

# Motorsport News

International Edition – February 2019



## China

### 2019 Asian F3 Series: excellent visibility for FUCHS

FUCHS China is one of the main sponsors of the F3 Asian Championship Certified by FIA created in 2018 and the new F3 Asia Winter Series introduced in 2019. International teams participate in these series which are an ideal development platform for young drivers. The spectators look forward to these exciting events. // Page 2.

## France

### The memorable adventure for Giroud at the 2019 Dakar

At the end of the 5,000 km Dakar 2019, Alexandre Giroud, FUCHS Silkolene partner for more than a decade, won 4th place in the Dakar quad overall. This talented driver rivalled the winners as well as the best riders in this rally, riding his Yamaha YFZ 700 Quad AT on the ten stages in the extraordinary edition of this legendary rally-raid. // Page 5.



## Great Britain

### Spotlight on the FUCHS LUBRICANTS Classic Mini Challenge

The Classic Mini Championship is a new-format race with a simpler structure for contenders to demonstrate their skills and abilities. This is a great opportunity for FUCHS to get more involved in the classic car sector. // Page 8.



## China

### Focus on FUCHS China, main sponsor of the F3 Asian Championships

After the success of the F3 Asian Championship Certified by FIA and the enormous excitement of the teams, the Asian promoter Top Speed, decided to organize the first edition of the F3 Asian Winter Series. The first of the three rounds of this series took place in January at the legendary Buriram International track in Thailand and was followed by two rounds at the iconic Sepang International circuit in Malaysia. This series makes perfect sense, giving the teams the opportunity to prepare for the F3 Asian Championship and drivers from all over the world a chance to test this new era of the single-chassis, single-engine regional F3. The opening rounds of this new Winter Series were a great success.

FUCHS China is the main sponsor of this Asian Winter

Series and also, for the second time in a row, the F3 Asian Championship. All the cars are sporting the FUCHS logo. As in 2018, the five rounds will be live-streamed internationally.

Eleven teams are registered in the international F3 Asian Championship Certified by FIA in 2019. They come from: China, Japan, America, Great Britain, India, the Philippines, Italy and Mexico. All the drivers will race with an Alfa Romeo. The ATM AR-F3R is a turbocharged 270hp, 4-cylinder with a capacity of 1742cc built into a Tatuus F3 chassis.

The professionally-run championship offers teams and sponsors a high-profile showcase and an entry into the massive markets of Southeast Asia.



## France

### Enzo de la Vega: first tests with the Flembo team in Aragon

Newcomer to the Flembo team, 19-year-old Enzo de la Vega has great experience in the world of motorcycles. At 3, he experienced his first motorcycle ride on a Pw 50 and at 14, he participated in his first competitions on circuits. From then, he won several championships: French Cup Promosport 400, Challenge Yamaha R3 and the Ranch Valentino Rossi. He also took part in prestigious races such as the World Championship Moto Junior 3, the Bol d'Or (4th place) and the Red Bull MotoGP Rookies Cup. This season, Enzo joins the Flembo team alongside two other competitors involved in Supersport 300 and 600. With his Kawasaki Ninja 400, the French driver will compete, for the third year in a row, in the nine rounds of the World Supersport 300 Championship. The first winter tests will take place at the Aragon circuit in Spain.

“These trials will allow us to finalise the adjustments made this winter in the team workshops. A few weeks later, it's on this same track that I will run the first rounds of the 2019 World Cup.”

This highly competitive category brings impressive drivers from professional racing teams together. Despite some technical problems encountered during the 2018 season, Enzo raced in the top 15 of this world championship against 45 renowned drivers. “My goal is to enter the top 5 in 2019.” At more than 215 km/h on highly technical circuits, he will put his know-how and determination in front of intractable competitors with an unrivalled performance.

“We chose to sponsor Enzo de la Vega for the 2019 season for several reasons. First, this new headliner completes our brilliant FUCHS Silkolene motorcycle teams. He is young and has a very promising racing career ahead of him. This partnership is an excellent collaboration for him as well as for us. Second reason, he races in a world championship that is expanding rapidly, bringing together more and more top-level drivers and taking a truly international turn,” explained Dinis Cunha, FUCHS France Operational Marketing Manager.

