



---

#### AMERICAN DREAM

An all-female crew targets glory in the world of US sportscar racing PG10

#### EXPANDING MISSION

The Girls on Track and Dare to be Different join forces to encourage fast females PG 14

#### TAMING THE BIG BEASTS

Steffi Halm on the thrill of competing in the FIA European Truck Racing Championship PG 20

---

# AUTO+

## WOMEN IN MOTOR SPORT



## FEMALE FINALE

The Girls on Track programme reaches a climax at Le Mans

THE GIRLS  
ON TRACK  
KARTING CHALLENGE

## TRIBUTE TO CHARLIE WHITING



"ON BEHALF OF THE FIA WOMEN IN MOTORSPORT COMMISSION, I ECHO THE TRIBUTES PAID TO OUR COLLEAGUE AND DEAR FRIEND CHARLIE WHITING.

MOTOR SPORT HAS LOST AN INCREDIBLE PERSON, SOMEONE WHO HAD TIME FOR EVERYONE AND DID SO MUCH TO HELP OUR SPORT.

MY MOST SINCERE CONDOLENCES TO HIS FAMILY AND FRIENDS AT SUCH A DIFFICULT TIME."

- MICHÈLE MOUTON -



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

In this edition we report on the final of the Girls on Track European Young Women Programme. Supported by the EU Erasmus+ initiative the programme introduced more than 1,200 girls in nine territories to motor sport and at Le Mans, at a hugely exciting three-day event, the number was whittled down to just six girls who will now form a European karting team.

We also look at the expansion of the Commission's mission to encourage more female participation through the launch of The Girls on Track - Dare to be Different at Formula E's Mexico E-Prix. There 200 girls from Mexico City got a first taste of racing.

Elsewhere we bring you news of the formation of all-female crews in the IMSA WeatherTech SportsCar Championship and in the European Le Mans series and at grassroots level we find out how the Commission is supporting junior karters through the Richard Mille Young Talent Academy.

Finally, we talk to truck racer Steffi Halm about the thrill of racing the big beasts of the motor sport world and to US engineer and racer Sabré Cook about success on and off the track.

We hope you enjoy this latest edition.

Your AUTO+ team



# Six European team members selected at Le Mans in The Girls on Track finale

The FIA's European Young Women programme, the Girls on Track Karting Challenge, which was supported by the EU's Erasmus+ scheme, reached its competitive climax at Le Mans earlier this month with the selection of six winners from 27 finalists chosen from more than 1,200 girls who participated in national selections across nine European countries.

In a highly competitive three-day competition, the finalists were put through a series of tough tests in order to whittle the strong field down to just six girls who now become members of the Girls on Track European Team. Finland's Milja Kukkonen, the Netherlands' Nina Pothof, Polish competitor Michalina Sabaj, Portuguese racer Matilde Fidalgo, and Sweden's Anna Glaerum and Maja Hallén Fellenius will now receive an exceptional opportunity to be supported by the FIA at two driver training camps during the year, where they will undergo a sporting and educational programme to support and enhance their careers in the high-octane world of motor sport.

"I can't even put it into words, it's so incredible and the best thing that ever happened in my entire life," said Glaerum of reaching the final six. "The last days I learned a lot, especially from the coach. I met a lot of people and it has been lovely to meet the girls and see how fantastic they are. It's been so good to be here and so much fun to drive."

Her sentiments were echoed by the other European Team members, with Kukkonen adding: "I didn't believe I would be one of the best and when they said my name I couldn't believe it. My driving was not the best I can do and I know I can be better. A new journey awaits and it's really exciting. I have a season in F4 in Finland coming up so there are lots of new opportunities."

After an orientation day at the Le Mans CIK circuit, the first day of real competition began on International Women's Day. The 27 finalists were split into two groups, not only putting their skills to the test on Le Mans' Circuit International de



# THE GIRLS ON TRACK KARTING CHALLENGE



Supported by **YOKOHAMA**



Karting but also interacting with other participants from all nine European nations during sociological, educational and communication workshops.

The girls were given the chance to try out junior specification 125cc karts and after a period of track familiarisation, were encouraged to set 'hot laps' around the 1.3 kilometre circuit. The competitors benefited from the experience of the trained FFSA Academy coaches who talked them through their racing lines, acceleration and braking points.

Joining the girls at Le Mans to offer encouragement and advice were top female racers Tatiana Calderón, Gosia Rdest and Mikaela Åhlin-Kottulinsky. Calderón, test driver at the Alfa Romeo Racing F1 Team and Formula 2 racer, was an interested observer and the Ambassador to the Girls on Track Karting Challenge was impressed with the level of commitment on show from the competitors.

"I remember when we launched the project a year ago in Geneva, and to actually be here now with the finalists and to see the huge potential they have really motivates me," said Tatiana. "I feel really proud of what has been achieved by everyone involved in the Girls on Track and hope it's just the beginning of a great future for some of the girls. I was really impressed with some of the driving, especially as the track was a bit slippy and of course a lot of them have only done slalom before, not driven on a full race circuit. The level was high."

As well as the track activity, the girls took part in a number

of workshops across the event with the first, conducted by the Challenge's academic partner CDES-PROGESPORT at the University of Limoges (the Centre for the Law and Economics of Sport), seeking to identify potential barriers for girls to get involved in motor sport.

The second full day of the final focused on off-track preparation and the importance of being physically and mentally ready for the intense world of motor sport.

"All of [day two] activities showed what it takes to be a complete racing driver," said Gosia Rdest, Vice Champion of the 2018 Polish Touring Car Championship. "It's not only about being fast on the track, but having the possibility to prepare to be fast. It is about physical preparation, having a clean mentality and having good concentration and reaction time."

