

After the disappointments and incidents of the last few rounds, Andover girl racer, Dawn Boyd was a little apprehensive about travelling to Donington Park last weekend.

The weather looked changeable but a good practise session wiped out any doubt in Dawns ability as she steadily got faster laps on a sunny track on the Friday testing. Saturday morning, however, 'Dawned'! with heavy rain. Qualifying looked like a wash out so wet tyres were essential, however as the session continued the track dried up in sunshine making good lap times very difficult. With no time to change tyres, Dawn had to grin a bear it as she slid about trying to improve the times. Unfortunately Dawn qualified near the back.

Race 1 that afternoon and the weather was dry. Dawn got a good start and was up with the bunch all tussling for the first corner, which was successfully negotiated by all cars. The infamous Craner curves was mobbed by a mass of minis which disappeared in a cloud of dust caused by cement to clear up an earlier oil spillage. Dawn thoroughly enjoyed the race which remained clean with some excellent tussles with her fellow racers. Dawn came home in 8th, very pleased to finish a race with no damage.

Race 2 on Sunday morning saw Dawn get a great start, but keeping clear of the scrap and she spent most of the race swapping places with a new racer. At the last corner of the last lap Dawn made a daring move into the chicane and crossed the finish line just in front, in 8th place again.

Race 3, Dawn found herself in a fight for 7th place with a fellow girl racer, and they exchanged places on several occasions, but each time Dawn recovered the place. Into the heavy-braking first corner, Redgate, Dawn held her nerve and her position bringing her great confidence in the car and herself, and again into the final chicane on the last lap she regained the lost place with a superior move and she crossed the line in front.

Very pleased to have successfully gained back confidence in both her own driving and the cars reliability, thoroughly enjoying the races, finishing all 3 without damage, it was time to begin the clear up to travel home. So with some help from her "roadies" they packed up the car.. and.. promptly set off the fire extinguisher by mistake!!!..

Dawn's back on track at Brands Hatch over the Bank holiday weekend, for the penultimate rounds of the MINI Challenge. If you would like to learn more about Dawn's racing, see www.Dawnontrack.co.uk