



## **YOUNG WEATHERS STOKELL STORM**

**Official press release – MINI Challenge**

**March 28, 2009**

**Albert Park, Melbourne VIC**

Paul Stokell came storming home from 8<sup>th</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> but it was Victorian pole-sitter Gary Young who held on in a nail-biting finish to win Race Two of the 2009 MINI Challenge, presented by “The boat that rocked”.

Young took his Elite Cranes / Big V Constructions Bib Stillwell Mini Garage JCW #8 to an all the way win but his lead was reduced dramatically in the last quarter of a lap as Stokell homed in on his prey and made a play for the #1 position.

“We developed a small turbo problem late in the race and the tyres went away so I was on the ropes a bit at the end. I knew he (Stokell) was there though so I wasn’t going to let him past without a fight,” smiled the affable Victorian.

Several arm-wrestles broke out throughout the event with Andrew Mill, Grant Denyer and Scott Bargwanna in particular providing some tremendous three-wide, three-line competition.

West Aussie Nathan Caratti was originally in the same battle until his Glory Team Construction JCW MINI made contact with Grant Denyer’s DecoRug car and Caratti spearing off the circuit into a harmless (albeit losing several positions) spin.

Third placed Nathan Geier was solid in the largely un-sponsored #16 entry, having to survive some door-to-door battles early in the piece before breaking free and claiming his podium spot.

“We’re still not 100% with the car,” admitted Geier, “we made some changes after Race One but I think we went the wrong way. Tomorrow we’ll go back in the other direction and hopefully we’re back where we want to be.”

Andrew Mill was sensational, coming home in fourth place.

“I finished seventh in the first race after qualifying eighth on Thursday,” he grinned, “so coming from seventh to fourth just now is very satisfying. It’s so competitive out there, much more competitive than what I’m used to. The cars are so evenly matched that you have to take any opportunity you can.”

Following Mill home in fifth was Grant Denyer (up from position 8), Beric Lynton (Bruce Lynton BMW), Scott Bargwanna (ROCK Energy Drinks), Nathan Callaghan (Calmack Smash Repairs), Nathan Caratti (Glory Constructions), Grant Doullman (M3 Motorsport), Damien Flack (Livi Bathroom Tissues), Peter Leemhuis (Donut King), Sam Newman (The boat that rocked), John Modystach (Prosurv), Brendon Cook, Chris Alajajian, Barrie Nesbitt and Helen Lindner.

Chris Alajajian was originally running fourth and looking very strong until he developed a problem with the Jack Hillermans Smash JCW MINI and he faded back through the pack.

“I feel like we’re fast every time we go out there so that’s encouraging, but I didn’t need to lose all those positions that’s for sure,” Alajajian frowned post-race.

MINI Challenge rookie John Modystach was pleased with his 14<sup>th</sup> in Race Two of his MINI Challenge debut this weekend.

“I was happy with the way we went. The tyres might have gone off a bit towards the end, but it was pretty busy out there. I had a good battle with Sam Newman for a while there and got quite a sweat up. It’s so much fun out there.”

Race Three of the 2009 MINI Challenge, presented by “The boat that rocked”, is scheduled for Sunday at 12.40pm.

Round One of the 2009 MINI Challenge is presented by “The boat that rocked” – a Universal Pictures film that has its premiere in Australia this Monday night.

MINI Challenge also welcomes the support of Baskin-Robbins® Australia – the world’s favourite Ice Cream, and Castrol Oils, Borbet Wheels and Dunlop Tyres.

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