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MINI-CROSS TALK

Issue 3 - August 2010

MiniX's European Holiday



Eurotrip Special

All the action from
the special week in
Europe

Field Engineering

How to build an
engine in 3 days



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Minicross Talk is published by George Edwardes

Minicross Talk is always looking for stories and news articles from readers, If there is anything that you would like included in the magazine, please contact George at the details above.

Next Issue out: September 2010

Isachen confirmed for the X Games

- Division 1 champ will race in the US



Current Division One points leader and defending champion Sverne Isachen will add his name to an ever expanding list of European Rallycross teams to take part in the X Games rally event. Isachen will drive a Subaru Impreza WRX STI prepared by the Subaru Rally Team USA, which will also run the cars of Travis Pastrana and Dave Mirra in the Rally events.

Isachen will focus only on the Super Rally, a new event for 2010, which is modeled after the multi-car head-to-head format of the European Rallycross Championship. The X Games Super Rally will be a precursor to the Rallycross events, which will be held in the US at the New Jersey

Motorsport Park from August, and it is hoped that Super Rally will build the public interest in the sport before the first meeting.

Pastrana, Mirra and Isachen will each compete in a specifically built 2011 Subaru Impreza WRX STI Rallycross Car, producing well over 550 bhp and prepared to the same regulations as the regular ERC machinery.

Speaking in a press article released on his website, Sverne said: "I'm very excited to come to a huge event like the X Games and to have the opportunity to be teammates will legends like Travis (Pastrana) and Dave (Mirra) is very special. I think a

rallycross style event will fit perfectly with the X Games because it is a very entertaining form of motorsport, with a lot of action. Rallycross has traditionally been a European motorsport, but I think the concept can be big in the US and I am happy to be a part of the very first Rallycross event in America!"

The ERC Champion will be going head-to-head against the very strong four car team entered by the ERC team Olsberg MSE. The team will have an all-star driver line up, which will include new Rallycross star Tanner Foust, Brian Deegan, Rally star Ken Block and 2009 X Games Rally Gold Medalist and 1999 Indianapolis 500 winner Kenny Brack. The team will be running the same 2010 Ford Fiesta that currently features in the European Championship, driven by team boss Andreas Eriksson.

Whilst Isachen is only entered in the Super Rally, the four Fiesta drivers will race in both the Super Rally and Rally Racing event where the car was so dominate las year. X Games begins on July 29th until August 1st in Los Angeles, with both events being held on Saturday 31st of July in the L.A. Coliseum venue.

-For the latest info on X Games 16, head to ESPN.com where full details can be found about the extreme sports event.

Super Rally Essential Guide

The New Super Rally event, which will join Rally Racing (already in its 5th year at the X Games), will take on the traditional format of Rallycross, but with an extreme sports twist.

The event will begin with a compulsory Timed Practice where the 12 drivers will set a time that will determine the grid for the heats. The 3 "Elimination" heat races will consist of four cars racing around a all dirt tack (rather than the usual 50/50 tarmac, gravel circuit) over four laps. After

the heats, the top three drivers will automatically advance to the five lap Super Final. The last position on the grid for the final will be occupied by the winner of the "Last Chance Qualifier", a four lap race which will simulate the events B-Final.



Super Rally Event Info → 31/7/10

Location: L.A. Coliseum, California
 Time: 7:15pm - 8:00pm (PST)
 2:15am - 3:00am (GMT)

Notable Entries:	Name	Car
	K. Block	Ford Fiesta
	K. Brack	Ford Fiesta
	T. Foust	Ford Fiesta
	B. Deegan	Ford Fiesta
	T. Pastrana	Subaru Impreza
	S. Isachen	Subaru Impreza
	D. Mirra	Subaru Impreza
	A.C. Picard	Mitsubishi EvoX
	S. Hubinette	Mitsubishi EvoX

Hudson takes the Lead

- Kris secures first EuroTrip victory



July 11th 2010,
Duivelsberg (Maasmechelen)

→ Winner: Kris Hudson
→ Pole: Kris Hudson

Weather: Sunny
Temperature: 45 Degrees

Kris Hudson claimed the first EuroTrip victory in dominant fashion at the Duivelsberg circuit in Belgium. Kris won all three heats, securing the pole position for the final in which he never looked back, with a victory margin of 1.7 seconds over second place man Richard Wakeling.

