

Dawn is what some might term as a late-starter to the world of motorsport. At the age of 34, Dawn Boyd spotted an advert in the press for "Women Drivers" by Formula Woman, and sent off her application to the 2006 competition. Through the FW training Dawn gained a lot of advice and some much needed information and experience and with only track day experience behind her, Dawn still managed to finish in 30th place out of over 4000 entrants.

"If it wasn't for Formula Woman, I really wouldn't be racing today" Dawn told us, "They've helped me a lot along the way with their training and excellent team of instructors."

Still buzzing from her success, Dawn joined the BRSCC (British Racing and Sports Car Club) and started racing with Fiesta which really gave her some exposure and plenty of experience and has so far raced at Anglesey, Oulton Park and Brands Hatch in a stripped out 1.8 Si Fiesta.

August 2006 saw Dawn watching a Race day at Thruxton, and it was there she bumped into the guys from Advent Motorsport. Recognising the mechanics from her days with Formula Woman, Dawn was quick to introduce herself and cheekily ask if they had a spare car. Nobody was more surprised than Dawn herself when they said yes, and Dawn's enthusiasm has landed her a place in the 2007 Mini Challenge with the Advent Motorsport team.

So how does driving the Mini compare to the stripped out Fiesta?

"It's very different!" explained Dawn, "The Fiesta was totally stripped and was very light, but driving the MINI is great, it's a higher standard of car"

Dawn looks very much at home in the Number 42 British Racing Green Cooper, and she's enjoying every minute of it. But her path to the MINI Challenge had not been smooth. Dawn lost her Dad to a battle against cancer which sadly ended in 2005. Because of this, Dawn inherited some money, and so far she's used most of it to fund her racing passion which she believes her Dad would be proud of.

"He was around long enough to know I had a place in the competition finals with Formula Woman" Dawn told us, "but he was gone before I ever raced a car. I pressed on with the racing knowing that my Dad was watching over me, and I think he'd be proud of what I've achieved to date"

So is it hard being a female in the world of motorsport? Dawn thinks not. "The guys have been really great" says Dawn, "They offer help and advice. They want you to achieve and have success just as much as any male competitor!"

It's clear that Dawn is a very passionate person, and she's determined to carry on with her motor racing even if it does just pan out as a hobby. "Ever since I could drive, I've wanted to drive fast and get the best out of my driving" Dawn told us. Despite Dawn's brother being killed in a car crash at the age of 22 back in 1990, it appears that nothing is going to stop her. "The history of my brother's crash does make me slightly cautious" Dawn explained, "but the thrill of the speed is what drives me. I've just been out having fun and it's been fantastic".

Money is fast becoming an issue for Dawn and her track career. It can cost up to £40,000 to fund just one race season, so Dawn is on the lookout for sponsors to help her carry on with her dream, and to fight her way to the top of the Mini Challenge. If you'd like to know more about Dawn or can help with sponsoring her for the 2007 Mini Challenge, then visit Dawn's personal website: www.dawnontrack.co.uk