the timed runs contact with

two cones will result in a time penalty and more than three will lead to the time for that run being scrubbed.

The second phase of competition will see the best girls from the first phase interviewed by a panel consisting of officials and motor sport experts. The interview process is designed to assess the motivation of the driver, her ability to follow the full programme and the level of her ambition.

Once all national selections in a country have taken place, the jury will collate the results of the interviews and choose its three national drivers, a minimum of one not holding a competition license. They will then go on to compete at the Final in Le Mans, in March 2019. The competitors selected for the final will all be announced in October 2018, after all national events have taken place.

Impact assessment

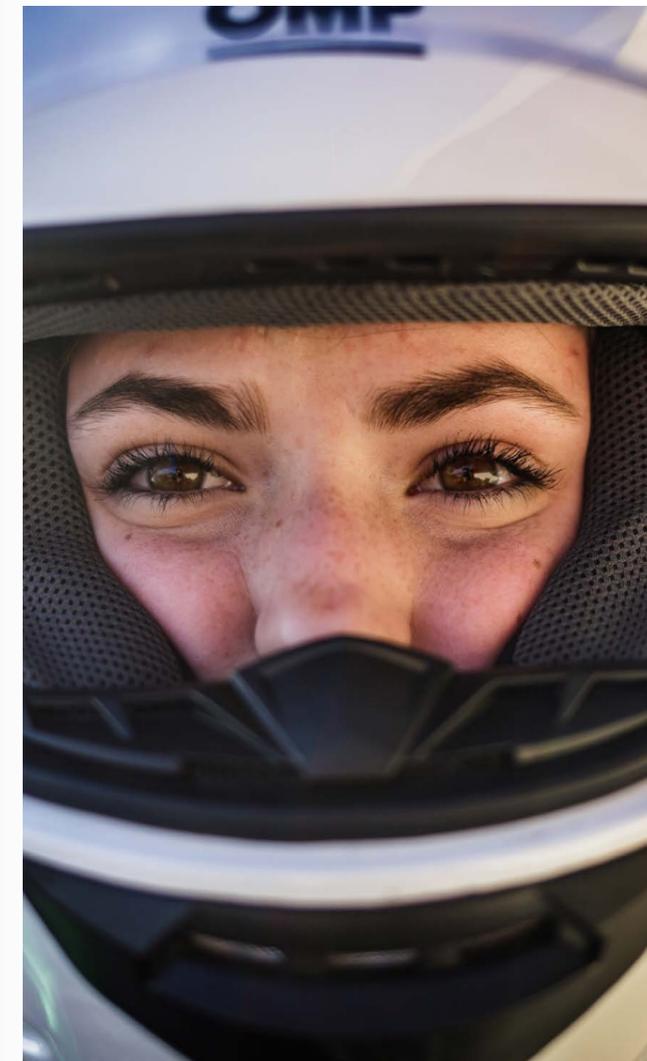
An important aspect of The Girls on Track programme will be a sociological survey tracking the impact and outcomes of the FIA European Young Women project

The Girls on Track programme not only aims to unearth new female motor sport talent but it also hopes to develop a set of recommendations for motor sport stakeholders in particular and sport stakeholders in general, including policy-makers, government bodies and sports organisations on how to increase the level of participation of young women in sport and on how to fight stereotypes in sport. The sociological survey will be conducted by programme partner CDES-PROGESPORT.

The first step, which will take place ahead of the selection events and be conducted in association with ASNs, will be to collect and analyse data at national level in order to get a better understanding of the current state of the involvement of women in motor sport and the extent and nature of the difficulties encountered.

This data will be gathered via a survey conducted during the events at each location in the eight countries and co-ordinated by ASNs. Further information will also be gathered from the 24 finalists.

The completed questionnaires will be used to draw up recommendations for national and international motor sport associations, outlining relevant sport policies aimed at promoting female participation and combating gender discrimination. These will be published and presented in Brussels towards the end of 2019.