The weekend started with the teams arriving in Belgium to temperatures of 40 degrees plus and unbroken sun shine. Due to the size of the meeting, scrutineering and first practice took place on the Saturday evening to allow the drivers to become accustom to the track. As Sunday morning arrived, the drivers where meet once again by the stifling heat and another practice session before the heats began. For a few drivers, the practice session allowed them their first taste of the joker lap, which is only used by the Mini-crossers at Belgium. George Edwardes was one of the first to get the tight joker section wrong,

having to take avoiding action to miss the large tire bales that marked out the track. Only minor cosmetic damaged occurred and everyones attention soon moved onto the days racing.

As the lights flashed on, Kris moved into the lead as the pack made its way round the first bend. The younger of the two Hudson's, Keifer, was left behind on the grid as a mechanical problem ruled him out of the first heat and had to be pushed back to the paddock. Kris lead Richard Wakeling and David Bell across the line with Mark Griffin in fourth.

Heat 2 soon came around, helped by the slick running thanks to the Belgium organizers. The

grid for Heat 2 were formed out of the results from Heat 1, therefore Kris, Richard and David started on the front row. Kris once again moved out into the front, with Richard in a close second as the packed moved into the tight first corner.

Griffin made the most of the heat by moving up to third at the expense of David Bell. David slipped to fifth by the checkered flag behind Keifer who was making ever effort to forget his woes from Heat 1. George lead Samantha





O'Flanagan across the line as they continued their battle from Heat 1 for sixth and seventh place.

By the time Heat 3 arrived, the sun was high in the sky with temperatures peaking at 40 degrees, providing difficult conditions for both car and driver. Kris, once again starting from pole, lead the pack through the first corner and never looked backed to record his 3rd heat win of the day. Richard finished in second position again but the drive of the race had to be given to Keifer Hudson, who made full use of the joker lap in what would be a clever move. After the first corner, Keifer took the joker straight away as the rest of the pack passed through, leaving him in last place. He soon caught back up with the other drivers and as the others took their joker lap over the following 3 laps, keifer was able to move up to third position by the time the race had finished.

David slipped back in front of Mark by race's end to claim fourth and fifth position respectively. George and Samantha continued their tussles at the back of the field which had entertained the crowd throughout the

day.

With three perfect scores from the Heats, Kris took up his rightful place on pole position, followed on the front row by Wakeling and Griffin. With the race underway, Kris settled into first position in front of his days

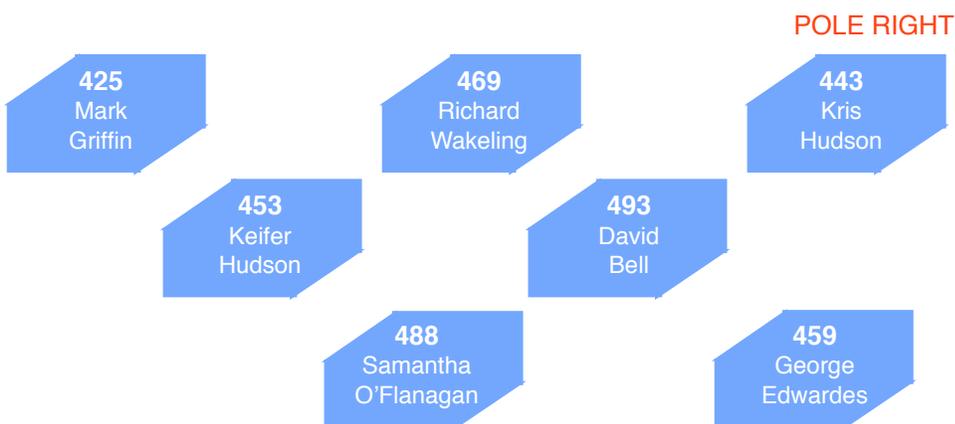
sparring partner, Wakeling. Both David and George took the joker lap on the first lap with the pair now trailing the field. On lap two, Keifer Hudson and Samantha took their joker lap, moving David and George up into fourth and fifth place, in which they remained in for the rest of the race.