The girls were put through their paces in a number of different activities, including undergoing maximal aerobic speed tests and reaction challenges to demonstrate how a full training plan can help them reach a peak level of fitness, and therefore performance.

Mikaela Åhlin-Kottulinsky, the first female to win a round of the Swedish Touring Car Championship, underlined the value of such training. "All these tests show how important the physical and mental preparation is. Of course the girls felt pressure, especially with so many people watching and assessing them, but they were 100% focused and able to exclude everything else around them. I was so impressed and motivated."

The final day saw the girls return to the track for final practice, the semi-finals and the grand final. Ahead of the crucial track shoot out FFSA Academy coaches spent time with the girls, dissecting the track via on-board footage that demonstrated optimum racing lines, braking and acceleration points to set the fastest time .

During pre-finals, each of the girls could count their average speed from three hot laps of the track and this was combined with their overall performance during the physical and educational sessions at the Academy. Nine of the girls then went into the final, where their five best lap times were taken into account, again just part of the overall assessment criteria that sought to ensure the six most promising young women who demonstrated potential, progression and commitment were selected to join the European Team.

Looking back over the European Final event, Challenge co-ordinator Jutta Kleinschmidt who is an Ambassador for the FIA Women in Motorsport Commission and the only woman to have won the Dakar Rally said: "This has been a truly exceptional experience for the girls and something I am sure all of them will remember for a lifetime. The level of competition has been extremely high and it's true to say that all of the girls who made it this far are winners. I am convinced they will continue following their dreams of success in what is an incredibly difficult but rewarding sport.

"Our mission is to encourage young women into motor sport and the Girls on Track Karting Challenge has definitely achieved that. Our intention now is that the programme can continue to be rolled out at national level and attract yet more young girls in many more countries around the world. This would be a huge step forward, especially at the grassroots level of the sport where the youngsters need to start their careers."



“

**ALL THE GIRLS WHO MADE IT THIS FAR ARE WINNERS**

- JUTTA KLEINSCHMIDT -

# EU Erasmus+ support crucial to success of programme

The Girls on Track Karting Challenge was created by the FIA Women in Motorsport Commission and supported by the EU's Erasmus+ programme to encourage more young women between 13-18 years of age to try motor sport and following the final, the FIA's Consultant on EU affairs, Mathieu Fonteneau said the EU support had been a key factor in reaching the project's ambitious goals.

"The FIA Girls on Track programme initially had several main objectives: to break stereotypes around motor sport, to make motor sport more accessible to young women at grassroots level, and to bring the best young women from grassroots to the top level. When the project was submitted to the European Commission in April 2017, nearly two years ago, the FIA and the Women in Motorsport Commission knew how challenging it would be to match those ambitions. But thanks to the support of the Erasmus+ programme the Women in Motorsport Commission has been able to deliver a programme that matched the scope of that ambition in every respect."

He pointed to the high levels of approval received by the project from surveys of competitors at the national events as an indicator of the success of the FIA's European Young Women programme.

"Fifteen months after the start of the project in January 2018, we have the first tangible results reflecting that the strategy implemented by the FIA and its partners was indeed accurate," said Fonteneau. "First of all, the preliminary analysis of the sociological survey conducted by the academic partner CDES PROGESPORT, which was discussed in Le Mans during the project's steering committee, reveals that around 96% of the 1,200 participants at the national selection events were satisfied by their experience. The final survey, which is an important part of the programme, will be presented in Brussels in October 2019 at the final conference. He also highlighted the quality of the final event at Le Mans.

"The European Final showed the amazing enthusiasm and passion of the 27 participants, their capacity and willingness to learn and quickly improve their natural driving skills to the top level, and their energy and creativity to make motor sport more accessible for young women. The combination of high-level sport and educational workshops, organised at the exceptional premises of the FFSA Academy, with the support of the experienced staff from the partners and the host, was the right formula.

"The European Final at Le Mans was not only a great experience for the young women, the first actors of the programme, it was also a great experience for all the organisations and partners involved."

# Increasing opportunities for female racers all across the motor sport spectrum



Since its creation at the end of 2009, the FIA Women in Motorsport Commission's mission to grow the level of female participation in motor sport at all levels and in a wide variety of roles has steadily gathered momentum. In recent times, however, the rate of growth has increased greatly, and as the 2019 racing seasons begin, the Commission, through engagement with sister sporting commissions with the FIA and championship promoters across the motor sport spectrum, is supporting a larger number of competitive opportunities than ever before.

"There is a lot going on surrounding women in motor sport at the moment and opportunities, certainly behind the wheel, are also definitely emerging. It feels like there is really positive movement, which is so rewarding for everyone who is working to open doors," said Commission President Michèle Mouton.

Working together with Formula E, two test days have provided significant opportunities for a number of female drivers.

At the opening round of the 2018/19 season in Saudi Arabia, a test following the E-Prix featured nine female drivers including Women in Motorsport Ambassador and Alfa Romeo Racing Team test driver Tatiana Calderón, British GT Championship winner Jamie Chadwick, sports car racer Katherine Legge, BMW FE test driver Beitske Visser and up and coming Emirati driver Amna Al Qubaisi.

The success of the test at the Ad Diriyah circuit led to a second opportunity to test at the Marrakech round of the championship for Tatiana and for Jamie Chadwick.

De Silvestro's Formula E commitments extend beyond the tests, however, as late last year she was named as test driver for the Venturi Formula E Team run by Team Principal Susie Wolff.