Susie Wolff
Former Williams F1 test driver



Tatiana Calderón
Alfa Romeo Sauber F1 test
driver and GP3 driver



Tom Kristensen
Nine-time Le Mans winner,
2013 FIA World Endurance
Champion

Meet the Ambassadors

Helping to raise awareness of the FIA European Young Women project and assisting the girls as they begin their journey in motor sport will be three exceptional record breakers drawn from the highest levels of racing

Susie Wolff

After a successful junior career Scottish driver Susie Wolff made her mark in DTM, the German Touring Car Championship, between 2006 and 2012 where she raced with Mercedes.

In 2012, Wolff realised her racing dreams with a move to F1 with Williams, for whom she signed as a development driver for the team. At the 2014 British Grand Prix Wolff made history by becoming the first woman to take part in a Formula One race weekend in 22 years.

She was promoted to the role of test driver in 2015 before retiring from competition at the end of that season. The following year Susie launched her own initiative called Dare To Be Different in collaboration with the UK motor sport governing body, the Motor Sports Association. The initiative aims to drive female talent - inspiring, connecting and showcasing within male-dominated industries.

"I launched Dare to be Different to try and make motor sport more accessible, to help create opportunity for those wanting to enter the sport and inspire the next generation," she says. "Not only to get more female participation on track but also to inspire the possibility of a career in motor sport. Our headline events are for girls aged between 8 and 12 - just before the big decisions are taken in their school education. The girls participate in different technical and non-technical activities

related to motor sport and which aim to inspire and empower.

"When I was named as an FIA Women in Motorsport Ambassador five years ago, it was very much about being a positive role model and trying to raise awareness. The Commission has now grown to include many enthusiastic and passionate women who are making a difference," adds Susie.

"The Commission's goal was always to develop a long-term and sustainable programme to support women to enter motor sport - The European Young Women Programme is the first step to get more young females in motor sport at grassroots level. The programme is promoted to girls between 13 and 18 and therefore a great next step for the young girls which D2BD reaches - our work goes hand in hand and I believe we can make a difference."

Tatiana Calderón

Colombia's Tatiana Calderón began her racing career in karting, rising quickly through the cadet and junior ranks while winning national and international titles, before making the step up to cars in the Star Mazda series in the US. Determined to reach the top of the single-seater ladder, she moved to Europe to compete in the European Formula 3 Open where she claimed her maiden F3 podium, followed by a spell in British F3 International, where she became the first woman to score a podium in the history of the series, and then the FIA European

F3 Championship. In 2014 she took her first international win in cars at the Ferrari Driver Academy's Florida Winter Series at Sebring, beating the likes of Max Verstappen and Lance Stroll.

Tatiana stepped up to GP3 in 2016, scoring some notable results in each of her two seasons in the Formula One support series. In 2017, while making her debut in the powerful Formula V8 3.5 World Series cars in Bahrain, Tatiana made history by finishing third in what was the championship's final event, becoming the only woman to finish on the podium in its 20-year history.

After spending many valuable hours working in a Formula One simulator as development driver for the Sauber F1 Team last year, Tatiana steps up to the role of test driver with the renamed Alfa Romeo Sauber Team for 2018. She will combine her duties with a third GP3 campaign, this time with Swiss team Jenzer Motorsport.

"When I was starting my racing career at a younger age I would have appreciated the opportunity to get support by such a great programme," she says of the Girls on Track initiative. "There are not enough role models for young girls out there and that explains to some extent why there are fewer women racing. We have to help get more girls behind the wheel and the EYWP is exactly what we need to get young females into motor sport and to hopefully have more women in the top series in the future. For me it's an absolute honour to be an ambassador for both: The European Young Women programme and Dare to be Different, and to inspire the girls to try karting."

Tom Kristensen

A true legend of motor sport, Tom Kristensen graduated from a junior karting career in his home country of

Denmark to success in international Formula 3, in which he was both German and Japanese champion, and in Touring Cars where he also won in Germany, Japan and the UK. The path led to Formula 1 where he tested F1 cars under the Michelin brand with Tyrrell, Williams and Jaguar. It was, however, in endurance racing that Tom found his natural home, winning Le Mans for the first time, in a Porsche, in 1997. He went on to claim six consecutive Le Mans 24 Hours wins between 2000 and 2005, five of which were scored with Audi Sport Team Joest, while his 2003 win was achieved at the wheel of a Bentley. An eighth victory arrived in 2008 with Audi Sport North America and he then scored a record ninth win in 2013, the year he also won the FIA World Endurance Championship title with Audi Sport Team Joest. He also won the 12 Hours of Sebring a record six times and was ALMS champion in 2002. Kristensen retired from competition at the end of 2014 but continues to be deeply involved in motor sport, notably as an FIA steward in Formula 1 and as President of the FIA Drivers' Commission.