**FUCHS lubricants: Silkolene PRO BOOST, Silkolene PRO R SAE 0W-20, Silkolene PRO SRG 75, Silkolene CHAIN LUBE, Silkolene FOAM FILTER OIL, Silkolene BRAKE FLUID.**

**Calendar: April: Assen, May: Imola (Italy), June: Jerez (Spain) and Misano (Italy), July: Donington Park (UK), September: Algarve (Portugal) and Magny-Court (France), October: Qatar.**



## France

### Jordan Berfa in the starting blocks of the 2019 French Asphalt Championship

At the end of a 2018 season full of surprises but which ended with a very good victory in the Rallye Fenouillèdes, Jordan Berfa starts this year even more motivated driving his Hyundai i20R5. At 23, Jordan has proven himself on land rallies time and time again, notably by winning the 2017 French Earth Rally Championship title. In 2018, supported by the Turbo ABP Competition team composed of 12 people, he chose to switch categories and run on asphalt. He gained his first experience with drivers such as the French champions Yoann Bonato and Bryann Bouffier.

At the start of the 2019 season, with his mechanics, he made the last modifications to his race car before competing in his first rally of the season, the Rallye de Lyon-Charbonnières.

“The main improvements were on the rear suspension and the shock absorbers for a better handling of the car. Nevertheless, we do a complete check-up of the car before our first competition. Our 2018 participation in the asphalt rally has allowed us to progress and learn all rounds.”

After a transition season in the French Asphalt Rally Championship, Jordan and his co-driver Damien Augustin (32) will resume taking on new challenges. Even more enthusiastic than ever, they first hope to have their revenge at the rally Lyon-Charbonnières race,

which they had to abandon in 2018.

Highly awaited by the public and their fans, the two riders of the Turbo ABP Competition team are preparing to have a thrilling season in this championship which is bitterly contested by leading teams.

The team is sponsored by FUCHS France for the second time in a row.

**FUCHS lubricants: TITAN RACE PRO S SAE 10W-60, TITAN SINTOPOID LS SAE 75W-90, MAINTAIN DOT 5.1, MAINTAIN FRICOFIN -35, PENTOSIN CHF 11S**

*Calendar 2019: Lyon-Charbonnières: 18-20 April, Antibes: 17-19 May, Vosges: 14-16 June, Aveyron: 4-6 July, Mont-Blanc: 5-7 September, Critérium des Cévennes: 24-26 October, Rallye du Var: 22-24 November*



## France

### Alexandre Giroud, impressive at the Dakar 2019

For his third participation in the Dakar, quad rider Alexandre Giroud successfully won 4th place in the quad general standings. The 41st edition of this prestigious rally-raid took place in Peru over a particularly challenging 5,000 km with 70% of the race in the Peruvian deserts. Of the 334 drivers entered only 179 (75 bikes, 15 quads, 76 cars and 13 trucks) overcame all the difficulties of this international rally-raid and passed the finish line in Lima. As well as coming in 4th, Alexandre won a personal victory in a rally punctuated with pitfalls and trauma (injuring his ankle following a jump).

### Alexandre Giroud defeats the 2019 quad driver winner

Facing the first three Argentines who were leading the race – supported by professional teams and experienced in desert driving – Alexandre battled hard and clenched his teeth. “Between the dust, the sand and the competitors blocking the passage, the overtaking proved perilous and I had to take all the risks to pass them and progress. This year, the circuit through the dunes was particularly trying and

tricky. I didn't have any respite. It was necessary to be very focused on driving and avoiding quicksand and the fesh fesh. On the way back, it was even more complicated to find the right track. Although equipped with a road book and a GPS, it was difficult not to get disoriented following the tracks of other competitors and not to get bogged down in the sandy furrows of other vehicles while giving maximum power.” What a remarkable performance by Alexandre who defeated 2019 quad winner, Nicolas Cavagliasso, during the 8th stage. The French rider's margin was slim: seven small seconds. But still!