With Richard taking his joker on lap three and Mark on lap four, Kris was able to break clear of the following cars and take his joker with enough time

to rejoin the track in first position, and still hold a lead of around 1 and half seconds over second position. With only half a lap remaining, it was now just a case of bringing the car home safely.

With such a dominant victory from the first race in Belgium, Kris is the odds on favorite to maintain his winning streak in Europe and take the win at the Eurocircuit in Valkenswaard. He however will come under increasing pressure with the arrival of John Thacker to the the Dutch event. John, who won both the events in Belgium and Holland in 2009 will be looking to take the victory in consolation to having to miss the first race. Both Wakeling and Griffin will also be looking to steal the lime light from the 2009 Champion at Valkenswaard, while Edwardes will be hoping to improve his form and return to the front of the pack and claim the win. All the drivers will have to continue to look after their cars at the tight and twisty

MINICROSS - A FINAL GRID POSITION



MINICROSS - A FINAL

POS	NO.	DRIVER	LAPS	TOTAL TIME	DIFF	BEST TIME	In Lap
1	443	Kris Hudson (GB)	5	03:58.201		45.726	3
2	469	Richard Wakeling (GB)	5	03:59.986	1.785	46.333	2
3	425	Mark Griffin (GB)	5	04:02.976	4.477	46.336	3
4	493	David Bell (GB)	5	04:04.596	6.097	47.132	5
5	459	George Edwardes (GB)	5	04:05.816	7.317	46.973	5
6	453	Keifer Hudson (GB)	5	04:06.298	7.799	47.122	5
7	488	Samantha O'Flanagan (GB)	5	04:07.779	9.281	47.313	3

Three is the Magic Number

- John takes his 3rd win at the Eurocircuit



July 18th 2010,
Eurocircuit (Valkenswaard)

→ Winner: John Thacker
→ Pole: Richard Wakeling

Weather: Sunny
Temperature: 40 Degrees

John Thacker took his 3rd win at the Eurocircuit in Valkenswaard in as many years, when he crossed the line to win the second event in the EuroTrip week. The drivers enjoyed a second weekend of racing in the summer sun, where the MDA celebrated its 20th year visiting the Valkenswaard circuit. To celebrate this milestone, the drivers and teams were greeted on the Saturday night with a barbecue, organized by the staff at the circuit. A small presentation ceremony followed, in which the MDA presented the circuit owner with a

photo collage documenting 20 years of Minis at the circuit and an engraved decreative Mini.

With the Sunday soon arriving and the temperatures once again rising, the Minis took to the track in its practice session, in which the drivers began to adjust to the slippery tarmac and loose sections that make up the Dutch track. A stark difference to the Belgium track that the drivers raced at a week previously.

One notable driver missing from the Sunday's racing was Mark Griffin.

Whilst unloading his car on the Saturday, Mark had broken his hand in an accident that resulting in a trip to hospital and a plaster cast that ruled him out of racing. However, the arrival of Ian Clark, who had spent the week building his engine in the campsite, was a welcomed addition

to the track alongside firm favorite John Thacker.

