



# AUTO+ WOMEN IN MOTOR SPORT

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## RAMONA RISING

FIA Women in  
Motorsport's newest  
Commission member  
makes bright start in  
World Rallycross





CONTACTS:  
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ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER OR  
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Welcome to the latest edition of the FIA's Auto+ Women in Motorsport newsletter.

This year sees the launch of two exciting new racing series - the FIA Formula E Championship and the FIA World Rallycross Championship - and both series have attracted the attention of female racers.

In this issue we find out why the FIA Women in Motorsport Commission's newest member Ramona Karlsson has switched her attention from rallying in her native Sweden to the arena racing format of World Rallycross and we hear why Indycar and sportscar racer Katherine Legge is embracing the sustainable model of the FIA's new all-electric championship.

Elsewhere, we catch up with Commission Ambassador Monisha Kaltenborn who explains why she's sure the body's message is already having a positive impact on motor sport and we look at the effect the Commission's first regional seminar on motor sport has had in the Middle East and in North Africa.

We hope you enjoy this edition of our newsletter and, as ever, we welcome your comments, feedback and especially your stories for the next edition.

Your AUTO+ team

Polski Związek Motorowy

## Poland's PZM club establishes Women in Motorsport Commission

The Polski Związek Motorowy (PZM), the motoring and motor sport club of Poland, has launched a Women's Commission to support women's involvement in the automotive industry.

According to the club, the new body is modelled on the FIA's Women in Motorsport Commission and the Commission for Women in Motorcycling of the Fédération internationale de Motocyclisme (FIM).

The PZM's commission consists of team leader Aleksandra Knyszewska, who also acts as marketing manager of the club, former racing driver Małgorzata Serbin, motocross competitor Kinga Gajewska, motorcyclist Anna Jackowska, classic car enthusiast Katarzyna Szatkowska and motoring journalist Katarzyna Frenzl.

An immediate goal of the new commission is to provide a monthly bulletin dedicated to female racing activities, including up and coming talent, and women's motoring interests.



Kinga Gajewska of the PMZ WMC.

Women and Sport Conference



The FIA Women in Motorsport Commission will be present at the sixth IWG conference in Helsinki, Finland from 12-15 June.

## Commission to attend International Working Group on Women and Sport conference

The FIA's Women in Motorsport Commission will have a strong presence at this year's International Working Group on Women and Sport (IWG), to be held in Helsinki, Finland in June.

The conference combines theory, policy, and practice in the area of women and sport and brings together decision-makers, politicians, researchers, coaches and athletes with the aim of advancing the dialogue around women in sports and creating positive change.

FIA Women in Motorsport Commission Manager Frédérique Trouvé attended the last conference in Sydney, Australia and a broader involvement is planned for this year's event.

Co-sponsored by the World Health Organisation (WHO) the theme of this year's conference is 'Lead the Change - Be the Change' and will cover topics including physical activity, health and well-being for life, leading policy change and sport as a safe haven and bastion for human rights.

The sixth IWG conference takes place at Helsinki's Finlandia Hall from 12-15 June.

For more information visit: [www.iwg-gti.org](http://www.iwg-gti.org)

CIK-FIA Karting Academy Trophy

## Garcia chosen for CIK-FIA Karting Academy drive

Marta Garcia from Denia in Spain has been chosen as this year's FIA Women in Motorsport-supported driver for the CIK-FIA Karting Academy Trophy. The 13-year-old racer will receive a funded drive in the competition.

Garcia began karting at nine years of age and started competing aged 10. During the past three years she has competed in more than 300 domestic and international races. Last year she finished in second place in the Spanish championship's KF3 category, the first girl to achieve such a finish. She was also third in the ROTAX series hosted at El Vendrell and scored ninth position in the KF Junior Super Cup. She is currently in her second year in the KF junior category and has been selected as an official driver of the Zanardi Strakka Racing Team.

Commenting on her racing style, Marta's manager Jesus Pacheco said: "Marta is quiet, ambitious and highly competitive. She is now studying eighth grade [at school] and during the evenings has a personal trainer to improve her reflexes and endurance. Her driving style is very smooth, with a steering wheel movement of less than 20 degrees."



Spain's Marta Garcia will receive Commission support in the CIK-FIA Karting Academy Trophy.

National Automobile Club de Tunisie



## NACT launches Tunisia's first female regularity rally

The National Automobile Club de Tunisie has organised the country's first regularity rally solely for female competitors – the Rallye Maghrébin Féminin de Régularité.