Commenting on his role as an ambassador for the European Young Women Programme and the possibilities it presents, he said: "Motor sport is a level playing field for everyone and there are so many opportunities across many different disciplines. It's a tough sport, but your sex, race or level of physical mobility doesn't necessarily matter. There's a car for you and once you're behind the wheel with talent, commitment and passion, everyone has the same chance to shine.

"This is a fantastic opportunity for young women who may never have considered looking at motor sport. Maybe we can unearth new talent who, without a programme like this, might go completely unnoticed. We need this type of activity to inspire, motivate and demonstrate our sport is open to all and that the only barrier to entry is yourself."

Partners for progress

The Girls on Track project is being supported and hosted by eight partner ASNs across Europe and by a research organisation dedicated to assessing its impact and its potential for bringing about change



Royal Automobile Club of Belgium (RACB), Belgium

One of the world's oldest motor sport clubs, the RACB was formed in 1896. The activities of the RACB are spread across three pillars: RACB Sport (running sport competitions under the aegis of FIA), RACB Academy (road safety; RACB organises training to ensure that drivers improve their skills) and RACB Experience (organisation of events designed to enhance the legacy of RACB). In addition to the national selections phase, Belgium will also host a karting slalom demonstration at the end of the project, with the six drivers selected through the project for the FIA European Young Women Team.

www.racb.com



AKK - Motorsport, Finland

AKK-Motorsport (AKK) is recognised by the Ministry of Education and Culture as a National Sport Federation for Automobile Sport in Finland. Founded in 1978, AKK has a long and reputable history in the development of Finnish automobile sport and making champions. The organisation has 30,000 members across 305 member clubs throughout Finland. AKK issues 10,000 competition licenses annually and there are 3,500 licensed officials and marshals.

www.autourheilu.fi



Deutscher Motor Sport Bund E.V. (DMSB), Germany

Founded in 1997 the DMSB is the leading motor racing association in Germany and is affiliated to the FIA, FIM, FIM Europe and the German Olympic Sports Confederation (DOSB). As a motor sport governing body, the DMSB is comprised of three famous and very large motor sport clubs: ADAC, AvD, and DMV. Founded in 1903 ADAC, one of the world's largest automobile clubs, now has more than 20 million members. AvD is the oldest motor sport club in Germany (1899) and is a member of the FIA. An additional number of 15 national motor sport associations are members of the DMSB.

www.dmsb.de



Knac Nationale Autosport Federatie (KNAF), Netherlands

The KNAF is the National Sport Association (ASN) governing motor sport in Netherlands. Founded in 1979, FIA member club KNAF has approximately 10,000 license holders and 95 affiliated member clubs. In addition to its many and varied responsibilities, KNAF is also committed to the training and coaching of talented young drivers.

www.knaf.nl



Polski Związek Motorowy (PZM), Poland

Polski Związek Motorowy (PZM) was established on 30th January 1950, through the consolidation of the Polish Automobile Club – established in 1909 – and the Polish Motorcycle Association, which was established in 1924. The organisation brings together enthusiasts and fans of motor sport and motoring in all its aspects. PZM organises automobile and motorcycle events at national, European and world levels. It promotes road safety, is a spokesperson for the needs of the Polish automotive community and conducts business activities. The Federation comprises more than 400 clubs and is a member of the Polish Olympic Committee, as well as five international federations (FIA, FIM, FICC, FIVA and FIM Europe).

www.pzm.pl



From left-right: Mauro Zonta (Yokohama Project Manager & Motor Sport Co-ordinator), Michèle Mouton (FIA Women in Motorsport Commission President), Jean Todt (FIA President), Minoru Nakayama (Yokohama Global Motor Sport Manager), Maren Koschel (Yokohama Deputy Manager)