"As a Commission, we are working very hard with the FIA's

sporting commissions to develop opportunities for women to showcase their talent within current mixed environments," added Mouton. "The Formula E test in Saudi Arabia was a great example of how we can work with our championships and their respective promoters to provide these breaks for talented young women. We really have to thank Formula E and the teams involved, and it was fantastic to see Tatiana (Calderón) and Jamie (Chadwick) invited back for the second test in Marrakech."

The Commission President also highlighted the body's work in sports car competition.

"Endurance racing is another area where things are really moving. We have a top all-female team racing in IMSA in the United States, as well as ELMS, and a programme going on in ALMS that is part of a development strategy in Asia to support and encourage female racers at the base level of the discipline. This is real progress and it makes me immensely proud that our Commission has played a part in promoting female talent. We are also working closely with our own Endurance Commission to open doors in the FIA World Endurance Championship; this is another area where there is so much potential."

The current progress crosses all disciplines and a number of female drivers have achieved notable success.

Racing on the same weekends as Formula E, the Jaguar I-Pace eTrophy is a highly competitive single-make series for electric cars. At the second round, at Mexico City's Autódromo Hermanos Rodríguez, British driver Katherine Legge claimed an impressive flag-to-flag victory with fellow Rahal Letterman Lanigan Racing driver Sellers second. She followed up the victory with second place in Hong Kong and ahead of the round in Sanya lies second in the championship standings. Jamie Chadwick also made history by becoming the first female to win the MRF Challenge, and in karting the Richard Mille Young



“

**IT FEELS LIKE THERE IS POSITIVE MOVEMENT, WHICH IS SO REWARDING**

- MICHÈLE MOUTON -



Clockwise from top left: The nine women who tested in Formula E, Jamie Chadwick, the female ALMS crew, action at the Richard Mille Young Talent Academy and Katherine Legge wins in Mexico.



Talent Academy held a talent detection test for girls at Lonato in association with Birel ART. Six girls aged from 13 to 17 were assessed last December to form a two-driver female team for the 2019 international season. Brazilian Julia Ayoub was chosen to wear Richard Mille's colours in OK-Junior and the Spanish driver Maya Weug was selected in OK.

Off the track, Jutta Kleinschmidt, the first woman to win the Dakar Rally, has been elected as President of the Cross Country Commission, and 2016 Australian Rally Champion Molly Taylor has become a new member of the Rally Commission.

And finally, the Commission is delighted to see Sophia Flörsch preparing for the 2019 racing season with Van Amersfoort Racing after her terrifying accident in Macau last year.

# Quartet of female racers join forces for US sports car challenge

An all-female crew has been brought together to contest a full season of the IMSA WeatherTech SportsCar Championship and after a successful debut in Daytona hopes are high for the rest of the campaign



The all-female team of Jackie Heinricher, Katherine Legge, Simona De Silvestro, Bia Figueiredo and Christina Nielsen.

Four top women races have come together in the US to form an all-female team to contest the IMSA WeatherTech SportsCar Championship.

Brought together by lead US driver Jackie Heinricher, the team also comprises FIA Women in Motorsport Commission ambassador Katherine Legge, former Formula One development driver Simona De Silvestro and Brazilian racer Bia Figueiredo. The foursome will compete with Heinricher Racing and Meyer Shank Racing in the IMSA championship, driving an Acura NSX GT3 car.

“My vision was and is simple: to race with some of the best in the business, bringing diversity trackside and beyond,” said Heinricher of the formation of the first all-female team in IMSA since 1994. “By creating this vision and partnership we can all bring a fantastic level of support to those aspiring to be a part of racing, engineering, science and by doing so we are better able to serve our partners, clients and professional affiliations like the FIA by supporting the women and the diverse team we’ve assembled.”

“As the principal of the effort I feel a tremendous sense of pride and accomplishment. I could not be more honoured to join my teammates this year for the IMSA WeatherTech SportsCar Championship.”

The crew made its competitive debut at the classic 24 Hours of Daytona, finishing in 13th position in the GTD class in difficult conditions as heavy rain forced officials to end the race early for the first time in the event’s history.

“It was quite special to be a part of an all-female team especially at Daytona,” said De Silvestro of the squad’s debut. “The team gelled really well. We knew each other from different series in the past so it was really great to now be on one team and driving the same car. All of us were quite quick in general, so it was exciting to see and I think it showed in the race that we were really strong and had really good pace.”

Legge added: “We got on better than I think any of us had hoped. We are all used to being the only female on teams of only men, and so for us, it was a strange and new dynamic. We all have the same outlook and drive and we have shared experiences, so we actually became friends through it all.”

Heinricher was forced sit out the Daytona race due to a back injury and was subbed by double GTD class champion Christina Nielsen.

“I was very happy to be a part of this programme at Daytona because it involved women who are respected drivers and have proven themselves in their respective fields,” said Nielsen. “I believe we are sending a message to people and especially young girls that we can compete as equals and be competitive in the world of motor sport.”

All of the drivers involved in the team are keen for their presence in the championship to serve as encouragement to young women considering motor sport as a career.

“My thought is that by having real role models racing in the FIA, IMSA, and NASCAR, it inspires women to believe they too can race and accomplish things way beyond pit lane and with real support without concern for legitimacy. The car does not know the gender of the driver,” said Heinricher.

Away from IMSA, both Legge and Bia Figueiredo are part of the new Bell Helmets Women in Motorsports Mentor programme in the USA and Legge was keen to point out the impact already made by the programme and by the FIA Women in Motorsport Commission in boosting female participation in motor sport.