The first leg will take place from 16-21 May and the event will feature stages in Morocco and Tunisia. The regularity rally, which sees competitors compete on public roads in pursuit of precise speeds and average times, is likely to be contested by 15 crews from Algeria, two each from Morocco, Libya and Mauritania and 15 from the host nation. The crews will compete in a variety of old and new vehicles.

As the first event of its kind in the region, the NACT is hopeful that a successful event will lead to more competitions of this nature in the future.

Women of Australian Motorsport



Former F1 racer David Coulthard and Sauber F1 team boss Monisha Kaltenborn at the annual WAMS Australian GP luncheon.

## Stars come out for WAMS luncheon

The Women of Australian Motorsport, supported by the Confederation of Australian Motorsport, held its annual Australian Grand Prix luncheon in March, with a number of special guests in attendance, including FIA Women in Motorsport Ambassadors Monisha Kaltenborn and Susie Wolff as well as former grand prix winner David Coulthard.

The trio gathered at the luncheon to pass on tales of their experiences in motor sport as well as their thoughts on the successes achieved by women in the industry.

Sauber F1 Team Principal Monisha Kaltenborn said she was pleased to see WAMS celebrating the varied roles played by women in motor sport. "It's great to see that the interest women are having in motor sport is growing in general," she said. "It starts with young girls maybe watching races, seeing the technical challenge, and then you see women studying in the right areas and working at the track, which is a great thing. I fully believe in diversity and things can only get better with more women around."

"I think the Commission is a very important platform and it's great that our federation [the FIA] is supporting this. We want to provide a platform for young women who want to pursue a career in motor sport and we don't only just look at drivers. We're here to tell girls that there are already women working and succeeding in a wide range of roles, and if you want to go for this you really need to believe in yourself."

Thirteen-time F1 race winner and two-time Australian Grand Prix victor Coulthard, who currently works as an expert analyst

for Britain's BBC said that there is no reason why junior female competitors should not go on to have a successful career in racing.

"It's very much about trying to support the very young ladies who show an interest in driving and having that support system through karting, into cars and then to enable them to develop the skills," said the former Red Bull Racing and McLaren driver.

"If I look at my time in motor sport, from karting through to Formula 1, women have always played a big role in motor sport," he added. "My younger sister used to race karts and it was well known in the family that she was faster than I was! So in terms of talent behind the wheel, there is no reason why ladies can't compete at the highest level."

Also in attendance was one of Australia's most successful female motor sport exports, rally driver Molly Taylor, who recently claimed the inaugural FIA European Rally Championship Ladies Trophy, along with Williams F1 Development Driver Susie Wolff.

Andrew Papadopoulos, President of CAMS added that WAMS has the full support of Australia's ASN.

"We couldn't be happier," he said. "CAMS fully supports WAMS. I know internationally WAMS is seen as one of the most progressive organisations in all of the FIA. The committee should be very proud and we as CAMS thank them for all they've done for the sport."

The 2014 Grand Prix Luncheon also hosted the official launch of the recently announced partnership with Women in Auto Trades, an initiative of Auto Skills Australia, which aims to encourage and support women to take up auto and motor sport trades.

FIA Formula One World Championship

# Wolff to take part in two Formula One practice sessions

FIA Women in Motorsport Ambassador Susie Wolff will become the first female driver in over two decades to compete in an official F1 grand prix session later this year, when the Williams F1 development driver takes part in two opening Friday practices for the team.

Williams have yet to officially confirm at which events Wolff will drive – though it seems likely that her outings will be at the British and German GPs – but the Scot said that following her test for the team at last year's Young Driver Test at Silverstone, the opportunity to drive in the practice sessions "will be a very important milestone in my career".

"Competing in two FP1 sessions, alongside an additional full test day, will be a big step and I am looking forward to the opportunity to get behind the wheel on a grand prix weekend," she said. "It's a challenge that I will relish and it will be a great chance for me to continue assisting the team."

Williams also confirmed that Wolff will continue simulator development work of the team's 2014 FW34 car during the season, with chief technical officer Pat Symonds adding that the 31-year-old has demonstrated "natural talent for developing a car".

"Susie has become a valued member of our driver line up and 2014 will see her take on more responsibilities as we seek to make a strong step forward in performance," he said. "Susie has demonstrated a natural talent for developing a car and providing strong feedback and these sort of characteristics will be key this season as teams seek to quickly understand and refine the radically overhauled 2014 cars."