Federação Portuguesa de Automobilismo e Karting (FPAK), Portugal

The Federação Portuguesa de Automobilismo e Karting was founded in 1994 and regulates motor sport in Portugal. Its constitution has always been associated with one of the oldest associations of motor sport, the Automóvel Club de Portugal (ACP), which was founded in 1903. Founded initially with the designation of Federação Portuguesa de Automobilismo e Karting/ACP, and having as founding member the same Automóvel Club de Portugal (ACP), FPAC was recognised as an Institution of Public Sports Utility. The current designation was adopted in 1997, with representation on Comité Olímpico de Portugal (COP), Confederação de Desporto de Portugal (CDP) and the FIA.

www.fpak.pt



Slovenska Asociacia Motoristickeho Sportu (SAMŠ), Slovakia

The SAMŠ was founded in 1991 and is the leading motor sport association in Slovakia. The Club is affiliated to the FIA and CIK and also co-operates with the Slovak motorcycling federation. It has a leading role in motor sport in Slovakia and is associated with a number of different motor sport disciplines, including rallies, circuit races, hill climb races, autocross, rallycross, slaloms, drifts, sprints and especially for junior competitors – karting and minicar series. SAMŠ activity in motor sport is wide and is associated with the activities of the FIA and SAMŠ also has a rich and diverse co-operation with ASNs of neighboring countries.

www.sams-asn.sk



Svenska Bilsportförbundet (SBF), Sweden

The Swedish automobile sports federation (SBF) was founded in 1936. It is member of the FIA with sporting power in the territory. The Club is also a member of the Swedish Sports Confederation. The SBF looks after the interests of Swedish motor sports before the FIA and RF (Swedish Sports Confederation) and the public authorities (government).

www.sbf.se



CDES-PROGESPORT, (Academic partner), France

CDES-PROGESPORT is the academic partner of the FIA's European Young Women Programme and will deliver the sociological analysis of the project. This is designed to evaluate the project and draw recommendations for sport stakeholders on how to increase the level of participation of young women through the example of motor sport (and to fight gender stereotypes). The analysis will compare the approach in the eight participating countries. CDES-PROGESPORT's analysis will also be the reference of the project on education and training. The Centre for the Law and Economics of Sport (CDES) was created in November 1978 by François Alaphilippe and Jean-Pierre Karaquillo, both Associate Professors of Law, as a laboratory of the Faculty of Law and Economics of the University of Limoges. The goal was to create a tool for expertise and education purposes, specialised in the sports movement.



Laia Sanz rides towards a four-wheel Dakar dream

Fresh from her eighth attempt at the gruelling Dakar Rally on two wheels, multiple women's world enduro and trials motorcycling champion Laia Sanz has success on four wheels in her long-term sights

Laia Sanz has pretty much done it all on two wheels. The 32-year-old KTM factory rider learned to ride a push bike at two, climbed aboard her brother's child-sized trial bike aged four and claimed her first Women's World Trials title at the age of 14. Since then she's racked up 12 more world trials titles, 10 European titles, five enduro crowns and six Nations' Trial wins, as well as four X Games gold medals. In 2011 she competed in the Dakar Rally for the first time and in 2015 scored her best result of ninth overall. This year, the Barcelona native battled her way to 12th in the motorcycle category. Now though, having tasted circuit racing in endurance events and in the SEAT Leon Eurocup in recent years, the motorcycle star is eyeing an eventual off-road adventure on four wheels too, as she explains...

Did you always have dreams of doing Dakar? How much of a challenge did you think it would be, and did it live up to expectations?

I always followed it on TV. When I was really young I waited up to watch it every night, but I could never imagine that one day I would be competing in it.

My best result was in 2015, I finished ninth overall and there were around 150/200 competitors on bikes, so it was unbelievable to finish in such a good position. I got a good result this year (12th) so to be there competing with the top guys is really nice.

Why did you decide to also try competition on four wheels? What was the motivation and challenge?

I wanted to try four wheels because I really love cars and I'm passionate about motor sport and also because I wanted to learn. My dream one day is to do the Dakar in a car, a good car, and it's important to start thinking about that, to learn and to be ready if in the future a chance presents itself.

What are you competing in on four wheels and what results have you achieved?