Continuing his strong showing from Maasmechelen, Richard Wakeling took the fastest time in Heat One in front of Kris Hudson and third place man Thacker. The first heat saw two non finishers in Samantha O'Flanagan and George Edwardes who both suffered problems at the tricky track. Edwardes became beached in the well renowned Valkenswaard sand, in the middle of the track after suffering engine problems, whilst Samantha also fell foul of the sand due to not being able to clear her windscreen of dirt, missing the chicane at the start of the lap.

Heat 2 was the turn of Thacker to show his dominance at the track, taking fastest time in front of Wakeling, with an impressive showing by Ian Clark who had only finished building his engine on the Sunday morning. Kris Hudson, who started the second Heat from the back of the grid had a race long battle for fifth place with David Bell. Bell managed to pip Hudson to the flag, with only 200th of



a second separating the drivers after four laps.

George Edwardes returned to the front of the pack in Heat 3, claiming the fastest time after a race long battle with second and third place drivers, Wakeling and Thacker. Keifer Hudson managed to hold out against his older brother Kris for the entirety of the race in a car that had been suffering with engine problems throughout the day, claiming fourth position. Ian "The Entertainer" Clark was fully back up to his old ways by Heat 3. Early on in the Heat, Clark had been part of the Hudsons battle, but a misjudgment at the chicane on lap three sent him careering across the rumble strips and sand, causing him to lose his bonnet. Clark continued to the end of Heat without his bonnet, however the error saw him drop from sixth to eighth place overall by the races end.

The three main contenders for the A Final victory lined up side by side on the front row for the final race of the day. As the green lights flashed on, everyone made a clean start off the grid. By the end on the start/finish straight, Edwardes, who had started on the second row, had a narrow advantage over his rivals as they turned into the first corner. The three cars of Thacker, Wakeling and Hudson then managed to slip up the inside of Edwardes as he ran wide through the first corner. At the chicane, Kris Hudson was able to overtake the car of Wakeling, under-braking for the slippery right hand corner.

For the following three laps, the fight for second place hotted up with Hudson and Wakeling passing and re-passing each other multiple times. This allowed Thacker to extend his lead over the trailing drivers to 2.5 seconds by the time the race had finished. A daring move through the long left hand bend at the rear of the track by Wakeling towards the end of the race on Hudson, allowed him take his consecutive second place in as many races on what was also his Birthday.

This move had allowed fourth place man Edwardes to close the gap to the leaders, crossing the line 300th of a second behind Kris.

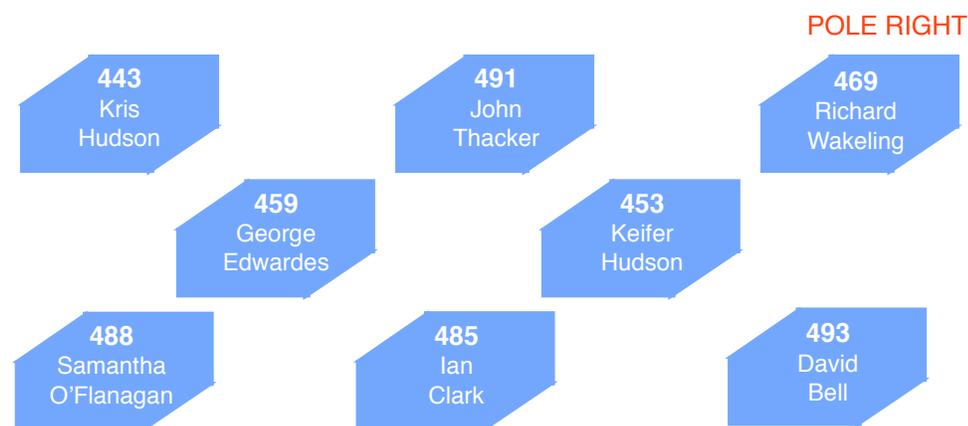
Keifer Hudson came home in a distant fifth place, struggling

throughout the race with an unhealthy engine. David Bell lead Samantha across the line for sixth and seventh place with Ian Clark being classified as the only non finisher. Clark had struck the wall surrounding the hairpin, braking off his front right wheel.