The last woman to take part in any stage of a grand prix weekend was Italian racer Giovanna Amati, who tried and failed to qualify a Brabham-Judd BT60B at the 1992 Brazilian Grand Prix.





FIA World Rallycross Championship

## Bright start to new Commission member Ramona Karlsson's World Rallycross campaign

Sweden's Ramona Karlsson has been confirmed as the latest member of the FIA Women in Motorsport Commission and the rally star followed up the announcement by taking a solid eight points on her FIA World Rallycross Championship debut, a result which leaves her 11th in the standings after round one.

Commenting on her membership of the Women in Motorsport Commission, Karlsson, who has for some time been active in the training and support of young female racers in her native Sweden, said: "The Women in Motorsport Commission has an important role. [Commission President] Michèle Mouton has always been an important inspiration for me, and it's a great honour to be selected as a commission member and to work together with other women around the world that are dedicated to motor sport."

Commission President Mouton added that Karlsson's involvement in driver support had been an important factor in her selection.

"Ramona works tirelessly to develop her own career but is also dedicated to helping others make their way in our sport; that really is something special," she said. "She demonstrates great commitment, enthusiasm and determination and is a real inspiration to young women. The FIA Women in Motorsport Commission is delighted to welcome her as one of its members."

Last year Karlsson became the first female driver to take an outright victory in a round of the Swedish Rally Championship with victory at the season-ending Rally Uppsala. This year, however, Karlsson has turned her attention to the new FIA World Rallycross Championship in which she will compete in at least seven rounds of the series at the wheel of a Per Eklund Motorsport-run Saab 93 Supercar.

And on her championship debut at the Montalegre circuit in Portugal Ramona scored eight valuable points. The Swede's performances across four opening heats gave her 10th position at the intermediate stage, a result that handed her seven championship points. It also meant she progressed to the semi-finals, beating out stars such as former F1 champion Jacques Villeneuve in the process. In her semi-final, a good start saw Ramona slot into second place but she dropped back to sixth under pressure from Timmy Hansen. She was pushing hard to get past the Ford Focus of Jos Jansen but the German collided with her Saab and a broken steering arm ended her race. Classified sixth, Ramona claimed another championship point. The event overall was won by Petter Solberg.

Despite her exit, Ramona was pleased with her debut: "I'm definitely satisfied. To get to the semi-finals in my first World Championship event – especially considering the relatively short preparation time – allows me to feel really positive for the next race. The lap times have improved all the time and we have found the new settings on the car during the race."

Volkswagen Scirocco R-Cup

# Cypriano impresses on her VW debut

FIA Women in Motorsport-supported driver Lucile Cypriano made an impressive start to her Volkswagen Scirocco R-Cup campaign, finishing the opening rounds at Hockenheim in 12th and 10th in the overall race results and fifth and fourth in the Junior Cup classifications.

Lucile won last year's Volkswagen/FIA Women in Motorsport shoot-out, beating 11 other girls to claim a funded spot in the Junior Cup of this year's Scirocco R-Cup and in her first race outing she demonstrated the skills that had won her the place as she hustled her way to 15th on the race one grid in a cold and blustery qualifying session.

Afterwards, however, she admitted she had not been completely comfortable on the circuit.

"Qualifying wasn't necessarily all I'd hoped for; I wanted to do better, but we'll see how things change," she said. "I'm not totally comfortable with the circuit, and I intend to study the lines of my opponents in some fast corners in order to improve."

In the first of the weekend's two races, on Saturday, Lucile lost two places at the start but climbed back to 12th place at the flag. "I dreaded the start, and actually I just missed it," she said. "But then I gained in confidence and there were some great battles. I love this kind of racing. My best lap was also three tenths faster than my qualifying lap. I will be more confident tomorrow because I got a satisfactory result today."

Lucile's confidence was rewarded in the second race, on Sunday. Starting from 16th, she again battled hard in the midfield, making excellent overtaking moves to rise to 10th position by the end of the race.

"It was a great race," she said. "I did better at the start this time. I'm happy with my race pace and happy with my weekend overall. Being in the top 10 is pretty good for my debut Scirocco R-Cup race, and I intend to do even better at the next race."

At the end of the first two rounds, Lucile is ranked 12th overall and fifth in the Junior Cup standings. The next rounds of the championship are at Oschersleben in Germany on 16-18 May.



Lucile Cypriano who finished 12th and 10th on her VW Scirocco R-Cup debut in Hockenheim.

