

MINI CHALLENGE JOINS BRITISH GT CHAMPIONSHIP IN 2017



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- Top-level JCW Championship moves to British GT race package for 2017
- Major championship expansion across all classes
- MINI UK increases support for MINI Challenge in 2017

MINI Challenge will join the British GT Championship for the first time next year, cementing its place as one of Europe's fastest-growing single-make racing championship.

The news marks the biggest step yet for the popular championship and follows a recent agreement between MINI Challenge and MINI UK which will see the brand provide increased support through the 2017 race season.

Alongside technical and parts support, MINI UK will also provide promotional support through funding a MINI UK guest car and mainstream television coverage.

Nicolas Griebner, head of product at MINI UK, said: "I am thrilled that MINI Challenge is supporting the well-established British GT Championship with exiting and close racing from 2017 onwards. British GT has grown in the last 20 years to become the world foremost domestic sports car series, whilst MINI Challenge has also become one of the best one-make series in the UK since 2001."

"Supporting the MINI Challenge means we can also filter technology from racing down to our road car range, as evidenced by the new MINI John Cooper Works Challenge edition, which gives customers the purest possible experience on the road."

The MINI Challenge's JCW category, which runs of the latest version of MINI's powerful John Cooper Works Hatch, will hold a mixture of double and triple-header rounds during SRO-run race weekends, which are headlined by British GT and the BRDC Formula 3 Championship.

The championship will run over eight rounds, with six alongside British GT and two headlining MotorSport Vision Racing's MINI Festivals at Brands Hatch and Oulton Park. MSVR will continue to administer the championship.

Ends

The BMW Group

With its three brands BMW, MINI and Rolls-Royce, the BMW Group is the world's leading premium manufacturer of automobiles and motorcycles and also provides premium financial and mobility services. As a global company, the BMW Group

operates 30 production and assembly facilities in 14 countries and has a global sales network in more than 140 countries.

In 2015, the BMW Group sold approximately 2.247 million cars and nearly 137,000 motorcycles worldwide. The profit before tax for the financial year 2015 was approximately € 9.22 billion on revenues amounting to € 92.18 billion. As of 31 December 2015, the BMW Group had a workforce of 122,244 employees.

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