



**MINICROSS DRIVERS
ASSOCIATION**

1977

25
YEARS

Lets go



Minicrossing

A Beginners Guide on How to get Started

www.minicross.com

The future is bright, the future is Minicross
Minicross Drivers Association



MINICROSS DRIVERS ASSOCIATION

Lets go Minicrossing!

Welcome to the world of Minicross.

Minicross is Britain's premier low cost motorsport formula. Now celebrating it's 25th Anniversary, Minicross is administered by the Minicross Drivers Association and run under the rules and regulations of the Motor Sports Association (MSA).

The purpose of this information is to provide an overview of what Minicross is all about, the cars, how to get started, the championships and what to do next !

What is Minicross ?

Minicross was devised in 1977 by the Thames Estuary Automobile Club (TEAC) to provide a formula for those who want to compete in motorsport but found the cost of other formulas too prohibitive. The first event took place at a cold Lydden Hill and the formula has never looked back.

The low cost, value for money ethic, originally devised by TEAC, continues to be the guiding principal for the sport, which for over two decades, has been administered by the Minicross Drivers Association (MDA).

Minicross unsurprisingly, is based on the ubiquitous Mini, be it in Rover, British Leyland, BMC or Austin guise. Originally powered by 850cc engines, in the 1990's engine size was increased to 1300cc to ensure wider availability of motors.

The MDA produces Vehicle Regulations to which all competitors must comply, as well as those contained in the MSA Competitors Rule Book (known as the "Blue Book). Modifications, except for safety, are kept to a minimum. This ensures that even those with a minimum of technical knowledge, can compete and avoids "cheque book" racing.

The MDA administer several championships, these are an Allrounders Championship primarily based in the South-East of England and a Rallycross Championship which supports the British Rallycross Championship and includes rounds all over the UK as well as Ireland and Holland.

Minicross has the enviable reputation of having a particularly spirit of camaraderie in the paddock, where competitors offer each other advice and assist each other to ensure the maximum number of cars take the start. In addition Minicross, also enjoys some of the best publicity of any club motorsport in the UK, including extensive media coverage and an end of season video.

There are many questions to be asked and answered before starting in Minicross and the MDA Committee would recommend that any questions be directed to the Committee to ensure costly mistakes aren't made.

So let's go.....

Firstly, what can I do to a Mini ?

If you are starting out in motorsport for the first time, it is often wise to purchase a proven race prepared Minicross car. This can save many hours in the garage and lets you learn in a car that somebody else has sorted out for you.

However, if you want to go down the construction route, here a few pointers.

- Don't spend a fortune on the "donor" car. It does not have to be street legal and the local papers/trade press are full of Mini's which conveniently need a new rear subframe, sills or floor pans to pass the MOT. These are ideal....
- Read the MDA Vehicle Regulations and MSA Blue Book. It is better to find out what you can and can't do before you do it ! If in doubt call the MDA Technical Officer.
- OK, so now you have the donor car. A good way to start is to pop the car up on axle stands so you can fully check out the underside of the car – there may be some welding required.
- Empty the car of all the interior gumpf. Seats, headlining, floor mats, sound deadening, dashboard all has to come out. The windows too have to come out.
- You have the choice of running a one piece fibre glass/kevlar front section or retain the original steel front. If you choose the former you will need to cut away the steel front and replace it with supporting struts. NB If you retain the steel front it must be an "A" series Mini and not a Mini Clubman.
- In the boot take care removing the fuel tank and then remove all the other carpeting etc.
- Inside the car you need to install a six point roll cage (FIA approved) with a diagonal bar, an FIA approved race seat, 4 point harness and fire extinguisher.
- If you are running only on grass you can use a perspex front screen, with suitable holes cut for vision, however, most drivers utilise laminated screens. Side and rear glass must be replaced with perspex.
- Engines are typically 1275cc MG Metro units and modifications are detailed in the MDA Vehicle Regulations.
- For Rallycross tyres must be Yokohama A008 or A032 and be road legal. Most Driver's use Colway M&S tyres for grass track.
- A fibre glass/kevlar boot lid may be utilised
- With this you are pretty much ready to go. The MDA will supply sponsors decals that must be run on all competing cars.

That's the car, what about me ?