FIA Institute Young Driver Excellence Academy



# Gatting excels at Academy

In recent months, Michelle Gatting has found herself exercising in a heat chamber in Edinburgh, climbing mountains in the snow in Chamonix and drifting cars on a wet test track in Austria. It has all been part of the FIA Institute Young Driver Excellence Academy – in which Gatting is the only female among the 10 best drivers selected from around the world – and she is relishing every minute of it. "I enjoy every moment with the guys," she says. "It's an amazing learning journey for me to be on."

Beginning in Edinburgh in December, the first Academy workshop focused on fitness, with expert tuition provided by sports scientists from the city's university. "I talked to some of the participants from previous years and I was told it was going to be tough, challenging and loads of fun. Those words certainly described my experience."

Team building followed in the French Alps, a particularly tough workshop. "Chamonix was great fun but also very hard," admits Gatting. "There were some long and challenging days but we all relished the chance to compete against each other on the final day with a race up the mountains."

The Academy then headed for Teesdorf in Austria for a workshop on car control and road safety. "We learned how to cope with and without ABS on wet and slippery surfaces and also how we can pass these skills on to other road users."

It was not all plain sailing though. "I found some of the driving tasks in Austria challenging. Drifting a car was something I had never done before, so it didn't come naturally to me, but as soon as I got the rhythm it felt great to control the car on the limit."

Importantly, she feels she is learning a lot. "I think we all now appreciate that it takes a lot more hard work than you think to become the best. The Academy has helped me both on and off the track, teaching me how to prepare properly for a race, how to act during the race and how to manage my racing career."

While the workshops have been challenging, Gatting is already appreciating the benefits. "Being taught how to be a road safety ambassador was a particular highlight for me. It is something that is really useful in my racing career but also in my everyday life too."

Gatting has made good friends amongst the Academy drivers but she insists that the camaraderie present within the programme has not dulled her competitive edge.

"It's great to hang out with the guys but I enjoy it even more when I beat them in the tasks. It's also great to show that women can compete at the same level as male drivers and in my role as an Official Driver for the FIA Women in Motorsport campaign, I hope to inspire other girls into motor sport through my participation in the Academy."

FIA Deputy President Sport Graham Stoker (front row, fifth from right), QMMF President and FIA Vice President for Sport in the Middle East Nasser Khalifa Al Atya (front row third from right), FIA Women In Motorsport Commission President Michèle Mouton (front row sixth from right) and FIA Women in Motorsport Commission Manager Frédérique Trouvé with delegates at the Commission's seminar in Qatar recently.

# 1<sup>ST</sup> WOMEN IN MOTORSPORT SEMINAR IN THE MIDDLE-EAST FIA WOMEN IN MOTORSPORT COMMISSION MEETING 19<sup>TH</sup> & 20<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2014 DOHA, QATAR



## Participants hail success of first WIM regional seminar in Qatar

The first regional Women in Motorsport seminar has been praised as “inspiring” and “productive” by participants at the event in Qatar.

The seminar, organised by the Qatar Motor and Motorcycle Federation (QMMF) in partnership with the FIA Women in Motorsport Commission, took place in Doha in February, with over 50 representatives from across the FIA’s Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region in attendance.

Commenting on the success of the seminar, Yara M Shalaby, a cross-country rally driver from Egypt said that the meeting had been “important and productive”.

“It was good to know that I am not the only one out there suffering with lots of issues in accomplishing my goals, and that there are even more difficulties facing women in other countries, especially in the MENA region,” she said. “Sharing ideas and getting to know other racers in different countries in personal live interaction will foster better future communication.

“The seminar was inspiring and it encouraged me to start investigating the reasons why young girls stop practicing what they initially liked [motorsport], unlike boys of the same age,” Shalaby added. “I am now more determined than ever to achieve my plans in gaining more international exposure, taking part in races and competing at a more professional level. It doesn’t seem to be just a dream anymore.”

Tunisian off-road competitor and race organiser Nadia Gammoudi added that the seminar had shown the benefits of competitors, organisers and clubs sharing their motorsport experiences.

“The seminar was very important in terms of being able to share our different experiences, to discuss problems and solutions, meet each other and create a group from different countries with the same goal – the development of Women in Motorsport,” she said.

Gammoudi has organised an off-road competition, the Gammoudi Desert Race, for female off-road racers in Tunisia in the past and added that the seminar had inspired her to stage another race.

