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All-women team in GTI race

LOCAL women are slowly making their mark in fields once dominated by men. If you think motor racing is a man's domain, think again as Deanna Yusoff and Phillipa Yoong will prove you wrong.

The duo are part of the women's racing team competing in the Satria GTI championship at the Sepang International Circuit tomorrow.

The two of them were introduced to the Press at the launch of the "Women In Motorsports" event at Telawi Street Bistro Kuala Lumpur recently.

The Satria GTI championship is part of the Proton National Championship.

PNC is organised by AMN Motorsport Sdn Bhd and Will Motorsports and is sponsored by X-IR Performance Lubricant marketed by Quantum Global Far East Sdn Bhd.

According to Quantum Global Far East chief operating officer, Nigel McKenzie, the first all-women racing team in Malaysia had taken part in the Merdeka Millennium Endurance 2003 and finished 38 out of 77 qualifying teams.

The all-women team, led by Haifzy Hafiz, will compete against the likes of drivers like Lai Wee Seng, Tommy Lee, Faizil Alang and S.Velumani.

Deanna said she was thrilled to be able to take part in the competition.

"After competing in the MME and completing the race, there was a sense of being accepted as drivers by the racing community and their affirmation of our abilities is a great feeling," said Deanna.

Yoong said the race would be a prelude to what they would be doing next year.

"We have plans to enter more SIC races next year."

Also present at the launch was Sepang International Circuit Sdn Bhd chairman Datuk Mokhzani Mahathir.

"Next year, my agenda would be to use SIC as a catalyst to promote safe driving," Mokhzani said.