“I think within the last six months the tides seem to be turning, and there are more opportunities in a variety of avenues,” she said. “This has been helped in large part by the Women in Motorsport Commission pushing for us to get these opportunities.”

“It means a great deal to me to champion fellow females

aspiring to do things in racing. I have been doing it for a long time, and I know what it takes to be competitive in this sport. I hope that I can encourage and support the next generation coming through.”

Figueiredo, who will also compete in this year’s Brazilian Stock Car Championship added: “I’ve been with Bell Racing for 12 years and couldn’t be more thankful for their support. It’s been a pleasure being part of it. I’ve started my mentoring with Antonella Bassani, a 12-year-old Brazilian kart driver. The idea is teaching her everything I know and funding her career so she can have the same opportunities I had.”

As well as the WeatherTech Championship, the crew will also compete in the 2019 Michelin Endurance Cup Championship rounds. The Cup includes events at Sebring International Raceway, Watkins Glen International and Petit Le Mans at Road Atlanta.

Looking ahead to the rest of the US racing season, Legge is confident that the team can fight for major honours.

“We have a team of some of the best drivers in the world, and they happen to be female, but we can and will win races this year,” she said. “We have one of the best teams on the grid behind us and showed we could mix it at the front in Daytona.”

Commenting on the team’s prospects, Michèle Mouton, President of the FIA Women in Motorsport Commission said: “I am so pleased to see this strong programme for these great women drivers. Driving in a top team they can showcase their talent in IMSA’s flagship series and demonstrate they have earned their place on the grid.”



“

**THEY CAN  
SHOWCASE THEIR  
TALENT IN IMSA’S  
FLAGSHIP SERIES**

- MICHÈLE MOUTON -





# Sabré succeeding on and off the track

American student Sabré Cook has matched good results behind the wheel in karting and single-seaters with academic success by winning the US final of the INFINITI Engineering Academy programme

It's not an unknown in racing for a driver to have an enthusiasm for the engineering side of the sport, with many racers keen to get involved in the science of speed as well the raw skills of piloting a racing car.

It is, however, much more rare for a driver to possess a fully-qualified, scholarly understanding of the forces at play in a racing car and even more uncommon for that driver to be female. Sabré Cook is one such driver.

The US racer, who hails from Colorado, is not only a successful driver with multiple karting championships to her credit before moving to single-seaters in 2017, she's also a mechanical engineering student who recently won the US final of the INFINITI Engineering Academy programme, a global search for some of the best young engineers in the world.

The victory sees Sabré join six other winners from around the world in taking up a six-month work placement with the Renault F1 team at the outfit's base in Enstone and a further six months at INFINITI's Technical Centre Europe in Cranfield in the UK.

"It makes me feel very blessed and eager to learn all I can from this opportunity and do the best job I possibly can," said Sabré of the result. "Working closely with some of the best engineers in automotive and F1 and sharing this experience with another six talented winners, all with similar interests but from different parts of the world, is incredible. It's a big opportunity to grow, both professionally and personally. It feels unreal at times, but it just shows how everything is achievable with hard work and determination."

Cook, who studies at the Colorado School of Mines, has already started her INFINITI placement and says the experience has already proved invaluable.

"I started less than two months ago, and I am already gaining so much industry knowledge and utilising the vast network

that the INFINITI Engineering Academy provides," she says. "No other opportunity in the world will give me the range of experience that the Academy provides, and I know that after my time here I will be better prepared to tackle any engineering challenge and I will have a massive head start to achieve all my future career goals."

Cook's interest in both the driving and engineering sides of motor sport began at a young age. She started racing at the age of eight, becoming an eight-time state champion before progressing onto national honours, but as she grew up her passion expanded.

"I've always enjoyed school and been interested in all the subjects offered, but math has always been the subject I enjoyed the most," she explains. "My involvement in motor sports from a young age obviously fed my curiosity in STEM subjects as well. I was blessed to have some really great teachers and professors that I connected with, and they supported my intense desire to learn. Aside from my teachers, my Grandpa was very smart and his outlook on life influenced my love for science at a young age."

Managing to dovetail her racing and academic careers, Sabré spent last year learning the ropes of the US F4 championship. She competed in the final two rounds of the series and was awarded the Sabelt America Hard Charger Award for passing more cars than any other driver in the field at the final round at the Circuit of the Americas, gaining 14 positions in Race 1 and 11 in Race 2. She is now determined to continue to compete behind the wheel as well as in the garage.

"This is certainly more than just a hobby for me, and I'd like to continue to pursue a career as a driver for as long as possible while developing my experience and knowledge in engineering, as it is a more long-term career which I am also very passionate about," she says.

It hasn't always been easy for the girl from Grand Junction, however.

"There have been many difficulties to overcome in my career, just like everyone else, male or female. Sometimes respect and credibility are a bit harder to earn from your male peers, but that's not something I focus on. I just try to work as hard as possible and deliver the best result I can.

"It's also great meeting other female engineers at INFINITI and the Renault F1 Team who are excelling in their fields and are very much respected in the industry," she adds. "They're proof that there is space for women in engineering (there is space for any brilliant mind, really), and that it is possible to get to the top regardless of who you are or where you come from.

"I certainly wish there were more women in the industry, but the number is growing and I'd definitely encourage any woman to get into it and pursue a career in engineering or racing if that is what they're passionate about: there is a lot to contribute, a lot to gain, and lots of satisfactions that come with it."

And her ultimate goal? It's deceptively simple: "I'd like to get to be either an Indy Car driver or a lead F1 race engineer. Or both!"