“The first thing I did after I got back home was to prepare my 4X4 and begin to organise the seventh edition of my rally, which was suspended over the past two years because of revolution,” she said. “I used to believe that [it was just activity] on track that worked, but I now realise that this kind of seminar and this kind of communication could help a lot for the development of women’s role in motorsport. I used to work alone but that changed after the seminar.”

Jordan’s Randa Nabulsi, Vice President of the FIA Women in Motorsport Commission, concluded by saying that it had been

an honour for the Middle East to host the first Women in Motorsport seminar.

“I was very enthusiastic to have such a seminar in the Middle East, so that our voice will be heard,” she said. “As we discussed during the seminar the participation of women drivers needs to be improved and we need the support of ASNs worldwide and the assistance of the media in promoting this vision. I think this seminar furthered that goal in allowing women to express their goals, ambitions and concerns and to learn from each other’s experiences.”

Conclusions from the seminar included the need to focus on four primary areas; research, training, education for all, communication and promotion. This includes assessing the true position of women in the sport today, encouraging their involvement from an early age, and improving the perception of women’s participation in motorsport.

Nasser Khalifa Al Atya, QMMF President and FIA Vice President for Sport in the Middle East, said that the event had “made it clear that the women present have a strong motivation to build a clear vision and they are passionate about achieving their goals. This is a big achievement for us and the Middle East and it’s important we move this forward in a proper way.”

FIA World Cup for Cross Country Rallies

# Running the cross country show in Russia's Northern Forests

The recent Russian round of the FIA's World Cup for Cross Country Rallies saw a number of women involved in the organisation of the event, including Russian Automobile Federation General Secretary and Baja Russia Clerk of the Course, Svetlana Shakova.

"There is no gender distinction for anyone involved in Russian motor sports," she says. "People are estimated by their talents, whether it is the event organiser or participant."

Among those involved in the event organisation was Marina Sergeeva, Chief Secretary of the event, who has been working at the Cross Country Rally since its inception.

"I came into motor sport 12 years ago," she says. "Svetlana invited me to join her in rallies and cross-country rallies. The next year my two teenage daughters started helping me at events – they were 12 and 14 years old at the time – and we still work together today!"

"As for Baja Russia – we joined the organising team at the very first event. I've always held the Chief Secretary position," she adds. "My responsibilities include the co-ordination of

staff at rally HQ, administrative checks and scoring. My daughters hold secretary positions at World Cup and Russian Championships rounds.

"Our unit works like a perfectly-tuned mechanism," smiles Marina. "Of course we have some stressful moments, especially before the Stewards' Meeting when we have to prepare all the documents and all of the information has to be there, clear and precise."

Also working on the World Cup event was Baja Russia press officer and RAF information service supervisor Irina Boyarskaya.

"My first Baja was in 2008," she says. "I'm a sports journalist and was invited to it as a reviewer. The next year I returned to Baja Russia to coordinate the Information Service and after that I was offered a position as press officer."

"I love the feeling that all the information about each competitor, their cars, their speeds, timings etc all flows through me. I understand how to tame it and share it with thousands of people right when they need it."

Russian Automobile Federation General Secretary and Baja Russia Clerk of the Course, Svetlana Shakova.



FIA Junior WRC Championship



# Taylor makes solid FIA Junior WRC debut

Molly Taylor finished in a solid eighth position at the recent Rally de Portugal, her first outing in the FIA Junior WRC Championship.

After a successful campaign in the 2013 European Rally Championship, in which she won the inaugural Ladies' Trophy, Taylor made the switch to the Junior WRC earlier this year. Teaming up with her co-driver mother Coral, she is driving a Citroën DS3 R3 in the six-round championship, which takes in events in Portugal, Poland, Germany, Finland, France and Great Britain.

And in her opening event Taylor took home four points with eighth place among the 14 registered crews.

"It was a tough event with a lot of ups and downs – literally," said Taylor afterwards. "They were rollercoaster roads and it was a rollercoaster rally for us. There were lots of frustrations, including lack of turbo boost on the very first stage and a puncture and broken rim at the start of a long stage on Day Three."

"Obviously, we had to stop and change it and that delay, along with some traffic, made us late for the next stage, so we were hit with a time penalty, but when things were going well, we had

some good pace, which we were happy about."

The wet and muddy conditions during the pre-event testing meant the Taylors had no baseline set-up for the start and they had to adjust their set-up during the stages.

"I think we came up with a good package," she said. "It's obviously not ideal to do this during the rally but the car was always strong and it was great for my own development. I feel like I learned and improved myself an incredible amount over the weekend."

