



Newsletter



Issue 09 Nov 2006



Mini Se7en's Were The Stars of THE RACE

Prime time coverage on Sky One and Sky Three for the UK's favourite club racing championship was the result of a lot of behind the scenes work by members of the Mini 7 Racing Club. The two celebrity teams led by Eddie Irvine and David Coulthard got behind the wheel of eight Mini Se7ens and got the surprise of their lives as they raced around Silverstone's National Circuit on Wednesday 8th November 2006.



In total the Mini Se7en's received 20 minutes of the 60 minute Sky One airtime, a good deal of coverage for the championship and the championship and personal sponsors on the cars were all seen at some point during the show.

This is what the celebrities said about the Mini Se7ens -

'This is real motor racing.' Eddie Irvine

'Unbelievable speed. I had so much fun.' Nigel Benn

'I want one now!' Jenny Frost

'The Mini's were amazing. A lot of people under estimated how fast they were.'

Tamara Ecclestone

'It was fabulous, can I go out again?' Brian Johnson

'Brilliant, absolutely excellent.' Gary Numan

'It was so exciting, I think they're brilliant.' Iain Lee

Nick Cooke received the following message from Rachel Rossiter, Associate Producer for **The Race** -

"Just wanted to say once again THANK YOU so much! It was an absolute pleasure working with you on Wednesday and over previous weeks. You and your boys have been fantastic... and your attitude was incredibly assuring and supportive. Thank you for making my job that bit easier and more pleasurable."

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THE RACE

Thanks must go to the following M7RC members, without whose support the M7RC wouldn't have received such first class exposure:

Damon and Kane Astin, Paul Thompson, Max and Dick Hunter, Darren Thomas, Lee Jones, Anthony Towey, Andrew and Ian Deviny, Paul Clark, Graeme Davis, James Bowers Coulson, Mark Smith, Paul Spark, Steven Hopper, Mark Wanstall, Andy and Sue Ruthven, Mike and Alan Jackson, Nick Cooke

and all of the other support team members that spent the day at Silverstone.



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PITLANE MAGAZINE

Coming Soon...

Congratulations

BILL SOLLIS

2006 Mini Miglia Champion





RACING LINE PHOTOGRAPHY



Picture by Paul Vickers Racing Line Photography

See more of Paul's images in the gallery section at www.mini7.co.uk.

November Caption Competition

Who can come up with the best caption for this picture?

Post your captions on the Mini 7 forum or email them to Jeff Carter at the address opposite and keep them clean!

October Caption Comp - Results



Paul Simmonds

So, now let's have your comments with subtitles for the hard of hearing.....

Ralph Saunders

*So, F is for F***d....*

Nick Cooke

Channel 4's program ~ 'Countdown', welcomes Mark Sims as Des Lynham's replacement; they are still uncertain about Carol Vorderman's replacement!

Gareth Hunt

Who put the F'in Pitstop Lorry right in front of my Motorhome...

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Chairman's Chat.....

The final round of the Championship came up to all expectations, with an exciting Mini 7 and Miglia race. Andrew Deviny had already claimed the Mini 7 Championship before the meeting, but this didn't stop the normal 'battle' at the front. Max Hunter won a cracking final round in the Se7ens and Bill Sollis clinched the Miglia Championship by winning the hard fought battle with James Hall and Kelly Rogers. Congratulations Bill on your 4th Mini Se7en Racing Club Championship. So yet again we provided two exciting races at a cold and 'spectator-less' Donington Park. In summary, the finale to a great season's racing; let's hope it continues into 2007. I'm sure it will.

Now came a new experience for the Club, we became T.V. stars for a day! As I have posted on the forum, Town House T.V. were very impressed with our professional attitude on the day in question. Prior to this, several of the drivers enjoyed two days at playing the role of the Celebs. by driving various cars and being wined and dined at Sky's expense. I gather that Steven Hopper's dream came true, when Denise Van Outen became very friendly! On the actual day of filming, some new friendships developed; for example, Paul Thompson said that he would never use the car again! Jenny Frost left such an impression on him!

The day, although it didn't go quite to schedule, worked very well with the Celebrities obviously totally 'flabbergasted' at the performance of our version of the Mini. Nick Moran even said that he was going to join the Club as he enjoyed it that much. The ladies, Ingrid Tarrant, Jenny Frost, Melissa Joan Hart and Tamara Ecclestone {I tried to persuade her to ask Bernie to wear a M7RC fleece on the various F1 grids in 2007 with little success} all said what a great time they had. The race itself was exciting, with Brian Johnson {lead singer of AC/DC} showing his talent, although it was a close run thing at one stage with Jenny Frost, Gary Numan and the unfortunate Melissa all in with a chance of taking second position. Melissa {Sabrina the teenage witch} was lying second, when Max's engine said 'enough is enough'; she had only two corners before crossing the finish line! I thought the race came over very well in the evening and it was nice to see Brian Johnson wearing a M7RC fleece as he was being interviewed. Well done Mike and Alan Jackson for some 'quick thinking'.

