



As everyone got down to go-karting, we sneaked off to take photos of our Cooper demo from MINI Malgaj

A later start on the last day was probably a Godsend for those nursing hangovers, but instead of a greasy fry up, an adrenaline-fuelled kart race was on offer at the Kart Track Lucija. A bit of competitiveness and good spirit guaranteed a lot of fun and those skilful enough were awarded trophies.

Although the Alpe Adria Summit was predominately a new MINI event, organisers Boris and Anže had also invited along the fastest and the most beautiful classic Minis from their club. One well-respected classic owner decided to go just that little bit further and show off his driving skills around the actual kart circuit in his heavily modified, rear bike-engined monster. Watching him drift around the tight windy circuit with ease was an amazing spectacle and such a perfect end to a perfect weekend.

There are rumours of a rematch summit next year, but Boris and Anže know that to do one better will be a huge challenge. Could we hold something similar in the UK? Well yes, we'd like to think so but it would take something really special to top the achievements of New MINI Drivers. ■



Her partner revelled in scaring passengers in this rear-engined motorbike-powered Mini around the go-kart track

## What did they think?



### Club members from South MINI Italy

"Yes it was very good – 'magnifico!' and we will come back.

It was a beautiful weekend, to us driving through the mountains was the best part."



### Maxim Dembik – president of Mini Club Ukraine

"It took us two days to drive here and we covered 1700km – we spent one

night on the border between Ukraine and Hungary and then drove straight to Bled. We've never been to Slovenia before, it's a beautiful country and really surprising for us as it looks so different from other ex-communist countries. I'm very surprised about the event. I know the guys [Boris and Anže] had pretty good sponsorship but still, the event has been helped by their amazing enthusiasm and what they've achieved is amazing – bringing together more than 106 MINIs from all over Europe. I would come back, absolutely, and do it again."



### Viktor Spratiev – representing Bulgarian MINI Club

"It took us half a day to reach Slovenia and we've probably covered about 700km in our MINIs. We've never been

to Slovenia before; it's a lovely country and probably the best place in Europe I've ever been – I say that very seriously. The whole country, the feeling, the emotion that you have from first impressions, it's marvellous and probably the nicest car event I've ever participated in. I was impressed with the organisation and think they've done a fabulous route and a very organised schedule; I didn't see one person having issues so I think the Slovenians have done a great job. We just had two cars unfortunately from Bulgaria but we will try and participate next time like the Romanian group with 13 MINIs. Did you know that in Bulgaria the MINI is just as expensive as a secondhand luxury car? So unfortunately we still cannot overcome the trend of driving secondhand luxury cars which is a problem."



### Andreja Žarn – Slovenia Classic Mini Club

"I'm part of the Slovenia Classic Mini Club and they invited two of us to join them – the fastest

and the most beautiful one! I usually attend the International Mini Meetings (IMM) that are organised each year in

different countries for old Minis. It was the first time for me to join an event with new MINIs and it was great! Everyone has been very friendly – I expected maybe they wouldn't be as I have a classic but they all accepted us. I think that for the first international MINI event in Slovenia it was brilliant, the organisation was great and they chose the best places in our country that foreigners should see."



### Alpe Adria Summit organisers Boris Klemens and Anže Andoljšek

"Personally I think the event went great and couldn't have been any better. The

feedback we've had was that the weekend was 'epic'! This makes us very happy and many people are just asking when the next one is. We'll catch up on our sleep first as we're exhausted!

The MINI is special, just like Slovenia and both have many things in common. We're both very small but for the purpose of having fun, just quite big enough. We designed the whole route just three weeks before – Anže double-checked this and drove it himself – and it was snowing! In between this we've had one month of non-stop rain, so we were worried for our weekend.

We had a lot of additional problems too – for example, the authorities planned to close the road for a running race the same morning we wanted to leave Bled so we had to get special dispensation to allow us through.

It's a great honour for us that people from Ukraine and Romania came and visited us, especially as they didn't know any of us beforehand.

There were some MINI owners who promised to come who live in northern Italy and Hungary but they didn't turn up, and they know Slovenia.

That's why we feel really proud that the Ukrainians and Romanians made the effort. It was a big challenge with so many cars coming from so many different locations which is why we split the MINIs into groups of 20 cars as we know all owners drive differently.

Of course it was made easier with the financial support of BMW Group. We were able to put in our knowhow, our time and our knowledge into the organisation."

## MM would like to thank ...

**Adria Airways** ([www.adria.si](http://www.adria.si))

**Slovenia BMW Group** – Gordana Kisilak

**MINI Malgaj** – Maja Urh

([www.malgaj.si/mini/](http://www.malgaj.si/mini/))

**New MINI Drivers** – Boris Klemens

and Anže Andoljšek ([www.mini-klub.com](http://www.mini-klub.com))