



BRITISH WOMEN RACING DRIVERS' CLUB

Founded in 1962 by Mary Wheeler MBE - President: Susan TP-Jaimeson

Vice Presidents : Louise Aitken-Walker MBE Natalie Goodwin Gabriel Konig Bette Hill

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PRESS RELEASE

Champions and Members of the British Women Racing Drivers' Club gather at Silverstone to celebrate International Women's Day

Monday March 8th 2010: BWRDC Chairman, Helen Bashford-Malkie, MSA WiMG Chairman Sue Sanders, BWRDC representative on WiMG Aggie Foster, Lorina McLaughlin with her ex-Michael Schumacher B192, Carolyn Campbell with her Rocket Dragster, Ginetta Jnr Champion Sarah Moore, Formula Renault driver & BWRDC GoldStars 'Elite' winner Alice Powell, Carolynn Hoy of Formula Kart Stars, Louise Richardson, Zoe Wenham, Anna Walewska, Cat Lund from Rockingham Speedway, Celia Stevens, Sarah Playfair, Marion Barnaby, Kelly Bird, Jade Paveley, Kat Impey plus committee members Sally Blake, Sarah Franklin, Jeremy Rivers-Fletcher and Georgie Shaw were among a host of women racing drivers and officials to join television presenter Louise Goodman at Silverstone to celebrate their participation in motor sport for International Women's Day.

Motor sport is one of the very few sporting activities in which men and women compete alongside each other on an equal footing, yet as they make up only 8% of registered licence holders, women are hugely under-represented among motor sport drivers.

There are, nonetheless, an estimated 50,000 women actively involved in British motor sport, organising events, running clubs and associations, timekeeping, marshalling and fulfilling a host of other support roles without which the sport itself could not continue.

To celebrate their importance to motor sport, more than 50 female competitors, marshals, officials and volunteers gathered at Silverstone, home of British motor sport and the 2010 Santander Formula 1 British Grand Prix, by the Motor Sports Association's Women in Motorsport Group.

Among the attendees was Go Motorsport ambassador and ITV's British Touring Car Championship presenter Louise Goodman. Also present was ex-multiple BWRDC Champion, Lorina McLaughlin with her ex-Michael Schumacher Benetton B192 and reigning Ginetta Junior Champion and 2009 BBC Young Sports Personality of the Year nominee Sarah Moore.

Goodman said: "It was a fabulous experience to come together with all these other women involved in the sport to show that motor sport is not just for the men. I really hope that this inspires more girls to consider the sport; one of them might just turn out to be the new Jenson Button!"

Helen Bashford-Malkie, BWRDC Chairman added: "It was a marvellous way to show that a lot of women share a passion and real commitment to motorsport whether as competitors, officials or supporters. Hopefully this event will encourage more women to get involved; perhaps even follow in the footsteps of Divina Galica, Louise Aitken-Walker or Susie Stoddart!"

Sue Sanders, Chairman of the MSA Women in Motorsport Committee, said: "This has been a fantastic opportunity to demonstrate the diverse range of roles that women undertake within the sport at all levels. We believe that motor sport is truly fair and equal but there is plenty of room for more women. We hope that this gathering will celebrate those already involved and stimulate others that may be interested in getting started."

MSA Chief Executive Colin Hilton said: "Motor sport still tends to be seen as a male-dominated activity, so we need to create female role models to inspire the next generation. We are seeing a substantial increase in female participation among the junior ranks, especially with the Let's Go Karting initiative that gives young people a first experience of karting for just £5. Similarly, the Go Motorsport message that we are taking to schools across the county is aimed equally at girls and boys."

Editor's notes:

International Women's Day is a day of global celebration for the achievements of women, and has been recognised as such since the early 20th Century. Thousands of events are held across the globe annually to mark the occasion, which is a national holiday in many countries.

The Motor Sports Association (MSA) is the national governing body for four-wheel motor sport in the UK, responsible for the regulation and administration of the sport. The MSA is a member of the world governing body, the Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA) and holds a seat on the World Motor Sport Council. The MSA represents 33,000 licence holders, 15,000 volunteer marshals and officials, more than 750 member clubs and issues permits for 5,000 motor sport events every year.

In recent years the MSA has expanded its remit to cover the development of the sport and currently invests in excess of £1m a year in the three elements of its Whole Sport Plan. 'Grow' targets an increase in participation levels, 'Sustain' invests in the infrastructure of the sport, its clubs and its people, and 'Excel' focuses on training future world champions and educating their peers.

The British Women Racing Drivers' Club (BWRDC) was founded in 1962 by the late Mary Wheeler MBE and currently has 150 members from around the UK and Europe. Since its inception as a racing club, the BWRDC has expanded to include sections for rallying, karting, hillclimb & sprint, autocross/rallycross, 'Wheeler's' (retired drivers), officials & supporters. Members can compete for a variety of impressive trophies presented annually by a Guest of Honour at the Awards Presentations & Dinner; and the BWRDC GoldStars Award presented annually by a motorsport 'star' on the BWRDC Stand at Autosport International. The winners of the 'Elite' and 'Club' categories benefit from a generous sponsorship package and are mentored for the year by Susie Stoddart and Liz Halliday respectively. The winners and nominees also benefit from a dedicated GoldStars web page for the year.

BWRDC members also benefit from the Club's quarterly magazine, Racing Vogue, a website and forum, all offering great PR and networking opportunities. From grass roots to professional status, everyone is valued at the BWRDC and members can tap into the wealth of experience within the Club at any time.

For more information visit www.bwrdc.co.uk and www.bwrdc-goldstars.co.uk

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