

Moves for more Minis

Coopers sought for British Championship



JOHN HORTON would like to see more Mini Coopers making a splash in next year's British Championship. Photo: Mark Writtle

Plans are afoot to boost the number of Minis in the British Championship.

Championship Manager John Horton and Brian Harper, the man behind Padiham-based Cooper preparation specialist Mini Sport, are currently examining ways of getting as many competitors as possible into Cooper 1.3is for next year's series. They are looking at creating a "kit" comprised of a bodyshell and/or parts to build up identical Gp A versions of the car, while at the same time making it

easy for current owners to upgrade their cars. Discussions are also progressing with a tyre company with a view to producing something akin to a control tyre.

In return, cars would be eligible for a series of bonuses and incentives. Rover Sport already offers £500 for a Mini class win on individual rounds and £1000 for a championship class victory: it may supplement this if a sufficient number of cars materialise for next year, along with further contributions from individual event

organisers. Horton, meanwhile, would arrange a comprehensive publicity package.

"I think it can be quite an affordable car, and there's always a lot of interest in it in terms of local and regional publicity," he said. "Plus it's very British, and has that tremendous pedigree from the '60s."

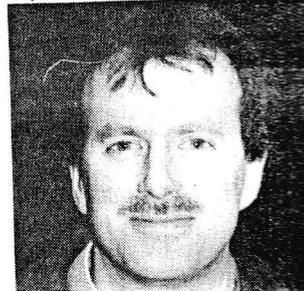
However, he is keen to stress that the scheme will only go ahead if a minimum of eight Mini drivers can be found. He is contactable on 0121 3782828 for further information.

Evans does the double

Ricky Evans and Ian Butcher maintained their clean sweep this year of both the Peugeot Sport Gold Star Championship and the Peugeot Cup at the weekend, and they take both titles as a result. Their wins crown a superb two

brought their Dennis Cooper Cars Peugeot home first in class A6, while Simon Stubbs and Alexis Harper had a troubled day which was highlighted by two bouts of brake failure and saw the crew using any banks in sight to slow down. Fortunately they avoided

were first in N3 in both the Gold Star and Peugeot Cup. They lost time with a big spin in stage four, but a last stage "all or nothing" charge saw them take 12s out of Leigh Armstrong/Stuart White to win the battle. The latter was duly ousted, but felt that his 309 was



Murphy on

Stephen Murphy chalked up his fourth Coras Vard Championship victory of the season on Sunday's Clare Stages to close the gap on series leader and defending champion Mickey Farrell.

The Bagenalstown Escort Cosworth pilot was never headed on the nine-stage event, although Farrell - whose Subaru Legacy was slowed early on by a mechanical problem - was piling on the pressure when he crashed on the penultimate stage. The result leaves Murphy a threatening third in the Vard table.

With John Gilleece still on holiday and Paul Harris blowing his Sierra's engine on the opening stage, it was left to Anthony O'Halloran to pursue Murphy in his venerable Manta, although he was almost three minutes adrift at the finish. Eamonn Boland continued to get to grips with his left hand drive Escort in third, mean

Got no whe

Steve Smith has recently had a large quantity of wheels stolen from Walkers Garage in Northampton, which could affect his performance on the forthcoming Morgannwg National Forest Rally.

The loss of all of his Gp A tarmac five-spoke OZ wheels may mean that the garage proprietor will suffer on the Singleton Park tarmac stages, as he may have to use force tyres on his lattice pattern rims, some of which were also stolen.