The Dutch event marked the end of the Minis EuroTrip, with many hoping to return to Belgium and Holland for the 2011 events.



MINICROSS - A FINAL GRID POSITION



MINICROSS - A FINAL

POS	NO.	DRIVER	LAPS	TOTAL TIME	DIFF	BEST TIME	In Lap
1	491	John Thacker (GB)	5	03:57.130		46.294	4
2	469	Richard Wakeling (GB)	5	03:59.171	2.041	46.769	4
3	443	Kris Hudson (GB)	5	03:59.325	2.195	46.583	3
4	459	George Edwardes (GB)	5	03:59.687	2.557	46.544	4
5	453	Keifer Hudson (GB)	5	04:05.141	8.011	47.399	3
6	493	David Bell (GB)	5	04:05.806	8.676	47.415	5
7	488	Samantha O'Flanagan (GB)	5	04:12.274	15.144	47.877	5
DNF	485	Ian Clark (GB)		Accident			
DNQ	425	Mark Griffin (GB)		Broken Hand			





PHOTO FINISH

Where: Eurocircuit, Holland
When: 18/7/10, 4:15pm

First corner action in the A Final as John Thacker makes a dive down the inside of the car of Richard Wakeling. Thacker will go on to win the final.

2010 MDA EDUARDES BROS MINICROSS CHAMPIONSHIP

POS	NO.	DRIVER	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	DR	9	TOTAL
1	443	Kris Hudson (GB)	25	23	30	23	27						128
2	489	Ben Clark (GB)	29	0	33	34	29						125
3	459	George Edwardes (GB)	32	32	0	27	32						123
4	432	Thomas Edwardes (GB)	27	20	21	29	0						97
5	488	Samantha O'Flanagan (GB)	18	17	18	16	19						88
6	464	Kelly Bird (GB)	19	18	17	18	15						87
7	469	Richard Wakeling (GB)	21	25	23	17	0						86
8	453	Keifer Hudson (GB)	17	19	25	0	21						82
9	425	Mark Griffin (GB)	0	0	21	21	25						67
10	491	John Thacker (GB)	0	29	15	0	0						44
11	493	David Bell (GB)	0	0	0	19	16						35
12	485	Ian Clark (GB)	0	0	16	0	17						33
13	450	Keith Dolton (GB)	0	21	0	0	0						21
14	475	Brian Wade (GB)	0	0	0	0	18						18
15	445	Malcolm Dickenson (GB)	0	0	0	14	0						14

2010 MDA EDUARDES BROS JUNIOR MINICROSS CHAMPIONSHIP

POS	NO.	DRIVER	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	DR	9	TOTAL
1	533	Paige Bellerby (GB)	27	29	33	38	33						127
2	589	Brad Baily (GB)	38	38	0	0	0						76
3	548	Todd Crooks (GB)	0	0	0	27	27						54
4	523	Kiefer Hudson (GB)	0	0	32	0	0						32
5	550	Ollie Mellors (GB)	0	0	0	0	30						30
6	504	Shauna Baxter (GB)	25	0	0	0	0						25

2010 MDA EDUARDES BROS MODIFIED 2000 CHAMPIONSHIP

POS	NO.	DRIVER	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	DR	9	TOTAL
1	159	Shelly Wakeling (GB)	30	36	34	36	36						172
2	171	Dave Ewin (GB)	0	0	29	27	25						81
3	100	Stuart Emery (GB)	35	0	0	0	0						35

Formula One

Fernando Alonso scored his second win of the 2010 season at the German Grand Prix in Hockenheim. Team mate Massa came in second after letting through the 2 time champion earlier on in



the race. Pole sitter Sebastian Vettel dropped to 3rd position at the first corner, having to play catch up to the 2 Ferrari's for the rest of the race. The two McLaren's of Hamilton and Button came in 4th and 5th position.