Commenting on competing in the Junior category of the WRC, Taylor said that the series is "a great environment to be in".

"This is the ideal spot for young drivers," she said in the official pre-event FIA press conference. "We're all competing in exactly the same car. This is everything the young drivers want, to be in the same cars and getting experience of the World Rally Championship – that's where we are all aspiring to be. This is the first stepping stone for me."

Molly's next event will be Rally Poland from 26-29 June.



Ambassadorial role

# Principal for progress

Monisha Kaltenborn, Team Principal of the Sauber F1 Team and FIA Women in Motorsport Ambassador believes that the Commission is already succeeding in raising awareness of the opportunities that exist for women in all spheres of motor sport, as her experiences at the recent Australian GP revealed...

You'd forgive it if Monisha Kaltenborn had a bit more on her mind than an interview. It's the first day of practice ahead at the first grand prix of the 2014 FIA Formula One season and the Sauber F1 Team Principal has spent the previous hour-and-a-half watching her drivers, Esteban Gutierrez and Adrian Sutil, put the team's new C33 car through its paces at Melbourne's Albert Park circuit.

After a tricky pre-season, it's the first time the team's new car, and the wealth of new technology it contains, have been run in anger and there's a lot to digest, consider and plan for.

Despite that, however, Monisha is waiting at the door of her office in the parkland track's paddock and more than happy to talk about the FIA's Women in Motorsport Commission and its ambitions.

In July 2012 Kaltenborn was appointed as one of the Commission's first Ambassadors and since then has been actively promoting its aims. And in a satisfying episode of synchronicity, the Australian Grand Prix presented the F1 boss with conclusive evidence that the bid to raise awareness of the opportunities that exist in motor sport for women is working.

"One of the prime targets of the platform of the Commission was to create awareness, and people were chosen in the hope that we can use them as the point with which we create that awareness," she explains. "If you look at Michèle [Mouton] and all she has achieved as a driver, the respect she has and the function she has within the FIA, that already creates significant awareness.

"Of course after that we need to get the message across that you need to engage and we need to be very active on that. If you look at just the aspect of, let's say young drivers, female drivers, you need to be proactive about that. If a young female racing driver wants to come to see you at a track, you have to be available for that. And here [in Melbourne] it happened," she smiles.

"A young Australian driver, racing in the Formula 3 Championship here, Chelsea Angelo, wrote to me and asked to meet me here. She said she wanted to pursue motor sport and wanted advice about where she should go next, when she should go to Europe etc. She was saying 'I'm now in F3, would you recommend Formula Renault, or should it be GP3 and then GP2' and asking whether she should do another

season in F3. Her aim is clear, she wants to be in Formula One, and it was the first time where I think I've seen a girl not thinking of many other things that you can do, but being completely focused on getting to where wants to go.

"This is fantastic," says Kaltenborn. "This is what shows me that we are going in the right way. These things take time, however, they take years to start. But Australia is very special because Australia does a lot of things for girls; it is a very strong movement here. It just gives you such a good feeling to see the first roots of these activities begin to grow. That girls write to you in advance of a race and that they really want to come and see you is great and I do think that's all because of the Commission."

Spreading the message has begun in earnest, too. In February of this year the first regional Women in Motorsport seminar was organised by the Qatar Motor and Motorcycle Federation (QMMF) in partnership with the FIA Women in Motorsport Commission. This kind of regional approach to encouraging participation is a tactic the Sauber F1 Team Principal approves of.

"I think it is extremely important that we try to use different venues around the globe, to be present there, because you can promote the agenda in a far more stronger way than you can do sitting far away," she says. "We have looked at the composition of the Commission, and right from the beginning it was one of the first projects we had: to write to all the ASNs, and to get representatives out to visit them."

