

NEW TOP FUEL TEAM SPONSORS

EUROPE'S FIRST DRAGSTER

F&A Racing has announced that it is to sponsor the restoration of Europe's first dragster – Sydney Allard's 1961 Allard Chrysler. Using a unique approach, F&A has given a four figure sum that will be boosted by a percentage of all sponsorship monies received by the team during 2011.

The initials F&A represent the names Forbes and Andrews. The team was originally set up by Vince Andrews back in 1998 to realise his son Chris's dreams of becoming a Top Fuel driver. This resulted in Chris racing in Europe and the USA working with people like Frank Hawley, Bob Gilbertson, Bobby Baldwin, Smax Smith, Joran Persaker and Lex Joon.

The recently re-born team with Mac Forbes at the helm consists of driver Chris Andrews. Marketing is covered by Neil Williams and administration by Finola Adams. The new car is the ex- Morgan Lucas Geico dragster and definitely 'state of the art'. It won three NHRA events during 2009 and was then parked up when a new car was debuted. It has since been re-wired, re-plumbed and fitted with the latest safety gear and is ready to roll.



photo source Flickr.com

Mac Forbes first discovered drag racing at Santa Pod in the 1970s. His job keeps him very busy most of the time but **The Team Principle** said:

"We at F & A Racing have been following the progress of the Allard Chrysler dragster restoration for some time and wanted to help in some way because we think it is a really important job the Allard Chrysler Action Group is doing. So we made contact with Brian Taylor and arranged to transfer £1000 to the restoration fund. But we wanted to do more and we thought aligning Europe's first dragster with Europe's newest had a synergy that could work for both parties. We have decided that five percent of all sponsorship monies received during 2011 will go to the fund. Our sponsors will know that they are supporting this restoration as well as the F&A dragster. Sometimes the Allard Chrysler will appear

alongside our car at sponsor's functions or race meetings. I'm sure the arrangements will work well for everyone involved".

ACAG Chairman Brian Taylor said:

"When F & A Racing first contacted me with his idea I thought how radical the approach was. It should be a win-win situation all round giving both parties additional exposure, credibility and funds. F&A sponsors will have that unique added value and will receive regular ACAG newsletters about the restoration's progress. Their logos will be included with those of direct supporters of the project".

F & A Racing Top Fuel Driver, Chris said:



"To be associated with a part of Drag Racing history is something I am very proud of. It is also, a great opportunity for race fans to see how these cars have evolved over the last 50 years. I never got to see these cars run in their hay-day, but it will be good to see our Dragster and the Allard Chrysler car together at the racetrack and any other events. We hope this is the beginning of a long relationship where F & A Racing can assist the Allard Chrysler group long into the future!

F & A Marketing Manager Neil Williams said:



"As we are a British based team we felt it necessary to get involved with the guys at Allard as they are preserving a major part of British and European Drag Racing History. The Dragster is looking absolutely stunning and is nearly back to it's full glory! It will be fantastic to work alongside Brian and his team and be able to display both cars at events and shows with the Allard Chrysler team. With both "the new kid on the block" and the "Grand Old Daddy" of European Drag Racing, it really will be something to behold to see the original and the newest dragsters together, not just for us, but for Motorsport and Drag Racing fans everywhere!! It is too easy to concentrate on the present but you must never forget the History. If it wasn't for the early days and those pioneers, we probably wouldn't be where we are now!"

