



For immediate release: Monday, 5th December 2011
Ref: WSKC 0512

Racing Stars go back to their karting roots!

Five of Scotland's most successful motor racing stars turned back the clock to their karting days and were guests of honour at West of Scotland Kart Club's 50th Anniversary Dinner Dance & Prizegiving last Friday.

F1 driver, Paul Di Resta, two time Indy 500 Winner and Indycar Champion, Dario Franchitti, Le Mans 24 hours winner, Allan McNish and American Le Mans & Daytona 24 hour drivers, Marino Franchitti and Ryan Dalziel all made the trip to the Westerwood Hotel in Cumbernauld to present awards to the latest champions of the kart club where their racing careers began.

The evening started with a question and answer session which allowed West of Scotland Kart Club's more junior members to ask the drivers about their favourite circuits, fiercest rivals, most memorable races and also how Dario met his actress wife, Ashley Judd! Each of the drivers explained why the track at Larkhall will always hold a special place in their hearts and why many still regard kart racing as the purest and most enjoyable form of motorsport.

When asked why it was important to attend the club's 50th anniversary, Allan McNish said, "All of us started at West of Scotland and we learned so much in its friendly and competitive environment. It is really great to see that the next generation of superstars are on their way through!"

Later in the evening at a spectacular prizegiving ceremony over 300 guests acknowledged the efforts of the current winners and some of the past servants of the club who have contributed to an incredible 50 year history where thousands of competitors and their families have enjoyed exciting racing and great friendships.

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Note to editors: Copyright free images are attached for editorial use. **WSKC Q&A** - Pictured (L to R) are: Bill McDonald (club chairman), Dario Franchitti, Allan McNish, Marino Franchitti, Ryan Dalziel and Paul Di Resta. **Cadets at WSKC** – Cadet drivers (aged 8-13) racing at Summerlee Raceway. Images courtesy of www.ac-fotoworx.co.uk and www.kartpix.net

West of Scotland Kart Club is based at Summerlee Raceway, Larkhall, just off the M74 south of Glasgow and is Scotland's premier outdoor kart circuit. The circuit was established in 1961, has over 250 members and is regarded as one of the UK's most demanding tracks. As well as running a highly competitive club championship the club hosts a number of British and Scottish Championship karting events. The track is open most weekends and on Wednesdays during the summer. Racing takes place on the 3rd Sunday of every month except December.

For more information please visit www.wskc.co.uk