This year, with the assistance of a mechanic, Alexandre was able to compete with a machine checked after each stage. “I am delighted with the performance of FUCHS Silkolene lubricants. Their quality has allowed us to overcome the mediocrity of the petrol imposed by the organizers and guaranteed to run with confidence. I refused the competing oils recommended by the organization!”

*Characteristics: Quad YAMAHA YFZ 700 – two-wheel drive tractor – 750 cm<sup>3</sup> – Performance tuner: SMX Racing – Assistance: Dragon Distribution*

**FUCHS lubricants: Silkolene Quad ATV 10W-40, Silkolene CHAIN LUBE, Silkolene WASH-OFF, Silkolene PRO WASH, Silkolene FOAM FILTER OIL**



## Belgium

### Belcar Endurance Series: both exciting and attractive

For the fourth season in a row, the McDonald's Racing team will run with a NORMA M20FC. Because the drivers won the Belcar title in 2017 and gained 3rd place overall in 2018, their ambitions could only be higher this season.

"I have succeeded for several years in my team with fast drivers and that will also be the case in 2019," said the well-known driver François Bouillon. He will race the full season in the Belcar Endurance Series with Marco Van Oppens, Koen De Wit, Kris Cools and occasionally with Frédéric Vervisch.

Future victories in this season will also need the skills of Koen De Wit. This famous competitor has proven himself in multiple disciplines over previous years. Where ever he races, his BMW M3 and M4 are always up front.

Competing with them is the talented Kris Cools, well known as the man who drove the Norma to 1st place several times in 2018. And finally, the racers will be joined by the brilliant Belgian driver Frédéric Vervisch who will always be there when his Audi international program will allow it. Frédéric will participate in the 24H of Zolder with the team.

The technical side, as previously mentioned, is provided by the Triple One professionals. The team consists of Team Chef Vincent Desschans and Data Engineer Frans Jacobs.

The Belcar Endurance Trophy in 2019 has six meetings, four of them at Zolder, one at Spa and a foreign trip to Assen in the Netherlands.

In 2018, this championship united more than 160 drivers in 40 teams from 19 different nationalities who drove on two different circuits. 75,000 spectators and 5,000 VIPs came to the six races to applaud the drivers and feel the adrenaline of each round. 8 TV channels relayed these sporting events while two million visitors followed the races online. More than 35,000 YouTube views were recorded.

**FUCHS lubricants: TITAN SINTOPOID LS SAE 75W-90, TITAN RACE PRO S SAE 10W-60, TITAN BRAKE CLEANER**

*Calendar 2019: May: DTM (Zolder) and Superprix (Zolder), July: 25 Hours Fun Cup (Spa), August: Eleven Sports 24 Hours (Zolder), October: American Festival Nascar Finals (Zolder) and Finale Races (Assen)*



## Great Britain

### **Arenacross with FUCHS Silkolene sponsored Kawasaki Team Green**

The six-round, three-city (Belfast, Birmingham and Sheffield) Arenacross Tour, observed a record-breaking crowd of more than 10,000 spectators attend rounds 3 and 4 at the Birmingham NEC.

Arenacross is a high-octane mix of indoor motocross racing and Freestyle MX, the most dangerously spectacular art form of motocross that takes place on a huge take-off and landing ramp sitting in the centre of the Arena.

Greg Aranda of FUCHS Silkolene-backed Kawasaki team Green came through the pack and grabbed enough points to secure the red plate (the current points leader) going into the final rounds in Sheffield.



## Great Britain

### **FUCHS LUBRICANTS Classic Mini Challenge: a new competitive series**

Classic Mini racing has been given a huge boost with the launch of a new eight-round championship. FUCHS UK has joined forces with Clitheroe and District Motor Club to create the FUCHS LUBRICANTS Classic Mini Challenge. The Challenge will run from February to September, taking in Lincolnshire, Mid Wales, Cumbria, Isle of Man, Northern Ireland, Southern Scotland and South East Wales. The championship coordinator has devised a format with a simple class structure, allowing contenders to demonstrate their skills and abilities.