“

I AM ALREADY GAINING SO MUCH INDUSTRY KNOWLEDGE. AFTER MY TIME HERE I WILL BE BETTER PREPARED TO TACKLE ANY ENGINEERING CHALLENGE

- SABRÉ COOK -



L-R: Felipe Calderon, Alberto Longo, Susie Wolff, Graham Stoker, Felipe Massa and José Abed.

# FIA Girls on Track - Dare to be Different launched during Mexico E-Prix

More than 200 girls from Mexico City took part in the first ever FIA Girls on Track – Dare to be Different event which took place during the weekend of the Mexican round of the 2018/19 ABB FIA Formula E Championship last month.

The new pilot project is an extension of the FIA's European Young Women programme, The Girls on Track, which was launched in 2018 in partnership with the EU Erasmus+ programme. Now, in collaboration with the Dare to be Different programme started by former F1 driver and Venturi Formula E squad Team Principal Susie Wolff, the new initiative encourages girls aged between 8 and 18 years old from around the world to get involved in all areas of motor sport.

"This is a really exciting collaboration and also demonstrates that when we have common goals and can join forces to realise our objectives, we have concrete opportunities to make a difference and further promote the place of females in motor sport, in all areas," said Michèle Mouton, President of the FIA Women in Motorsport Commission. "We also want to showcase how the format of the event can be replicated by the FIA's national sporting authorities in many different countries, which is really important to support the on-going and increased participation of young women in our sport worldwide."

The launch of the Mexico City event saw representatives from the FIA, Dare to be Different, local National Sporting Authority (ASN) OMDAI and Formula E gather in the E-Village at the Autódromo Hermanos Rodríguez, to introduce the programme.

FIA Karting Commission President and Formula E driver Felipe Massa and Beitske Visser, who tested for the BMW i Andretti Motorsport Formula E team in Ad Diriyah earlier in the season, were also on hand to give a demonstration at the karting slalom and talk to the girls about the challenges of racing.

The 200 girls present took part in a wide range of activities across two days, including a karting slalom, a pit-stop challenge, media

tutorials, practical STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) activities as well as road safety and environment awareness workshops.

In addition to the activities at the event space, 22 girls were treated to a once-in-a-lifetime experience with the support of the championship promoter and OMDAI, taking on the role of grid kids in the build up to the E-Prix.



“

**WE'RE GOING TO BREAK THE MOULD AND BRING MORE YOUNG WOMEN INTO OUR SPORT**

– GRAHAM STOKER,  
FIA DEPUTY PRESIDENT FOR SPORT –



# FIA celebrates International Women's Day



FIA Deputy President for Sport, Graham Stoker, said: "Our sport is almost unique in that men and women can compete together on equal terms. We've done a lot of work over recent years with the FIA Women in Motorsport Commission, but as it stands now our sport still only has around five per cent female participation, and of course the goal needs to be 50 per cent. That's not just our goal, but as the FIA is a full member of the International Olympic Committee, it means that we have now signed up to complete gender diversity within our sport."

"We know can do it, but we needed proven delivery mechanisms in order to achieve that target, which is where this programme comes in," he continued. "We've been working in Europe with The Girls on Track project, which is recognised and part funded by the EU, and Susie also over the last four years has rolled out the superb Dare to be Different project. I'm delighted that we can join together, it's a fabulous fit, and I think we're now going to break the mould, and bring a significant amount of young women into our sport."

José Abed, FIA Vice-President for Sport and President of

OMDAI, added: "It is a unique opportunity for Mexican motor sport to be the first in hosting the FIA Girls on Track - Dare to be Different programme. It is an amazing project with a greater mission focused on attracting more young women to our sport."

"Undoubtedly, it is a goal we must work on, not only in motor sport, but in all sports. Talent does not distinguish sex, race or social position and it is our responsibility, as leaders, to receive and support all the talented people who make sport even greater."

Dare to be Different Founder and Venturi Formula E Team Principal, Susie Wolff, said: "We are here to help these girls realise that racing isn't just for boys, not just out on the track but in all areas of the sport. I'd like to say a big thank you to all of my competitors from the paddock who have come over to show support for our event, I think it's something we all agree is important on this platform in the long term to commit to this cause."

"I'd also like to thank Graham Stoker and all the team at the FIA for their huge support in getting this off the ground and making this event happen here in Mexico, and lastly to Formula E Co-Founder and Chief Championship Officer Alberto Longo - Formula E is visionary in so many ways, and when we came to you with this idea he jumped on it and it really shows that we all stand together to make this sport more diverse."

Formula E Co-Founder Longo said that the championship is keen to serve as an inspiration to young women considering a career in motor sport.

"I'm delighted that Formula E is hosting this first joint event between FIA Girls on Track and Dare to be Different - the two programmes together will hopefully reach and inspire more girls to get involved in motor sport," he said. "We have a lot of role models in Formula E, from team principals like Susie, to team managers, engineers and of course a lot of potential young female drivers. We want Formula E to be the showpiece platform for this programme, which can hopefully be replicated by all ASNs to reach more and more girls worldwide."

The FIA family was out in force to mark International Women's Day 2019, with race series around the world joining together to promote this year's theme of #BalanceForBetter.

A call-to-action for driving gender balance across the world, the message was celebrated by officials and teams at the Mexican round of the FIA World Rally Championship (above), in Hong Kong at Round 5 of the 2018/19 FIA Formula E Championship (bottom right) and by drivers, team members and officials of the FIA World Touring Car Cup (middle right).

Offering advice to women wanting to get involved in motor sport, racing driver Michela Cerruti, who is now Operations Manager at the Romeo Ferraris organisation behind the Team Mulsanne Alfa Romeo entry in WTCR / OSCARO said: "Never think you cannot do it because of your gender, because it simply makes no sense. Whatever role you are aiming for, if you have the talent, the skills, the willpower and a properly built self-confidence, there is no reason why you shouldn't make it."