I have thanked several people on the forum for making the day go so well but I must finally thank Andy and Sue Ruthven who 'put up with' all of the media chopping and changing on the day and during the preceding weeks. It was difficult at times to not loose it, but they didn't. I know this to be true at first hand, when I was told after the second Celebrity practice, just before the race, that all of the Dunlop headers must be removed! I gave the Director two options ~ the headers stay on the cars or the cars will be loaded onto their trailers, NOW! As you know, the race went ahead, headers and all!

The Club also attended the Sunday Grand Prix, their words not mine, with a Club stand, normal merchandise, information and three cars. The crowd interest was considerable, mainly as two of the cars still carried the Celebrity names on the rear windows. Mike and Alan had some interest as far as joining the Club was concerned and the sale of merchandise was moderate.

What effect the whole event will have on our Club will be difficult to assess. There is one thing for certain, it will do no harm. All of our Sponsors, a special thank you to Dunlop for attending on the day, I'm sorry the tyre sales were not great ~ all have said how impressed they were, especially seeing close up shots of their particular company decals.

So let's hope that the M7RC will receive even more attention in 2007, we deserve it.

Nick Cooke



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Dunlop Mini Miglia Challenge

Round 12 - Donington Park - 21st/22nd October 2006

Sollis Shines at Donington to Lift 2006 Title

Bill Sollis clinched the Miglia Challenge title after victory in the final round, having seen off the wholehearted efforts of James Hall and Kelly Rogers to wrestle the lead from him.

James Hall led away from pole ahead of Bill Sollis, Endaf Owens and Andrew Hack who raced side by side into Redgate, Kelly Rogers, Colin Peacock and Mark Sims. Andrew Hack tried to outside burst into The Old Hairpin, which saw him run wide on to the grass, before rejoining in the middle of the pack.

The leading quartet were circulating in close formation with James Hall still heading Sollis, Owen and Rogers. Andrew Hack set the fastest lap of the race as he started to climb back up the order. Kelly Rogers rose to third as Endaf Owens slowed with a gearbox malfunction. Andrew Hack's race came to an early end after he ran wide again on The Old Hairpin, running through the gravel trap, before making heavy contact with the type wall, fortunately without any personal injury.

James Hall and Kelly Rogers were side as they reached into Redgate for the fifth time, before Bill Sollis made his move taking the lead at the Chicane on lap six. Kelly Rogers snatched second at McLeans a lap after as the three of them remained in close company. Colin Peacock and Mark Sims were dicing over fourth, after Ralph Saunders had dropped back after a grassy moment at The Old Hairpin.

James Hall was putting Kelly Rogers under considerable pressure in his quest to regain second, which saw him pull out exiting The Old Hairpin for the final time and racing side by side before claiming second with his inside line into McLeans.

Bill Sollis was able to retain his slender lead to pip Hall by Just 0.86 of a second at the chequered flag, with Rogers third.

Roy Sisley

POS	NO	NAME	TIME	LAPS	GAP	MPH	BEST
1	3	Bill SOLLIS	14:09.455	10		82.81	1:23.338
2	21	James HALL	14:10.261	10	0.806	82.74	1:23.711
3	2	Kelly ROGERS	14:10.373	10	0.918	82.73	1:23.228
4	83	Colin PEACOCK	14:18.028	10	8.573	81.99	1:24.843
5	6	Mark SIMS	14:18.216	10	8.761	81.97	1:24.642
6	39	Paul WOODBRIDGE	14:22.546	10	13.091	81.56	1:24.935
7	17	Steve WHITELEY	14:22.814	10	13.359	81.53	1:24.857
8	7	Ralph SAUNDERS	14:31.398	10	21.943	80.73	1:24.792
9	34	Keith ALLINGTON	14:50.273	10	40.818	79.02	1:26.909
10	14	Justin REID	14:54.661	10	45.206	78.63	1:25.337
11	33	Paul BAIRD	14:55.469	10	46.014	78.56	1:26.052
12	43	Neil MACKAY	14:11.759	9	1 LAP	74.32	1:32.045

Not Classified

18	Philip DALE	13:20.248	9	D.N.F.	79.10	1:24.972
28	Phil LEE	5:53.565	4	D.N.F.	79.40	1:25.197
19	Endaf OWENS	5:13.180	3	D.N.F.	67.14	1:30.114
23	Andrew HACK	2:57.244	2	D.N.F.	78.88	1:23.091
42	Paul SIMMONDS	1:37.299	1	D.N.F.	71.27	1:37.299

Fastest Lap

23	Andrew HACK	1:23.091	2	136.47kph	84.80
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DUNLOP MINI SE7EN CHALLENGE

Round 12 - DONINGTON PARK – 21st /22nd October 2006

Hunter Maxed Out in Final Race of 2006

Max Hunter won a cracking final round to claim second in the Se7en Challenge, after a thrilling five way dice which lasted throughout the race.