The successful first round of the championship was held on the Jack Neal Rally at Blyton Park Driving Centre in Lincolnshire, where seven crews took up the challenge in gale force winds.

From the outset, the team comprising Rick Ford and Neil MacDonald led the way. In 2nd place were Father and Daughter team Steve and Jessica Robinson, followed by Barry Stenhouse and Suzanna Whalley in 3rd place.

The next round is in March on the infamous Epynt Military Ranges in Mid Wales.



## Great Britain

### **Congratulations to Drew Bellerby for her 2018 award**

**At the 2018 season awards ceremony held in January, the awards committee chose FUCHS sponsored Drew Bellerby for an ‘Outstanding Performance Award’.**

Selected because of her outstanding drive at the Pembrey circuit when she cut through the field from last position to finish 2nd in the final, a very surprised Drew was thrilled to be presented with the award. Drew, in only her second season competing in the BMW MINI Championship, finished her season with a total of 165 points, earning her 4th overall in this championship series. Drew has a new car ready and primed for the upcoming 2019 season,

during which she will be joined by Rochdale rally driver Steve Brown who is adding another motorsport discipline to his repertoire for 2019 as he joins rallycross Team Bellerby in the British Rallycross Championship, also in a BMW MINI.

**FUCHS lubricants: TITAN RACE SYN 5, TITAN RACE PRO S SAE 5W-40, TITAN RACE PRO S SAE 5W-30**



## South Africa

### **Monroe Racing RSA team excited with the arrival of new riders**

The Monroe Racing RSA team sponsored by FUCHS has beefed up their 2019 team with two young women riders for the season. Daphne Lang is the first of the two new women drivers. She will race in the Extreme Festivals and Monicle series with a Kawasaki ZX-6.

The youngest member to join the team is 13-year-old Jessica Vermaak. This young rider hails from Port Elizabeth and will form part of the team's 'Dreams Reimagined' programme.

Jessica Vermaak has been racing in the NSF 100 series, where she finished 3rd overall in the 2018 championship. Her training included her practicing on a Honda CBR 150cc and attending SAMRA training camps.

The team uses a wide range of FUCHS Silkolene products including: Silkolene TITANIUM DRY GEL, Silkolene ALL-IN-ONE, Silkolene SILKOPEN and Silkolene WASH-OFF to keep their motorbikes in good condition and give them a competitive edge.

## Zimbabwe

### FUCHS proud of his champions

For his first year in the National Motocross Championship, Emile Croisette was crowned 2018 champion with his KTM 50cc. In 2019 this talented junior motocross rider will race for the Vision Racing FUCHS Silkolene Yamaha team. Riding a Yamaha, he will compete in both the South African Motocross and Zimbabwean Championships. "We wish Emile all the best with his new team and hope that the Yamaha will deliver the same results as the KTM," said Paul Marais, FUCHS Zimbabwe Director. Emile received the 2018 Zimbabwe Motorsport Federation Prize during the official ceremony which took place in February in Harare. Other FUCHS riders were honoured during this ceremony for their great victories during last season.

This season, 13-year-old Emmanuel Bako had a great 2018 season winning the Zimbabwe National Championship and placing 2nd in the South African National Championship in the 65cc class. He aims to win the title of the seven-rounds of the SA Motocross Championship in 2019 to complete his collection. He will line up on the start line with his new 2019 KTM 65cc Prolific Boreholes FUCHS Silkolene bike.

Grainger Racing team goes into the 2019 season full of confidence, along with FUCHS Silkolene and Toyota Zimbabwe who have joined as team sponsors. Tristan Grainger and Ashley Thixton have received their newly branded KTM's and will line up for both the South African and Zimbabwean National Championships. Both talented riders are feeling confident after a very successful 2018 campaign and look forward to many podiums this year.

Photo 1: left to right: Ashley Thixton, Zimbabwe National MX2 champion – Cameron Thixton, Zimbabwe National MX1 champion – Tristan Grainger, Zimbabwe National 125cc champion

Photo 2: Manu Bako, Zimbabwe National 65cc champion and his father Brighton Bako

Photo 3: Emile Croisette, Zimbabwe National 50cc champion with his father Jo Croisette



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