Circuit racing and rallying. I raced in the 24hr Endurance in Barcelona and won my class on two occasions, with a best result of 12th overall. I also raced in the SEAT Leon Eurocup and finished 12th in one race which wasn't too bad because I

didn't do all the championship and I didn't train a lot. Then I raced in some Spanish endurance championship events and some rallies for fun. I think what I really love is the dust of off-road competition.

You're an ambassador for SEAT, so what does that role encompass?

It's a pleasure to be a SEAT ambassador. I enjoy my Ateca a lot and yes, it means I can do some races with them, so it's really nice. I'd love to do a Dakar in a SEAT – that would be wonderful.

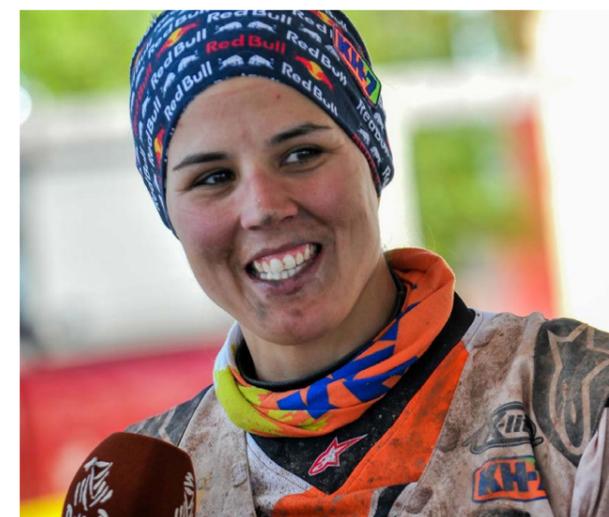
Is that next on your motor sport list of things to do?

My focus is on the Dakar – I'm still on bikes but looking at cars. Before the end of my bike career I want to achieve another top 10 overall.

And then of course the dream is to race in Dakar in a car. It's something I'd really like to do and I'm starting to think about that because I can't race bikes all my life. I hope to have a chance to drive a good car in Dakar.

Also, a lot of Dakar winners in cars were bike riders beforehand so I think it's the best school to learn. If you've been a bike rider before it's an advantage because you know how to read the terrain, the dunes, do the navigation; it helps a lot.

I think the difference between a man and woman is not important in a car and I think as Jutta Kleinschmidt did, it's possible to be really competitive in a car and to win a Dakar. On a bike it's more difficult because the physical differences are more important so I would really love to continue my career in a car.



Monisha Kaltenborn sets up Formula 4 team to race in Italy and Germany

As boss of the Sauber F1 Team she made driver career building a speciality. Now Women in Motorsport Ambassador Monisha Kaltenborn is aiming to help drivers on the first rung of the FIA single seater ladder with her new F4 team

Named KDC Racing, the team is a joint venture between Kaltenborn, the 'K' of a partnership, and French/Monegasque entrepreneur Emily di Comberti, whose son Aaron raced in the British Formula 3 Championship last year.

"Motor sport is my great passion," said Kaltenborn of the project, which follows her departure from the Sauber Formula 1 team last June. "I have been working in the world of motor sport for nearly 20 years, and given my experience and the responsibilities I have had in the past, it is only logical for me to remain in this field."

In choosing Formula 4, the Women in Motorsport Ambassador pointed to the category's potential to bring through young talent as a major attraction.

"Formula 4 is a very exciting championship in which I see very high potential," she said. "In particular, building up young drivers from among whom we might find some of tomorrow's best drivers at the pinnacle of motor sport is a great challenge. Entering Formula 4 is a major step in a driver's career. In my view Formula 4 shows who has the skills to reach the top and who does not. To bring the best out of our drivers, we want to be successful as quickly as possible."

While the team will compete in the Italian and German championships, the technical side of the operation will be based out of a facility in the town of Granollers, close to the Circuit de Barcelona-Catalunya in Spain.

"The Italian and German championships are highly competitive," she explained. "So, you have a good benchmark for your own performance."

The team's technical infrastructure will be located near the Circuit de Barcelona-Catalunya near Barcelona. In view of the short lead time we had, this was the most efficient option. The team will drive under a Swiss licence since it is managed from Switzerland."