Geoff and Alan Letts led away from the front row with Niven Burge, Andrew Deviny, Max Hunter and Paul Thompson in pursuit. Max was soon progressing upwards with his outside line through The Old Hairpin elevating him past Andrew Deviny into third, before he moved ahead of Alan Letts on the run into the Chicane on the second lap.

Geoff Lett's hold on the lead ended after he and Max raced side by side past Starkey's Bridge, before Max took the lead on the outside line through McLeans on lap three. Rather than pull away, Max found himself being reeled back in by the chasing quartet, now minus Niven Burge who had to pull off with an electrical fault.

Paul Thompson had worked his way up to head the chasing pack, before grabbing the lead off Max at the Chicane on the fourth lap. Geoff and Alan Letts demoted Max down to fourth, before Max regained third off Alan on the inside line through McLeans on lap five.

Andrews Deviny was next to advance his position as he followed Max Hunter's example and passed Geoff Letts to reach third during a hectic sixth lap. Andrew then rose to second as he moved ahead of Max a lap later. Paul Thompson still held a slim lead as they raced through the Craner Curves on the penultimate lap, shortly before Geoff Letts and Andrew Deviny touched, sending Andrew spinning off into the gravel trap.

Max Hunter used his rapid outside line exiting The Old Hairpin to snatch the lead back of Thompson. Paul attempted to slip inside Max at the Chicane on the final lap, but got sideways and crossed the grass before rejoining and was passed by both Alan and Geoff Letts on the run in to the chequered flag after a wonderfully entertaining race.

Roy Sisley

POS	NO	NAME	TIME	LAPS	GAP	MPH	BEST
1	46	Max HUNTER	15:34.583	10		75.27	1:31.936
2	7	Alan LETTS	15:35.812	10	1.229	75.17	1:32.086
3	3	Geoff LETTS	15:36.015	10	1.432	75.16	1:31.886
4	1	Paul THOMPSON	15:36.123	10	1.540	75.15	1:31.910
5	50	Ian DEVINY	15:42.124	10	7.541	74.67	1:32.798
6	37	Gareth HUNT	15:48.030	10	13.447	74.20	1:32.626
7	5	Kane ASTIN	15:48.308	10	13.725	74.18	1:33.320
8	71	Dick HUNTER	15:51.720	10	17.137	73.92	1:33.440
9	35	Paul SPARK	16:02.758	10	28.175	73.07	1:34.580
10	22	Graeme DAVIS	16:02.854	10	28.271	73.06	1:33.713
11	8	Damon ASTIN	16:03.159	10	28.576	73.04	1:33.432
12	24	James BOWERS COULSON	16:03.467	10	28.884	73.01	1:34.939
13	98	Mark SMITH	16:03.976	10	29.393	72.98	1:33.571
14	77	Tristen KNIGHT	16:17.621	10	43.038	71.96	1:35.127
15	34	Anthony TOWEY	16:17.928	10	43.345	71.93	1:35.330
16	60	Malcolm james KEAT	16:25.006	10	50.423	71.42	1:36.834
17	52	Nathan BURGE	16:52.536	10	1:17.953	69.48	1:37.776

Fastest Lap

2 Andrew DEVINY 1:31.760 6 123.58kph 76.79

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Dunlop Mini Se7en Challenge
FINAL Championship Positions After Round 12

Pos	Name	Total	Dropped Scores	Best Ten Scores
1	Andrew Deviny	225	2 / 18	205
2	Max Hunter	215	2 / 17	196
3	Geoff Letts	228	18 / 18	192
4	Paul Thompson	209	2 / 16	191
5	Alan Letts	154	1 / 6	147
6	Paul Clark	146	1 / 1	144
7	Dick Hunter	122	0 / 0	122
8	Paul Spark	123	3 / 5	115
9	Kane Astin	113	0 / 0	113
10	Damon Astin	114	0 / 2	112
11	Graeme Davis	113	2 / 2	109
12	Gareth Hunt	91	0 / 0	91
13	Ian Deviny	82	0 / 0	82
14	Mark Smith	80	0 / 0	80
15	James B Coulson	67	2 / 2	63

Dunlop Mini Miglia Challenge
FINAL Championship Positions After Round 12

Pos	Name	Total	Dropped Scores	Best Ten Scores
1	Bill Sollis	225	2 / 19	203
2	James Hall	220	2 / 17	201
3	Kelly Rogers	188	0 / 2	186
4	Tim Sims	165	0 / 0	165
5	Mark Sims	168	2 / 2	164
6	Colin Peacock	159	0 / 2	157
7	Ralph Saunders	155	2 / 2	151
8	Paul Woodbridge	126	0 / 2	124
9	Tony Le May	122	0 / 0	122
10	Phil Lee	92	2 / 1	89
11	Gordon Pocock	79	0 / 0	79
12	Paul Simmonds	78	0 / 0	78
13	Phil Harvey	63	0 / 0	63
14	Keith Allington	62	0 / 0	62
15	Paul Baird	57	0 / 0	57

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