AFTER RD 11 OF 19

POS	DRIVER	POINTS
1	Lewis Hamilton (GB)	157
2	Jenson Button (GB)	143
3	Mark Webber (AUS)	136
4	Sebastian Vettel (D)	136
5	Fernando Alonso (ES)	123

WRC

The tarmac stages of the Rally of Bulgaria was won by 6 times champion, Sebastien Loeb in his Citroen C4. The podium was an all Citroen affair with team mate Sordo finishing second, in front of



Petter Solberg and Sebastian Ogier in fourth.

Mikko Hirvonen was the first Ford home in fifth place in front of his team mate Jarri-Matti Latvala in sixth. The championship now moves to the famous Rally Finland.

AFTER RD 7 OF 13

POS	DRIVER	POINTS
1	Sebastien Loeb (F)	151
2	Sebastien Ogier (F)	100
3	Mikko Hirvonen (FIN)	86
4	Jari-Matti Latvala (FIN)	80
5	Petter Solberg (NOR)	78

IRC

Bruno Magalhaes claimed a shock win on the Rally Azores after a dramatic final stage where both Skoda drivers who had been leading, retired with problems.



Peugeot team mate and reigning IRC Champion Kris Meeke finished second, behind the Portuguese driver and crucially maintaining a stake in the championship after several poor results.

AFTER RD 7 OF 12

POS	DRIVER	POINTS
1	Juho Hanninen (FIN)	48
2	Jan Kopecky (CZ)	39
3	Bruno Magalhaes (POR)	30
4	Guy Wilks (GB)	25
5	Kris Meeke (GB)	23

ERC

Liam Doran took his first European Rallycross win at Round 6 in Finland. His win ended an 20 year drought for Britain in the top level of the sport and shows that he is a real contender for the championship in his Kenneth Hansen run C4.



Sverre Isachen still leads the overall standings as the series moves into its second half with many placing their money on the 2009 champion to retain his crown.

AFTER RD 6 OF 10

POS	DRIVER	POINTS
1	Sverre Isachen (NOR)	89
2	Michael Jernberg (SWE)	80
3	Kenneth Hansen (SWE)	77
4	Liam Doran (GB)	73
5	Stig-Olov Walfridsson (SWE)	60

YEAR OF THE HAND

- Griffin breaks his hand, forcing him to sit out in Valkenswaard.



Mark Griffin may be forced to miss Round 6 of the MDA championship in Mallory due to a broken hand that occurred on the Saturday before the race in Valkenswaard. After a lengthy trip to a Dutch Hospital, Griffin was

Lydden Hill at the beginning of the year.

Mark, who will have to make a decision whether to race or not by the end of July had if he is to send his entry in on time. It is

forced to sit out the event at the Eurocircuit, allowing his hand to begin to heal.

The accident happened whilst he was unloading his cars, forcing the knuckle of the fourth finger on the right hand back, breaking the metacarpal bone in the palm of the hand. A cast was required, covering the majority of the hand and the wrist to help secure the injury

The period of recovery for an injury such as this is anything up to 6 weeks, meaning that Mark may have to sit out not just Mallory on the 8th August, but also the Bank Holiday event at Lydden on the 30th. After a string of good results and a podium finish at round 5 in Blyton, having to miss a further two meetings would see his title hopes all but gone. This problem will be compounded by the fact that Griffin no longer has any drop scores left to fall back upon, after missing Rd 1 and 2 at

BROKEN HAND ESSENTIAL GUIDE

- As with most broken bones, the usual time for recover is up to 6 weeks (depending on the extent of the damage).

- There are over 27 bones in the Human hand/wrist. Many of these bones being some of the smallest in the body.

- Incorrectly healed bones in the hand are a main cause of arthritis in later life.