The former Sauber team boss also confirmed the new outfit will promote young female racing talent should competitive drivers make the step up from karting.

"I have always supported young female drivers and will continue to do so," she said. "I firmly believe that if you can you should give female drivers the opportunity to show what they can do. We focus on having a good and competitive driver line up where the drivers can also benefit from each other. Our choice of drivers is not primarily driven by financial aspects."

While there have been no driver announcements to date, Kaltenborn said that the team's line-ups would be revealed shortly.

Finally, she also suggested that KDC's Formula 4 programme could eventually lead to broader motor sport involvement in the future.

"Of course, motor sport is one of the most exciting global platforms, combining sport, emotions and technology. And the current time is particularly interesting because motor sport is undergoing so many changes with the intention to make the sport more appealing to the fans and adjust to the current global environment. There is a lot to do and let's see where this leads for KDC Racing."



Monisha Kaltenborn (left) and Emily di Comberti

MotorSport New Zealand upgrades its WIM initiative

The board of MotorSport New Zealand has upgraded Women in Motorsport New Zealand to full advisory commission status, bringing the WIM initiative in line with the organisation's Race, Rally, ClubSport, Historic/Classic and Volunteer advisory commissions

For the past five years WIMNZ has existed as an advisory group. MSNZ board member Deborah Day is the WIMNZ commission board liaison and has been the driving force behind initiatives such as the trans-Tasman female official exchange which WIMNZ has run for the past two years with the Women of Australian Motor Sport (WAMS).

"We're delighted that WIMNZ is now on equal footing with all MSNZ advisory commissions," said Day of the upgrade. "Our role is to raise the visibility of women in motor sport, to foster and inspire talented women as competitors, officials and media, and to encourage more women to participate and contribute to this sport where men and women truly compete as equals."

"This year marks 125 years since New Zealand became the first self-governing country in the world to grant women the right to vote in parliamentary elections, and while WIMNZ is not as far advanced with our programmes as the WIM initiatives of some other ASNs, we're already off to a good start with our trans-Tasman exchange programme. We have plenty of ideas in the pipeline and together, our commission has an exciting opportunity to make a positive difference in New Zealand motor sport."

The success of the trans-Tasman exchange programme played a large part in the board's decision to make WIM a full advisory commission. Increased local interest in the WIM initiative has also been driven via contributions to WIMNZ's thriving social media channels and website organised by Day and the first appointed WIM commission member, freelance communications consultant Kate Gordon-Smith. Recently, long-time rally co-driver Fleur Pedersen agreed to join the commission, and the board has asked Day to seek nominations for the other two commission member positions.

Commenting on the New Zealand Club's decision regarding the WIM initiative, MSNZ President Wayne Christie said: "Motor sport in New Zealand has a very good representation of women across all areas of the sport, and we have above average participation numbers for women in motor sport worldwide. However, we would love to see even more women competing, officiating and volunteering in motor sport at all levels and the establishment of our Women in Motorsport Advisory Commission demonstrates our commitment to see this happen."



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Deborah Day (left)

MSNZ official enjoys Bathurst role

Shelly McSaveney, a member of New Zealand's Canterbury Car Club, was selected as the country's female motor sport official for MotorSport New Zealand's 2017 trans-Tasman exchange, attending the iconic Bathurst 1000 race last October.

Strengthening ties across the Tasman Sea and promoting women's involvement in motor sport, the exchange is organised by Women in MotorSport New Zealand (WIMNZ) and its Australian counterpart Women of Australian Motor Sport (WAMS).

A resident of Christchurch, Shelly was hosted by WAMS personnel in Australia and got to meet a range of people undertaking volunteer official roles during the event.

"The whole experience was so overwhelming and so fantastic," she said. "I got to experience and try new things, and I met some really awesome people who went out of their way to ensure I got to experience Bathurst in all its glory."

Shelly spent time at a flag point, in the pit lane and at the pit entry, as well as being present at the pit chief's briefing, in race control, the start tower and the finish post. She also spent time with the assistant clerks of the course, the race director and race stewards. Her weekend included a course car ride, a helicopter flight during Supercars qualifying, and a tour of the Tekno garage. She also got to wave the green and chequered flag for Shane Van Gisbergen when he did his top 10 shootout lap.

