

modern MINI



• LADIES NIGHT AT THE MINI CHALLENGE AWARDS

Another enthralling MINI Challenge Series drew to a close at the end of November with its annual award ceremony, where there were prizes for the winners of the S, Club and Ladies Cup Classes, the latter known as the Coupe des Dames. The Club and Ladies Cups were won by former Fiat Punto Champion, Jenny Ryan, who also scooped the overall championship thanks to a combination of consistency and fine driving skills. It was fitting with such a dominance of female talent at this year's awards that Snettertonbased specialists, Advent Motorsport, announced that it will continue its support of the Coupe des Dames in 2008. After 2007, its inaugural year, the female trophy has undoubtedly proven to be a massive success, with many racers from Formula Woman making the transition from rear-wheel drive Caterhams to front-wheel drive Coopers. Racing MINIs, particularly in the Club Class, has shown to be a relatively affordable and accessible race series, where racers can learn race craft and track driving skills within a well organised series with all the necessary support. Dunlop's backing of the MINI Challenge through its Great and British Series has given drivers tyre and technical support as well as a hospitality area in which drivers and teams can entertain guests and sponsors – this will continue in 2008. While Jenny Ryan took top spot, recognition should also be given to second-placed Michelle Nixon and Dawn Boyd, who took a creditable third in her debut season. With support from the likes of Advent Motorsport, it is hoped that even more girl racers will don their overalls and helmets in 2008. Places are still available, but early applications have already been made, so you'd better hurry if you're interested. For further details, call Advent Motorsport 01842 824500, or visit www.adventmotorsport.co.uk.