



## Preview

# Abu Dhabi Desert Challenge / 24<sup>th</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup> March 2018

3<sup>rd</sup> Round of the FIA World Cup for Cross-Country Rallies 2018

**MINI John Cooper Works Buggy**  
Luc Alphand (FRA) / Andreas Schulz (GER)

**MINI John Cooper Works Rally**  
Yazeed Al-Rajhi (KSA) / Timo Gottschalk (GER)  
Jakub Przygonski (POL) / Tom Colsool (BEL)

**MINI ALL4 Racing**  
Stephan Schott (GER) / Paulo Fiúza (POR)  
Eugenio Amos (ITA) / Filipe Palmeiro (POR)  
Kris Rosenberger (AUT) / Nicola Bleicher (GER)



OpenStreetMap® are „Open Data“ who are, according to the Open Data Commons Open Database Lizenz (ODbL), available through the OpenStreetMap Foundation (OSMF).

**3**  
pilots are competing for the first time in a MINI

X-raid won the ADDC **7 times**

Kuba Przygonski is **1<sup>st</sup>** in the FIA world cup ranking

**1308 km** are driven against the clock

Schedule	
24 <sup>th</sup> March	SS
25 <sup>th</sup> March	SS1 - 276,01 km
26 <sup>th</sup> March	SS2 - 287,92 km
27 <sup>th</sup> March	SS3 - 281,38 km
28 <sup>th</sup> March	SS4 - 244,49 km
29 <sup>th</sup> March	SS5 - 218,57 km

- Facts about the ADDC:**
- Founded in 1991 by Mohammed Ben Sulayem. At that time still under the name UAE Desert Challenge
  - In 2009, the rally was renamed to Abu Dhabi Desert Challenge
  - The administrative and technical checks take place at the Formula 1 circuit in Abu Dhabi. Later the bivouac moves to the Liwa desert

**Luc Alphand**  
I am really looking forward to participate in a rally again. After my accident, that was impossible for many years.



At the Dakar, Sven (Quandt) and I talked to each other if I would like to take part in a rally again to experience how a current rally car respectively the new X-raid buggy drives. As I love driving in the sand, we immediately thought of Abu Dhabi Desert Challenge and Sven offered me spontaneously to start there with the MINI John Cooper Works Buggy if I would like to. Of course, I said yes to that offer and we will see what is possible after such a long break. The MINI John Cooper Works Buggy showed its potential at the Dakar and with Andi I have a very experienced co-driver at my side. I do not put pressure on myself. I just look forward to the experience.

#### **Sven Quandt**

At the Abu Dhabi Desert Challenge this time, we have three drivers who will participate in a rally in a MINI for the first time. We are pleased that they see the potential of our vehicles. Of course, I am particularly pleased about the start of Luc in Abu Dhabi. He is one of the first X-raid drivers to ever participate in a Dakar for the team in 2003 and achieved great results with the BMW X5 at that time. So I invited him to the ADDC quite spontaneously. I am curious to see how things are going with our buggy. We came up with the idea at the Dakar when he told us that driving a rally did not let him go and he really liked the MINI John Cooper Works Buggy.

#### **Yazeed Al-Rajhi**

I am looking forward to participating in another cross-country rally after the nearly two-month break. I am curious to see the performance of the MINI John Cooper Works Rally, which we have never driven the light version after the regulation changes. In any case, we want to be right at the top of the pack in Abu Dhabi.