

# MINI CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS

Media information

25 July 2022

**The world of motorsport is in mourning. MINI commemorates Paddy Hopkirk, one of the great sportsmen.**



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**Munich, July 25, 2022.** On Thursday, July 21, 2022, British motorsport idol Patrick Barron Hopkirk MBE passed away peacefully in Buckinghamshire. Born in Belfast on April 14, 1933, Paddy – as he was affectionately known – began a fast-paced career as a racing driver in the 1950s. The world of

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motorsport and the MINI community mourn an important figure from within the industry.

A successful racer and businessman, Paddy began his professional motorsport career at the Circuit of Ireland and with his first Hewison Trophy for the most successful Irish rally driver of the year. In the following decades, numerous engagements with various brands and major rallies were strung together — such as the Safari Rally, the RAC Rally, the Acropolis Rally, the Tulip Rally, the Alpine Rally and many more.

Hopkirk finished his first participation in the Monte Carlo Rally in 1962 in third place in a Sunbeam Rapier. A year later, sixth place followed with a classic Mini.

In 1964 Hopkirk finally etched himself into the motorsport history books in the classic Mini. In a dramatic duel with Swede Bo Ljungfeldt and his significantly more motorized Ford Falcon, Hopkirk delivered a showdown at the Col de Turini and finally won the overall standings, taking the first Monte victory for the Mini.



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The surprise coup was celebrated frenetically in Great Britain, making the classic Mini a legend and Hopkirk the most famous rally driver overnight. The

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British Prime Minister sent congratulations and The Beatles sent a card with the words, "Now you're one of us, Paddy."

But what do numbers and victories say about a person? Hopkirk was also known among colleagues, family, friends and fans as a fair sportsman. In 1968, he and his co-driver Tony Nash were in the lead at the London-Sydney marathon and stopped their Austin to free a recently injured team-member from his burning vehicle.

Today, although we must say farewell to Paddy, we know that his legacy will remain forever.

In case of queries, please contact:

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## **The BMW Group**

With its four brands BMW, MINI, Rolls-Royce and BMW Motorrad, the BMW Group is the world's leading premium manufacturer of automobiles and motorcycles and also provides premium financial and mobility services. The BMW Group production network comprises over 30 production sites worldwide; the company has a global sales network in more than 140 countries.

In 2021, the BMW Group sold over 2.5 million passenger vehicles and more than 194,000 motorcycles worldwide. The profit before tax in the financial year 2021 was € 16.1 billion on revenues amounting to € 111.2 billion. As of 31 December 2021, the BMW Group had a workforce of 118,909 employees.

The success of the BMW Group has always been based on long-term thinking and responsible action. The company set the course for the future at an early stage and consistently makes sustainability and efficient resource management central to its strategic direction, from the supply chain through production to the end of the use phase of all products.

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