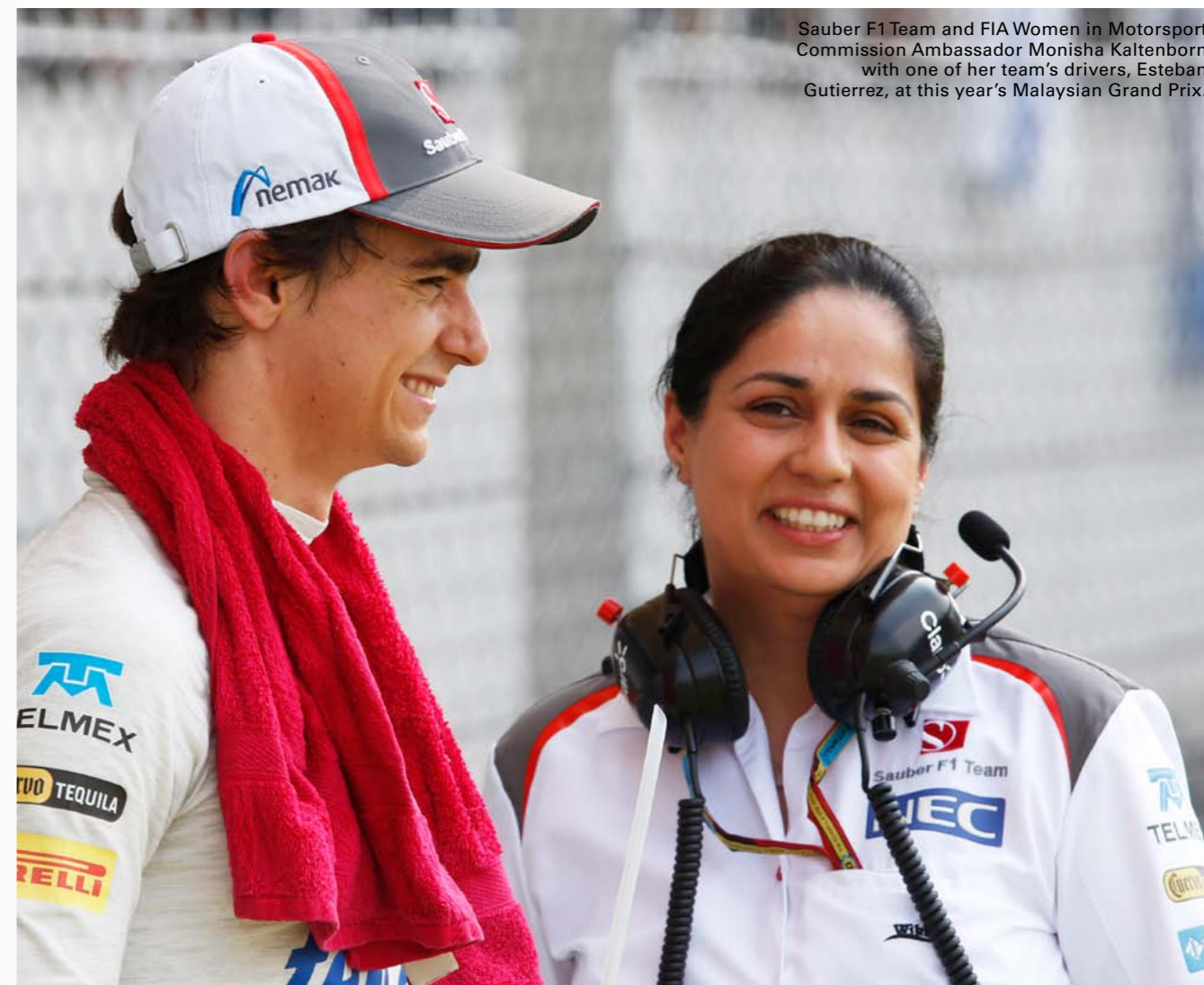
It isn't an easy task, however, particularly in areas where it isn't solely women's role in motor sport that needs to be promoted but the sport as a whole.

"It's not so easy, particularly in countries where motor sport is not that strong," she confirms. "And then of course if it is not that strong, women's participation in motor sport is even weaker. From that perspective we realise it is not so easy to always get feedback.

"I don't think there is a straightforward answer to it, because you could say that because it is something novel it might be easier to build up in a country where there are no established structures. On the other hand, you can say that if it is important first to establish motor sport, is it really something you will do straight away through appealing to women and girls? I think it depends a lot on the country.

"Take the case of Singapore," she adds. "Singapore is not really known as a motor sport destination, but yet there it worked because it was not established. It will be more or less difficult depending on the location. But this is why, if you can get to certain regions, you can create a strong impact because you are accessible to people, you can get more attention and spread the message, the intentions we have and the activities."

Sauber recently took its own step towards promoting



Sauber F1 Team and FIA Women in Motorsport Commission Ambassador Monisha Kaltenborn with one of her team's drivers, Esteban Gutierrez, at this year's Malaysian Grand Prix.

women's involvement at racing's top level, with the news that IndyCar racer Simona De Silvestro has been signed as an affiliated driver, in a similar role to that being undertaken by FIA Women in Motorsport Ambassador Susie Wolff at the Williams Formula One team.

