

SPActacular!!

The awesome spectacle that is the Spa Francorchamps circuit in Belgium was the scene for Andover racer Dawn Boyd, as the Dunlop Great & British MINI Challenge ventured abroad for round 3 of the championship.

The weather was going to be a major factor over the course of the weekend as the team mechanics worried over wet or slick tyres for each event. Spa Francorchamps is up in the hills of Belgium and it is so long the weather can be different at each end of the circuit!

Practise on Friday morning was in the wet, not a great start! Dawn did not enjoy this and was a long way down the field, "with so much spray you just can't see a thing and at 110mph that is not fun!."

Qualifying on Saturday started dry, a good chance to get some good lap times done but then the rain began to fall again! Dawn gained a good qualifying time and was 8th on the grid in the Club class, ahead of her main rivals.

Sunday was finally a sunny day! Race 1 was a standing start, Dawn got away well and was among the main pack by the first corner, along the fast straight and down to the infamous Eau Rouge at 100mph! Several laps passed and the grid began to split into groups, Dawn was racing a group of 6 when the car behind overtook at a corner too fast and came off the track, Dawn reported "he bounced about on the gravel and grass then came back across the track and took me off to the other side!". Dawn managed to keep the car straight a few inches from the concrete barriers and back on track but had lost several places, she continued but was disappointed with the result of 11th.

Race 2 was that afternoon and Dawn was all fired up for a rolling start, the first ever rolling start on the newly built Spa F1 grid! From 10th on the grid she was well among the pack again. The same 6 grouped again, but this time, they were much closer. Slip streaming helped them exchange places several times. At the bus stop chicane one car went into the back of another and then there were 4... A few laps later the same guy that came off in front of Dawn in race 1 did it again breaking her windscreen with the gravel trap flying up, they both continued. The next lap Dawn slip streamed him and they were level into the corner but she didn't give up, the other car locked up and went straight on.. and then there were 3... ALL girls! Dawn, Amanda and Sarah all exchanged places but Dawn was in front at the flag, an excellent result of 7th in class (18th out of 29 cars).

The next round is at Thruxton - 21st/22nd July - The Great & British Series will also be joined by the Truck racers!

Looking forward to my Home town support.. see you there