- The specific bone that Griffin broke is called the "Metacarpals", located in the palm.

thought that even if the hand isn't fully healed by the August event, he may still be able to race as long as he can show that the hand is strong enough to withstand the punishment of a Mini-Cross event.

It wouldn't be the first time that a Mini-crosser has raced with broken bones. Matt Thompson competed at Blyton in a event in 2007 with a broken wrist. Dan O'Brien also competing with a broken arm after a roll in his Mini at Knockhill several years ago.



20 Years of Minis at Valkenswaard

The 2010 event at the Eurocircuit marked the 20th anniversary of the MDA visiting the track. The minis first visited the event in 1991, after the track had undergone major refurbishment of its facilities and surrounding areas by a team lead by current circuit owner, Sjack Noordmerr.



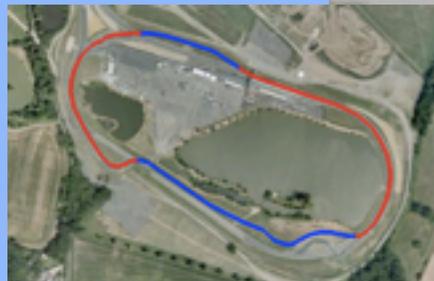
To celebrate this milestone, both the MDA and the Eurocircuit organized a get together on the Saturday night at the circuits bar, for all the teams and officials. A superb BBQ was provided with a free bar before a small prize giving ceremony began.

MDA officials Ron Watson and Richard Wakeling presented Sjack with two gifts to celebrate the anniversary. First, was a picture documenting the 20 years of minis racing at Valkenswaard, then followed by a engraved decorative mini.

Hopefully the friendship between the MDA and the Eurocircuit will continue for many more years to come, with the track providing some of the best racing of the year.

Next Issue

Septembers issue of Minicross Talk will feature all the action from rounds 6 and 7 as the seasons heats up for a nail biting conclusion. Currently 4 drivers are in the hunt for the title but will the races at Mallory and Lydden see a 4th driver take a victory in the 2010 season.





To say that it would be difficult is an understatement, with many believing 3 days is not long enough to re-build a competitive engine. However, this didn't deter Ian who was so passionate about racing in Holland that he decided to not only take on the task, but complete it in the campsite's field.

So with the tools and parts loaded in the back of the van and trailer in tow, Clark made his way to Valkenswaard, arriving in the earlier hours of Thursday morning to begin this mammoth task.

Clark finished the engine on the Sunday morning before scrutineering, and went on to score the second fastest time in Heat 2. A great result for a car that had only fired up 6 hours before the race.

How to build an engine in 3 days

Ian Clark had only 3 days to re-build his engine before Valkenswaard, the catch being that it had to be built in a field at the campsite...



Step 1

Once the build has begun, make sure your troops are fueled on a mixture of Beer and BBQs to keep moral high.





Step 2

With the nature of building an engine outside, even the smallest of task may become 10 times harder.

To make the build go smoother, always make sure you know where all the parts are. Playing "Hunt for the 13 mil Spanner", gets boring after the 30th time of playing.

Step 3

Its in situations like these that the true spirit of Mini-Cross shines through, with no-one afraid of getting their hands stuck in.

Once the engine is in place, make sure that all the vital signs are in check before you begin the fine tuning. The car is now ready to take on a days Mini-Crossing in the toughest environment that is the Eurocircuit. After some early teething problems, Ian went on to record several top 5 finishes throughout the day.



2010 MDA Edwardes Bros Minicross Championship

**Round 1 Sat 6th March Lydden Hill
Round 2 Mon 5th April Lydden Hill
Round 3 Sun 25th April Knockhill
Round 4 Sun 9th May Blyton
Round 5 Sat 12th June Blyton*
Round 6 Sun 8th Aug Mallory Park
Round 7 Mon 30th Aug Lydden Hill
Round 8 Sun 12th Sept Mallory Park
Round 9 Sun 10th Oct Pembrey**

*** Denotes Day/Night Race**