Below is a quick check list of things to do;

- Join the MDA. To compete in Minicross you must be both a member and a Registered Driver. On becoming the latter, entry forms will automatically be sent to you.
- Apply for a "Non-Race National B" competition licence. This does not require a medical or a driving course and costs approx £30. Forms are available from the MSA. Motor Sports House, Riverside Park, Colnbrook, Slough, SL3 0HG Tel: 01753 681736
- On receipt of your licence you will also receive the MSA Blue Book
- The Blue Book details the standards required for overalls and helmets. Often motor bike crash helmets do not meet the requirements. Mail order outlets such as Demon Tweaks can often help in this respect.
- Enter your first event.....

The Championships

2002 MDA Hoods Galore Allrounders Championship

This is a new Championship that gives Drivers a chance to have a go at everything – some grass racing, a bit of Rallycross, and chuck in some Sprints and Hillclimbs for good measure.


www.msa.uk.org

2002 Mini Shop/Yokohama Tyres MDA Rallycross Championship

This championship has the highest profile of the Minicross championships, supporting the British Rallycross Championship at all UK mainland rounds and the Belgian/Dutch Championship in Holland. For 2002 we have again have the support from Yokohama Tyres, which will be available at special prices to Club members.

Minicross is typically the most popular class at every event it enters and offers the public spectacular, close racing. Racing on the same tracks as the British Rallycross Championship, it is also an excellent training ground for anyone wanting to move on into Rallycross in the future.

This championship has previously enjoyed coverage on Sky TV as well as extensive media coverage.

2002 MDA Champion of Champions Championships

This is the most prestigious of all Minicross championships. Combining the scores of each Driver's best 7 scores from both the Allrounders and Rallycross Championships, the winner really has excelled over a long and challenging season..

2002 Four-Ways/MDA Rallycross Challenge

In 2002, Minicross will compete in Ireland again, supporting the British series at Nutts Corner (nr Belfast) and Mondello Park (nr Dublin).

To add a competitive edge the scores from these rounds and the annual visit to the Eurocircuit in Holland will form a mini-series of its own.

Rewards and Awards

Minicross is all about fun and as a result pot hunters are discouraged.

At Allrounders events trophies are awarded to the 1st-3rd placed drivers in the "A" Final and the winners of all other finals, as well as to the best novice.

At Rallycross events trophies are presented at the organisers discretion but typically these are awarded to 3rd place.

At the end of the season, the MDA hold an Annual Dinner and Dance at which trophies are presented to 1st-10th in the Allrounders, Rallycross and Champion of Champions series and 1st-5th in the Four-Ways Challenge.

In conclusion

There you have it ! It may seem daunting but it is not really that bad and it is great fun. Come to a meeting and wander round the paddock and ask questions – the drivers will be more than happy to help.

In addition why not buy the video of previous Rallycross Seasons and/or become a member of the MDA and receive the monthly club newsletter, Minicross Torque, plus every quarter receive a copy of Rallycross World Magazine?

See you soon.

David Hobbs

Chairman

MINICROSS DRIVERS ASSOCIATION

2002 PROVISIONAL CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Mini Shop/Yokohama Tyres Rallycross Championship

Date	Venue
16 th March	Croft Circuit, Cleveland
1 st April	Lydden Hill, Kent
19 th May	Blyton, Lincs
2 nd June	Anglesey, North Wales
7 th July	Blyton, Lincs
14 th July	Valkenswaard, Netherlands
28 th July	Anglesey, North Wales
26 th August	Lydden Hill, Kent
15 th Sept	Blyton, Lincs
27 th Oct	Croft, Cleveland

Hoods Galore Allrounders Championship

Date	Venue	Event
17 th Feb	Lydden Hill, Kent	Rallycross
24 th March	North Weald	Sprint
6 th /7 th April	Silverstone, Northants	Sprint
16 th June	Mursley, Bucks	Grass Racing
22 nd June	Gurston Down, Wilts	Hillclimb
17 th August	Goodwood, West Sussex	Sprint
7 th Sept	Lydden Hill, Kent	Sprint
22 nd Sept	Lindfield, West Sussex	Grass Racing
13 th Oct	Tolleshunt D'Arcy, Essex	Grass Racing
3 rd Nov	Lydden Hill, Kent	Rallycross

This is a provisional calendar, please check with the MDA or the organising club before travelling to any event.

USEFUL NUMBERS

Sue Hobbs	Membership Secretary	01403 782317
Ron Watson	Technical Director	01795 477451
MSA	Competition licence	01753 681736
Mini Shop	All your Mini requirements	020 8805 8085