# Commission-supported female crew secures 24 Heures du Mans entry

The all-female Kessel Racing crew, which is supported by the FIA Women in Motorsport Commission, has secured one of the 60 coveted places on the 2019 entry list for the most famous endurance race in the world, the 24 Heures du Mans, which takes place on 15/16 June.

Manuela Gostner, Rahel Frey and Michelle Gatting will line-up on the starting grid in their Ferrari 488 GTE, the first time in 10 years that an all-female crew has competed in the event on the legendary Circuit de la Sarthe.

“This is a dream come true for the mission and objectives of the FIA Women in Motorsport Commission,” said its President Michèle Mouton, who won the Prototype 2L category at the 1975 Le Mans. “For nearly 10 years we have been working to promote the place of women in our sport and to try and open doors that will give female racers equal opportunities to demonstrate they have the talent to compete at the highest level. Kessel Racing has really embraced our philosophy and it is a real pleasure to be associated with such a professional team.

“To have secured this entry to Le Mans is absolutely fantastic, and not easy, and a real step towards our goal of getting women

on the podium at the most iconic event in endurance racing. I have to say a big thank you to the ACO for their support, and of course Kessel Racing for their faith in Manuela, Rahel and Michelle. The hard work really starts now, but with the official ELMS test and two race meetings before Le Mans, I am convinced the girls will use this preparation time wisely and be more than ready for one of the most significant races in their careers.”

Deborah Mayer, who was instrumental in making the Kessel Racing project possible, and who will be the Team Manager, added: “I am very honoured and proud that both the FIA WIMC and ACO have supported our project to realise this dream. It’s the start of a wonderful and lasting adventure.”

This year’s 87th running of the Le Mans 24 Hours is the finale of the 2018-2019 Super Season of the FIA World Endurance Championship and the Kessel Racing crew will be competing in the hotly-contested LMGTE Am category which has 18 secured entries.

As well as its history-making Le Mans entry, the trio is also entering the record books elsewhere in endurance racing – as the first all-female crew to compete in the European Le Mans

Series.

The crew, which will again compete with Kessel Racing in a 488 GTE Ferrari, teamed up for the first time at last year’s Gulf 12 Hours race in Abu Dhabi and claimed second in the GT3 Pro-Am category and sixth overall from a field of 33 cars competing at the Yas Marina circuit. Now they’ll join forces in Europe for the full six-round ELMS season.

“We had a full test day and long free practice sessions, where the performance was not bad at all,” said Manuela Gostner of the team’s debut. “I was very confident that if we can manage to avoid problems in the race, we can achieve a good result. But when we climbed on to the second step of the podium, I was very proud and happy.”

Gostner adds that the women’s strong result was a key factor in gaining a full season programme this season.

“I didn’t know exactly what Kessel Racing had in their mind after Abu Dhabi,” she said. “I hoped that what I showed during the race week was enough to continue a collaboration in some way. But when they told me about the project in the ELMS I could hardly believe and was incredibly happy.”

For Michelle Gatting the chance to race in the endurance series and at Le Mans is a dream come true. “Kessel Racing and Deborah Mayer have completely turned my career upside down, and I’m so grateful for this opportunity. For me it’s a dream coming true to get back to the big international race tracks, and with such a professional team. Sometimes I have to pinch myself to make sure I’m not dreaming.”

Rahel Frey was also quick to pay tribute to Mayer. “What she has, together with her family and Kessel Racing, is simply amazing and we can’t thank her enough for this great opportunity.”

The women’s first chance to repay Mayer’s faith comes at the 4 Hours of Le Castellet on 12-14 April and for Frey the goal is clear.

“The target is to always do a good job and be consistent – consistent would be good! That is the only way to steadily improve, become a frontrunner and make younger girls look up to us as role models.”

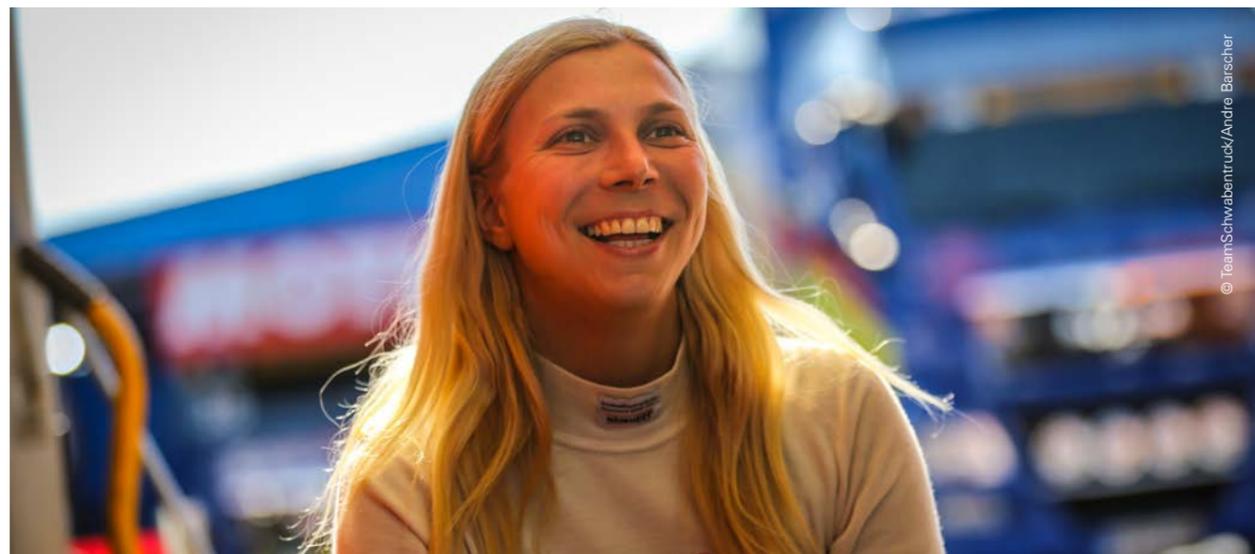


Rahel Frey (top) says that the Kessel Racing programme is a “great opportunity” for the three women on the crew, including Michelle Gatting (above). They will contest a full season in ELMS and race at the 87th 24 Heures du Mans in June in their Ferrari 488 GTE (below).