"I can't thank WAMS, WIMNZ and MotorSport NZ enough for creating this opportunity for female officials," she added. "I would specifically like to thank Janah from Supercars and Janelle Orrock from WAMS for everything they did for me and all the activities they organised."



Brigitte Klitskov Jerkel joins board of directors of Danish ASN



The Danish politician and committed touring car racer hopes to develop grassroots competition as a way of attracting more women to motor sport in her homeland

The ranks of women in senior management positions in motor sport were recently boosted by the appointment of Brigitte Klitskov Jerkel to the board of directors of the Dansk Automobil Sports Union. A recently re-elected member of the Danish parliament, Jerkel is a regional councillor in the Zealand region and a former deputy mayor of Greve Municipality.

A competition licence holder since 2016, she's also a committed touring car racer who competes in the Group N Yokohama 1600 Challenge in a Peugeot.

And she's firm in her belief that her new role will help her to promote women's involvement in motor sport at all levels in Denmark.

"I join the board of DASU with great interest and will do my best to promote motor sport in Denmark. At the same time, I would like to work to get more women involved in Danish motor sport, which is in line with the strategies of DASU and the DIF, the Danish Sports Confederation. These strategies aim to get more women involved in motor sport as active participants, drivers, co-drivers as well as volunteers, for example in karting, where we have a programme aimed at recruiting from among the parents of young karters.

"In terms of developing other programmes to attract more girls, it's still early days with this part of our strategy, but appointing members of a working group with the aim of getting more women involved in motor sport in Denmark is the next step."

While she wants to encourage more women into the sport she is quick to point out that there is already a healthy culture of female participation in Denmark.

"The women are already out there and the interest is there," she says. "We have quite a few talented women racing already, mixing it with the men, both nationally and internationally. They are already doing a

fine job as ambassadors showing to the other women, that it can be done, that you can be successful in motor sports.

"Hopefully we can get more women involved with the increasing number of female drivers and co-drivers out there. We already have a woman on the board of DASU, we are represented in the FIA Women in Motorsport Commission with Ms Carina Møller, we have Danish racing drivers and co-drivers doing a great job and we have female clerks of the course and jury members and a female mechanic in F1. We are already on the right track."

It's not just young female racers Brigitte wants to bring to motor sport, however, and

she points to the development of affordable, appealing categories and even virtual racing as key elements in bringing new generations to the sport.

"We are in the process of making it easier to get involved in motor sports and to take part in races. This includes embracing new kinds of motor sport such as e-sports and further developing sports that until now have only played a small part in our country's motor sport culture such as drifting, street race and 4X4 competition.

"We would like to develop these kinds of motor sport further, but at the same time we have to remain focused on our core sports, such as karting, rallying and circuit racing."



Tatiana Calderón handed test driver role with Alfa Romeo Sauber F1 Team

Ambassador to the new Girls on Track Karting Challenge and GP3 racer Tatiana Calderón has been given the role of test driver at the Alfa Romeo Sauber F1 Team, stepping up from the development driver position she filled for the Swiss outfit last year.

The new post will see her completing simulator training sessions and coaching with engineers on-site during a number of grand prix weekends, as well as at the team's headquarters in Hinwil.

"This collaboration will build upon the experience that I have gained as development driver with the team over the past year, and I look forward to continuing on this positive path together," said Tatiana of the announcement. "I have been able to substantially expand and develop my skills as a race driver and I am convinced that I will be doing so

throughout this year."

Alfa Romeo Sauber Team Principal Frédéric Vasseur added: "We are very pleased to continue our collaboration with Tatiana as our test driver. She is a very hard-working person, who has impressed the team with her focus and dedication. She has made good progress as a driver, developing both her mental and physical capacities continuously over the past few years. We look forward to having Tatiana on board for our first chapter as the Alfa Romeo Sauber F1 Team."

Tatiana will combine her work at the Swiss F1 team with a third season of GP3 with Jenzer Motorsport. She concluded last month's opening test of the pre-season at the Paul Ricard circuit in France with the fifth-fastest time.

