Tell us about your experience at Formula Student 2018 – have you participated before or was this your first year?

This was our second year at FSUK 2018. Our first ever Formula Student event at FSUK 2016 was a major success, when we walked away with three awards for the Best Newcomer Team, Most Dedicated Team and our own Induwara Munasinghe grabbing the Top Individual Driver Award. Our key focus for 2018 was a better optimised car to improve our scores. Due to our sole sponsor Diesel and Motor Engineering PLC Sri Lanka boosting our budget with its financial might, it was possible to incorporate several new technologies, such as the custom dry sump system, electronic throttle control, home built solenoid for gear shifting and carbon fibre body, and lightweight components, we managed to improve our overall ranking from 75th in 2016 to 33rd in 2018, and ended up recording an amazing time for the sprint event and managed to complete endurance, even with several technical problems due to component failure. Further, we should mention that we managed to complete the acceleration run in 5.3 s in 3rd gear! We are proud of our team and where we stand today, hailing from a beautiful island nation where manufacturing or automotive racing is not exactly our strongest suit.

As a team what do you get most out of Formula Student?

As a group of young engineering undergrads, learning the in-depth design, manufacturing and testing of a race car is nothing short of a dream project. Of course, the project also instils time management and team work skills on all individual members, and results in a bond stronger than friendship itself. Being a team from the premier engineering faculty in the country, University of Moratuwa, we are also able to demonstrate our technical might in the hall of the race car giants such as UK, Germany and US teams. In addition, having the rare honour of being a team with a sole sponsor for the entire project, we are also able showcase the financial might of Diesel and Motor Engineering PLC internationally, strengthening the relationship between academia and industry further.

Leading up to this year’s event what were the main areas you prioritised to work on?

The focus was to develop a more competitive car, and we have clearly managed to achieve our goals, as the 2018 car weighs at only 209 kg, whereas our first car in 2016 weighed at 340 kg. The year was filled with and focussed on only one factor: optimisation for the track.

Did your team attend any of the Learn to Win events? If so, what did you get most out of them?

Unfortunately, no we could not participate in Learn to Win events.

How would you sum up this year’s event in 3 words?

Zero to Hero