# Halm in for the long haul in FIA ETRC

By Katy Fairman



© TeamSchwabentruck/André Barscher

When it comes to tough and very different disciplines of motor sport, the FIA European Truck Racing Championship almost re-defines the term 'different'. For Steffi Halm, who is a regular race winner in the popular championship, it is the unique challenge of racing these 5,300kg, 1,200hp beasts that drives her desire to be so successful.

Introduced to motor sport in the traditional manner, through karting, at

the age of 10 Halm progressed to single-seaters in the German Formula König series famously won in 1988 by Michael Schumacher before moving to F3 and later touring and sports car racing. In 2011, though, she received a call that was to change her life, when she received a call from a racing team close to her home town of Herrenberg asking if she had experience in truck racing.

"I was a little unsure how you would make motor sport work with a truck," Halm says. "I read once about truck racing but thought they were driving with a normal street truck and they just called it 'racing'. I said I would try it for a season and see if I had fun or not."

She did have fun, lots of it.

"The feeling in the truck at the beginning was strange for me but that's because you are sitting so high," she explains. "You also always have a front to a car, but this is missing completely. Where the windscreen is, the truck ends. This was difficult in the beginning when it's tight in the race and you're driving very close."

"When you start to turn the truck with the steering, it takes a little bit of time," she adds. "The truck starts to turn because of the weight, but this weight also makes the reaction a little bit slower."

"We also need to cool down the brakes with a button in the cockpit, producing water for the front and rear axle and these are things you don't have to work with in touring cars. There you just drive, you don't have to worry about the brakes and the temperature – that will all be okay."

Contact is also a fan-favourite feature of the FIA European Truck Racing



Steffi Halm: "I've spent 24 years in motor sport, but I have never had such a difficult vehicle to drive."

© TeamSchwabentruck/André Barscher



Halm has won 10 FIA European Truck Racing Championship races, making her the only female driver to win a race in the FIA ETRC.

© TeamSchwabentruck/André Barscher

Championship. "You have to get used to it. In single-seaters you don't have contact, because normally when you have contact the race is over," says Halm. "We don't have carbon or things like that [in truck racing], so you can't compare the contact we have in trucks. The first hit I got was in Misano and because the noise was so big I thought the truck was completely broken."

"I was driving a little bit carefully until the next braking point for the next corner, I hit the brakes, turned, and I got on the throttle again. It was just like I had no contact before that point. The sound I heard, it was like if you had crashed into a wall in a touring car: it was incredible!"

Halm's first races in trucks were in an uncompetitive vehicle, but the German racer seized the opportunity to learn the ropes out of the spotlight. "There was no pressure, and nobody looked at me because I was, more or less, last position. For me, it was perfect. Nobody hit me and everyone respected me when I was racing on the line and I had completely no stress."

For 2012, Halm made the move to the French Truck Racing Cup and won the series – twice. "I was the first woman to win the French championship and there I learnt a lot," she says. "When I came back, I had the speed to be around sixth to tenth position and then [rivals] started to recognise me. I like to think that they always respected me, but then there comes a time when you start to go a little bit faster and you start to disturb the top drivers. They try to scare you a little bit, in the beginning

they try to push you maybe a little bit harder, to make you nervous, saying 'hey, we're here and if you want to come here you have to fight hard'.

"You show them that you don't slow down, that you're fighting. If you fight fair, they will do the same. I never have the feeling that they don't respect me. It was a much more difficult situation in the beginning of touring cars."

Halm has gone on to win 10 FIA European Truck Racing Championship races, making her the only female driver to win a race in the FIA ETRC and also placing her among the most successful women in an FIA championship.

Taking her first victory at the Hungaroring in 2015 thanks to the benefit of a reverse grid, she has also gone on to win races from pole position at tracks such as the Red Bull Ring in Austria. Her last win was at the Nürburgring last year with the highly skilled Ulm-based Team Schwabentruck squad driving an IVECO.

"Truck racing is a very good opportunity. I have learned so many things," she says. "I've spent 24 years in motor sport, but I have never had such a difficult vehicle to drive."

"I never expected that I would stay racing trucks but I think it's a good choice for drivers and I have so much fun. The racing lets us fight hard and everybody wants to win, but besides that the racing it's really good and it's a friendly climate; you don't have that in so many motor sport series."



Tatiana Calderón has signed with BWT Arden for her debut season in the FIA Formula 2 Championship.

# Tatiana Calderón moves closer to F1 goal with Formula 2 drive



© Gregory Heilman

Team as its Development Driver, promoted in 2018 as Test Driver, a role that she will keep for this year again with the Alfa Romeo Racing Team, with more mileage in the cockpit of a Formula One car in 2019 to be completed.

Calderón was also invited to be part of the FIA Formula E tests in both Saudi Arabia and Marrakech earlier this year.