"What we are doing with her is setting up a programme, which has started already," she explains. "First we will prepare her physically. We will look at the mental side a little bit as well, because it is very different from what she has been doing. The challenges, even physically, are very different. Then we will put her into a test car, an old model and of course she will get simulator sessions. She will be integrated into the team and she will also come to some of the races."

But while promotion of talent at Formula One level is where the major publicity is generated, Kaltenborn is adamant that it is communication at all levels and concerning all aspects of motorsport that is the key to getting girls involved at a young age.

"We need to get stronger on communication," she insists. "We have to communicate much more and across every area, because you have to keep in mind that if you want to get across to the young people today, you have to grab their attention. The girls out there are extremely confident, and for them if you are not number one it is not good enough, or close to the top, and we need to tell them that is possible, in many different areas. It is not only drivers, it is not only a certain motorsport, it is the officials, it is young girls wanting to come in with educational approaches, all sorts of things.

"Key in all this is always the national ASN, because they are the ones who reach out there to the young ones. It is not us. Yes, some of us can be role models or get more public exposure but that is all we can do – be there for information and courage. The key though is to get to them at a local level through the ASNs."



FIA Formula E Championship

## IndyCar racer Katherine Legge signs up for the Formula E Drivers' Club

United Sports Car Series racer, IndyCar competitor and FIA Women in Motorsport Ambassador Katherine Legge has joined the Drivers' Club of Formula E, the FIA's electric championship. Here, she explains why she's a firm believer in sustainable racing.

The Formula E Drivers' Club was launched in January 2014 and draws together a collection of top, international drivers from across Formula One, IndyCar and sportscars who all endorse the new FIA Formula E Championship and are vying for race seats in the series, which begins in September. One of the first to formalise her interest in the championship by signing up for the Drivers' Club was British sports car racer and FIA Women in Motorsport Ambassador Katherine Legge.

Ahead of the inaugural race of the season in Beijing, Legge, who last year raced in the ALMS series with DeltaWing Racing Cars, hopes to get the opportunity to drive the new Spark-Renault SRT 01E Formula E car, designed by Spark Racing Technologies together with a consortium of the leading names in motor sport including Dallara, McLaren, Williams, Renault and Michelin.

Speaking of her interest in the FIA's newest championship the IndyCar racer reveals that it is the series' focus on sustainable racing and her experiences with driving the DeltaWing car that drew her to join its panel of putative drivers.

"Formula E appealed to me as it is very different from conventional racing," she says. "With everyone looking at sustainable ways to do things nowadays it makes sense that it is the future of racing."

Legge joined DeltaWing Racing at the start of 2013 and driving the car, which utilises a small engine, radical aerodynamics and lightweight materials to promote efficiency, made the 33-year-old aware of the potential of alternative technologies in racing.

"I have been driving and helping to develop the DeltaWing for a year now, and that really opened my eyes to efficiency,"

she says. "Formula E looks to be a well-organised, ultra-competitive worldwide series in which some of the best drivers in the world will race.

"They have some amazing venues too," she adds. "I really want to prove myself in a global series that is well respected. I still have a lot to prove! It has always been the case that racing has been at the forefront of road car technology, I really believe Formula E will change people's perspectives and lead to development."

The next step for Legge will be to try to secure a seat in the new championship, though with 40 drivers looking to fill the 10 teams' 20 seats the competition will be tough. "I've got to find a team to drive for, I have contacted nearly every team on the list so far!" she laughs.

She is, however, excited about the challenge ahead.

"The Drivers' Club drivers should all get the chance to test the car soon, and I am very much looking forward to getting behind the wheel to experience it for myself," she says. "I can only imagine that with the nature of an electric engine it will produce a lot of its power at the low end: lots of torque. This should make driving it somewhat different. With the technology and the myriad of clever engineers working on the project, though, I am sure the driveability will have been developed to a stage as that it drives similar to the conventional race cars."

Ultimately, though, it's the chance to get in on the ground floor of a radically different style of racing that Legge finds enticing and its something she believes will be equally thrilling for motor sport fans.

"It's new and it's different; it's green and it's sustainable. There is so much new technology going into it that it garners attention," she says.

"The drivers and teams that have signed up for the championship are world class, so it should not only be at the forefront of racing technology but it should have fantastic racing," she concludes. "The events are going to be amazing, too, with the atmosphere of a real 'show' about them. What's not to like?"