

## *Susie aiming for pole position at the DTM Championship*



*Susie lines up with some of the other drivers in the DTM Championship.*

OBAN'S motor racing driver Susie Stodart declares herself happy with her progress in her debut season competing for Mercedes in the DTM Championship.

It was announced in the spring that Susie would be driving in the championship featuring former Formula One world champion Mika Hakkinen and the likes of former Williams driver German Heinz-Harald Frentzen.

'I feel so at home in the DTM,' said Susie. 'I settled in with the team very quickly and everyone has gone out of their way to welcome me, even the Audi drivers. The car really suits my driving style which is quite aggressive and I am really enjoying racing with Mercedes.'

Susie competes in an AMG-Mercedes C-Class 2004 car so can't realistically expect to beat the drivers in the 2005 and 2005 cars but she has a clear aim to finish the season as the fastest of the 2004 drivers.

As *Lorn Life* went to press she has already achieved this in two races this season; at

Hockenheim and Oschersleben.

She said: 'This is a very important season for me and I want to continue to show Mercedes I can do the job so they will want to put me in a newer car for next year so I can compete for wins. That's my goal and I intend to reach it. As well as the racing there has been a lot of public relations work to do but that's all good fun.'

Indeed the German fans seem to have taken the Argyll racer to their hearts.

At Hockenheim which was her first race of the season she was greeted with a huge 'Hello Susie' spelt out by the grandstand spectators.

Susie is meeting the Germans halfway as she is now learning the language to the extent that she can now confidently hold a conversation in German.

On top of racing she has been away on intensive fitness training trips, spent days on media activities ranging from interviews with national newspapers to road testing exotic cars for television as well as visiting the European and British grands prix.