“It was a great opportunity to experience the Formula E car and Championship for the first time in Saudi Arabia,” she said of the test in Ad Diriyah which featured nine female drivers. “I want to thank the FIA, Formula E and DS-Techeetah for the opportunity. I believe this is exactly the chances we need to be given, the FIA did a great job creating the opportunity for us women to test and in my case it created further possibilities that otherwise wouldn’t be possible. The team did a great job preparing me for it as it is a very different car to drive if you compare it to a GP3, F2 and an F1 car.

“They were very happy with the work we did which then led to a second opportunity to test for them in Marrakech on the rookie test. We were very competitive and I learnt a lot working with one of the top teams in Formula E. I was able to explore the limit much more and I really enjoyed driving the car. Formula E is a very exciting and interesting championship and I hope I get to experience more of it in the future.”

She posted an impressive time of 1:17.674s, which would have been good for fourth place in the E-Prix’s Super Pole shootout. She ultimately posted the seventh overall time, but did not run in the warmer afternoon conditions.

In addition to her busy schedule behind the wheel, Calderón is also taking steps to advance the racing careers of future female drivers through the establishment of a driving school for women at Spain’s Circuito de Navarra.

“It took me a lot of effort to get here and I think I can share everything I’ve learned with the new generation of female drivers so that they can find a place in a sport where it’s difficult to stand out,” she says of the planned school. “I hope we can make this initiative work, as it will undoubtedly be good for the sport that has given me so much.

“The Circuit of Navarra has magnificent facilities to develop a future school and we will work together with the circuit in the development of this project. If there are girls who stand out and win in karting, I do not see why they can’t continue to do so in single-seaters or cars. I’m sure there are girls with enough ability and passion for this sport to reach the top and they need to be prepared as well as possible so that they have their chance.”

FIA Women in Motorsport ambassador Tatiana Calderón is to contest the 2019 FIA Formula 2 Championship as part of the BWT Arden team driver line-up. The series is the final step on the FIA’s racing ladder from junior single-seaters to the pinnacle of the sport, Formula One.

“I’m very excited to compete in the FIA F2 Championship. It’s a new challenge in my career and a step closer to my ultimate goal to reach Formula 1,” said Calderón. “I want to thank my sponsors Coldeportes and Escudería Telmex-Claro for making it happen and to my family for always giving me their unconditional support. I’m sure we will achieve great things together.”

FIA Women in Motorsport Commission President Michèle Mouton said: “This is really exciting news for Tatiana and her career is going from strength to strength each season. We have known of her strong potential for a long time, which is also the result of her hard work and determination to succeed. As one of our own ambassadors I am extremely proud of what she is achieving.”

Tatiana will contest the full 12-round championship, which races alongside Formula One. She will make her F2 debut on the weekend of the Bahrain Grand Prix from 29-31 March.

The 26-year-old Colombian is no stranger to F1 weekends having raced in the GP3 series featured on grand prix weekends. In 2017 she moved to the Sauber F1



# Doriane Pin selected for Commission-supported F4 test

In partnership with the Winfield Racing School, the FIA Women in Motorsport Commission has chosen one lucky girl from 18 participants in the Volant Winfield training programme for further race preparation and a coveted test in the FIA's entry-level single-seater category

Doriane Pin received the support of the WIMC at Le Castellet: "I learned a lot of things during these three days thanks to all the coaching we had."



Doriane Pin emerged as the most successful female racer at this year's Volant Winfield programme. A total of 18 young racers took part in the three-day test at the Circuit Paul Ricard.

Fifteen-year-old Doriane Pin has been selected from 18 participants of the Volant Winfield talent training programme to undergo race preparation training and Formula 4 testing as part of a development programme initiated by the FIA Women in Motorsport Commission and France's Winfield Racing School.

The Commission pledged to support one of three female drivers selected to participate in this year's Volant Winfield programme, which took place from 23-25 February, should she not be the outright winner of the programme. Volant Winfield is a single-seater talent training and selection scheme organised by the France-based Winfield Racing School.

Eighteen young drivers, boys and girls aged between 14 and 17 years, were chosen for training and evaluation at the Circuit Paul Ricard. In addition to driving, the three-day programme also features physical and mental assessments and media training, as well as workshops hosted by industry experts in the fields of regulations, engineering, tyre management and vehicle dynamics.

The winner, 15-year-old Jules Mettetal from France has won a season's racing in the 2019 French FIA F4 Championship, while compatriot Pin was chosen by the Commission as the most deserving female. She will now participate in one full day of race preparation, including simulator work, physical and mental tuition and coaching with Winfield Racing School, as well as two official Formula 4 test days with the FFSA Academy at the Paul Ricard Circuit.

"For me [the Volant Winfield] was an unforgettable moment," said Doriane. "I learned a lot of things during these three days thanks to all the coaching we had. I am really happy to win the 2019 FIA Women in Motorsport Award with Winfield. Of course I wanted to win the Volant Winfield but now I will focus on being ready for the 2019 F4 FFSA Academy championship. We still need to find more partnership but I will do my best to be on the grid. Work hard and train hard are my mottos to reach the top level in motor sport."

Former F1 star Jarno Trulli was a member of the judging panel and the Monaco Grand Prix winner said that Doriane demonstrated good potential: "She just needs more experience but has strong driving skills; congratulations to her," he said.



CONTACTS:  
IF YOU HAVE ANY COMMENTS  
ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER OR  
STORIES FOR THE NEXT ISSUE, WE  
WOULD LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU.  
E-MAIL [PRESS@FIA.COM](mailto:PRESS@FIA.COM)