



# PRESS RELEASE

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## VICTORY FOR BRITAIN'S NO.1 EXPORT

### MINI WINS BRITISH SALOON CAR CHAMPIONSHIP

A Mini driven by Irishman Alec Poole has won outright the 1969 BRITISH SALOON CAR CHAMPIONSHIP, one of the world's most coveted titles in saloon car racing.

The 999 cc. Mini Cooper, prepared and entered by Equipe Arden, a private racing team, clinched the title at Oulton Park last Saturday, August 16th. There are two races still to be contested in the 12 rounds of the championship, but the Mini is in an unbeatable position with over seven class wins to its credit.

In seven of the ten races so far, the Mini has set the fastest lap-time in its class.

Alec Poole, a 26-year-old Dubliner, is technical advisor to the firm of Booth Poole and Co., Dublin, distributors and assemblers for a wide range of British Leyland products.

The team manager of Equipe Arden is Alan Edis who works at British Leyland's Austin Morris Division on advanced product planning.

The champion car develops an astonishing 115 bhp at 9500 rpm from its 999 cc. engine.

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Commenting on the success of the Mini, Alec Poole said: "At the beginning of the season we had to measure our potential against the dominance in sheer speed and horsepower of American V8's, and twin-cam engines. We could not match these in performance, but reliability was on our side".

"We have finished in every race so far and the Mini is back on top after seven years when it last held the title".

Congratulating Equipe Arden and Alec Poole on their success, George Turnbull, Managing Director of British Leyland's Austin Morris Division which makes the Mini, commented:-

"Over the years the Mini has won more major rallies and races than any car in the world. This new achievement, coming at a time when we have just produced the 2-Millionth Mini and its designer Sir Alec Issigonis has been honoured by Her Majesty The Queen, will give it a tremendous boost and must assist in confirming its position as Britain's No.1 car in overseas markets".

(Photographs and further details available on request)



