

Race Report: Thruxton 21st/22nd July 07

David and Goliath turned up at Thruxton at the weekend... extreme ends of the racing scale, The Dunlop Great & British package with MINI's was joined by the National and British Racing Trucks, but the racer's eyes were on the sky hoping for dry weather.

Dawn Boyd was in the MINI Challenge at her 'home' track but it was her first time to race there. The morning Practise session was her first time round at speed and it was a slow learning curve. It rained just before her Qualifying so it was a slippery track but she was pleased with her times, which had improved from practise by 3 seconds.

Sunday brought brighter weather and Race 1 got underway with a good start from Dawn, keeping up with the pack to start but the car was sliding about and Dawn was falling back from the pack. The settings of the car were not right for the track or conditions and Dawn fought with the car to stay on track, but on one 100mph corner her entrance was wrong and she 'ran out of road', helping the groundsman by ploughing his field for a hundred yards before returning to the track a few places down. Fighting to make up some lost time Dawn tried to take the chicane faster but ended up launching the car over the high curbs, damaging the underside and the steering. She came in a disappointing 12th.

Over lunch the magicians (aka the Advent Motorsport mechanics) fixed Dawn's car and adjusted the settings for better grip. Race 2 was a rolling start and it went perfectly for Dawn taking a couple of places, she kept with the pack for several laps as she now had better grip, but the experience of the other racers soon showed and the pack gradually spread out. There were several cars coming off, one right in front of Dawn which needed avoiding action at high speed. Dawn found herself fighting with one car and they exchanged places several times, on the last lap Dawn was nearly pushing them round as she was faster in most corners, she tried for a final lunge at the chicane but her path was blocked - a much better race and she came in 10th.

The next race is at Donington park on 4th/5th August and the MINI Challenge have set up a world record attempt to have the most MINI's on track at any one time, if you would like to take part see www.minichallenge.co.uk. Further info about Dawns racing can be found at www.dawnontrack.co.uk