

Minicross Torque

The M.D.A. Newsletter

Edited by Jeremy Evans

January 2004

Hoods Galore Minicross Allrounders Championship 2004.

The Minicross Drivers Association has announced dates for this years' Hoods Galore Allrounders Championship. The series, sponsored by vehicle refinishers Hoods Galore for the third year running, takes in events on a variety of surfaces and disciplines. The 2004 campaign takes in rallycross, sprint and hillclimb events, providing a variety that should appeal to all drivers.

The 2004 dates are :-

- 21st March - Blyton - Rallycross
- 18th April - Long Cross - Sprint
- 12th June - Abingdon x 2 - Sprint – double header
- 11th July - Lydden Hill - Rallycross
- 11th August - Harwood - Hillclimb
- 14th August - Goodwood - Sprint
- 12th September - Gurston Down - Hillclimb
- 17th October - Blyton - Rallycross

2003 Champion Trevor Stretch has decided to take a season off, along with other top runners Ricahrd Wakeling and Jeremy Evans, leaving 2003 runner up Paul Fidler and 5th place man Scott Lawson as the pre-season favourites. Other drivers to watch include Ed Collett, John Thacker, Mark Griffin, Neil Wade, Shelley Wakeling and Kevin Woods.

These 8 drivers look set to be the main championship challengers, but look out for the likes of David Hobbs and Charlie Whaley who will undoubtedly appear at some stage in the season and look to upset the regular front runners – if either run for the whole season they will be challengers.

The championship could well come down the playing of the “Joker” - each driver can nominate one round for double points – the driver who plays his or her joker at a round they win or finish on the podium will be in pole position !!

Hoods Galore to sponsor Minicross Rallycross.

Essex based Hoods Galore UK are to be new sponsors for Minicross in the British Rallycross Championship 2004 following the withdrawal of long term sponsors, Mini Shop of London.

Hoods Galore have been sponsors of the Minicross Allrounders Championship for the past 3 years. 'This is an ideal opportunity for Hoods Galore to get involved with mainstream Rallycross' said Director Keith Faber.

The securing of Hoods Galore as sponsors of both major championships is a big boost to the club and gives continuity throughout our events.

The committee would like, on behalf of all members and rivers, to extend its' thanks to Keith and all at Hoods Galore and look forward to a fruitful continuing relationship with them.

Your Committee.

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Wildtrack Circuit launched.

A new venue for Rallycross in the UK has just been announced.

Wildtrack Circuit near Newmarket in Suffolk, is a purpose built circuit of about 900m length of new Tarmac and loose sections. It is unique in British Rallycross by virtue of running in an anti-clockwise direction. The twisty European style layout will provide an interesting challenge to British Rallycross and will be well suited to the close racing provided by Minicross.

Situated alongside the A11/A14 Trunk roads, Wildtrack will play host to British Championship rounds on July 25th and September 19th, as well as Clubmans Rallycross on 2nd & 3rd May.

In addition to Rallycross, Wildtrack will also provide facilities for Supermoto, Karting and other off-road activities.

All change !!

Both Senior and Junior Championship winning cars will have new drivers for 2004.

Nigel Blanks will be piloting the double Championship winning car of Garry York. No doubt Nigel will be looking to emulate the success Garry has had with the car since his return to Minicross 4 years ago.

Although supposedly taking a year out Garry has hinted at the odd outing in the Stock Hatch Citroen AX driven by Steve Marsh at Blyton last year.

Grant Rees Junior car will be seen out in the hands of newcomer Joe Powis. Ex Autograsser Joe did the last 4 rounds of the 2003 series achieving a best result of 8th. He is hoping to improve his standing in what is undoubtedly a well sorted car.

Grant will be starting the season in a Suzuki Swift Stock Hatch before moving into the new modified class later in the year.

With Allrounders Champion Trevor Stretch also selling up, 2004 will be unique in having all 3 major titles undefended by the reigning champions. There's never been a better chance for some new names on the trophies. Who's your bet on ?

Rallycross pre-season favourites are John Binks, Matt Roach and Ralph Budd, Allrounders has already been mentioned on page 1, while the Juniors is wide open.

Whatever the results, 2004 looks like being a vintage year for Minicross !!.

Junior weights

Following discussions at the recent Minicross AGM, weights for Junior Minicross cars were agreed.

Cars will be weighed with and without driver and must meet the following minimum weights

- Minimum weight of car without driver 570kg.
- Minimum weight of car + driver 640kg

There is no truth in the rumour that weight limits for senior cars + driver is to be 1000kg !!!

All Stop !!!

Questions have been asked about Brake Bias valves....

Whilst it is permissible to fit brake bias valves, they must not be capable of adjustment whilst the car is in motion.

Any valve which is in reach of the driver from the driver's seat must either be moved or covered with a shield.

You've been told.....

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