

CLASSIC TRIALS NEWSLETTER

 **Apparelmaster**
TOTAL WORKWEAR & LAUNDRY SOLUTIONS
2014 Apparelmaster Classic Trial Championship

ISSUE 005 16 December 2013

Round 4 Report

Outsource IT

Christmas at the Downs
meeting held on 8
December 2013.

Round 4 of the Apparelmaster Classic Trial Championship was the Outsource IT Christmas at the Downs meeting held on 8 December 2013.

The motorway south was full of competition cars heading out of town. The Auckland Car Club had a meeting at Pukekohe Park Raceway and the Motorway BP petrol station had a cheerful hum of anticipation as competitors filled their cars with BP 98.

It's great to see a continued interest in our section of motorsport and we were pleased to welcome three new drivers to the Register:

Russell Ness	1967	Morris Cooper S No: 127
Frank Karl	1966	Austin Healey Mk3 3000 No: 19
Bruce Gerring	1972	MG BGT Speedster No: 939



The weather forecast was for a few showers and a fine afternoon. Even at the drivers briefing the clouds looked as if they would pass over. However, the weather was anything but Christmas weather for Christmas at the Downs! Before our allotted practice time the rain was falling. Practice was on a wet but drying track and the lap times reflected this. They improved as the track dried but no dry lap times were obtained. This made selecting a Nominated Lap Time difficult. To make it even harder, a Damp and Wet Lap time was also required.



I've been talking to three keen Ford Escort owners and with luck we will see them join us at the Ferrari Festival meeting in January. If we can coax Tim Sparks back we could have six Escorts running. Now that would be something to see!.



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Round 3 Report Cont..



At this meeting we commenced a new starting grid system based on Nominated lap times rather than being based on the fastest time in practice. The drivers considered that this would make a better starting grid where a driver with a one off faster lap would not be placed among drivers with faster nominated times. For this new system to work it was imperative that Nominated Times were supplied as soon as the practice lap times were available.

Thanks to Event Manager David Tolhurst and Terry Riding for setting up the starting grids.

As we sat on the dummy grid waiting for our first run, Event 5, the track was dry but the sky looked ominous. The 'Dry' sign was displayed and off we went. On lap 4 the rain fell and then the weather cleared and we finished on a drying track. These conditions were the worst you could encounter when trying to drive a consistent lap and this was reflected in the terrible lap time averages. We are eagerly awaiting the U-tube release of Peter O'Sullivan's inboard camera shot of his monumental spin after the big sweeper and Russell Ness was seen to take the Cooper S through the turn 4-hill bend in true Paddy Hopkirk fashion!*

TRIAL 5

During the drama of the first Trial David Tolhurst noticed a hot oil smell from the car in front and as the laps progressed the smell got stronger. "Someone's engine is cooking" he thought until he noticed his own temperature gauge. With the diagnosis of a blown radiator hose there was much wailing and gnashing of teeth in the Tolhurst camp until a cold-water refill showed no damage on the restart.

David, despite his mechanical woes, won with 2.5seconds, followed by a couple of 3-second runners with the rest of the field on 4, 5, 6, and 7 second averages! Oh well, two more Trials to get a better result!



* No Idea who Paddy Hopkirk is? A Picture tells 1000 words I suppose...

Results: Trial 5:

- 1st David Tolhurst (Ford Capri GT) 2.53sec;
- 2nd Paul Couper (Mazda MX5) 3.1sec;
- 3rd Russell Sykes (MG BGT) 3.67sec;
- 4th Allan Horner (Austin Healey Sprite) 4.4 sec;
- 5th Ken Smith (Ford Escort RS2000) 4.62sec.

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Unfortunately, Jim Hickey's predicted improvements vanished in the rain clouds. As we parked on the starting grid waiting for the 2K Cup debris to be cleared off the track the rain came down. Soft tops were hastily erected and Allen Horner whipped out his folding brolly from under his seat. The Stewards declared the meeting 'wet' and headlights and tail lights were switched on.

TRIAL 10

Ian and Syd were a bit late for the starters call up and on hurrying up to the starting grid noticed David T asleep in his car! Horn toots failed to stir him but a gentle shake had him on his way (to a third place!)

Saying of the day: "Let sleeping dogs lie!"

Again, the weather foiled us! We started under a "Wet Sign" with the rain stopping almost immediately and the track getting faster by the lap. In this situation, to do well, you have to hold back to your wet time as the conditions improved. Easier said than done for most of us! John Western in the smart white Honda SIR excelled with first time trialer Russell Ness second and David Tolhurst third. The rest of the field ranged from 2 to 8 seconds. Only one Trial left now to do the goods!

Results: Trial 10: 1st John Western (Honda Civic SIR) 1.05 sec; 2nd Russell Ness (Morris Cooper S) 1.32sec; 3rd David Tolhurst (Ford Capri GT) 1.84sec; 4th Ian Christie (MG BGT) 2.86sec; 5th Frank Karl (Austin Healey 3000) 3.03sec



Classic trials Quizz:

How many fan belts does team Broadbent racing use every season?

A:2 B:13 1/2 or C:42



Answer: A- Just two- as they recycle them – and have only lost one on the track which was irrecoverable after Car 91



It's funny how you see things that remind you of people. Each time I exited the track I thought of Sheridan! There on the exit roadway lay a fan belt! However, this time it wasn't Sheridan's!

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The miserable weather continued and the Historic Saloons and Muscle Cars called it a day and went home. The 2K Cup 33 minute race before our start saw some of our boys heading off too.

However, for the 15 that remained the final Trial was to be the best of the day. The rain stopped, the track dried, and we were off to the first 'Dry Time' Trial of the day.

Well, almost off! Three or so laps into the Trial Russell's Cooper S decided to call it a day between corners 2 and 3. Stopped dead with an electrical problem – rain had stopped so you couldn't blame the usual Mini problem of water on the distributor! We were red flagged while the car was removed to safety and the Trial restarted. A great run with 6 cars recording average lap times under 1 second. Rip Van Winkle recorded a creditable 0.38sec average to secure a memorable Round 4 win. Syd Davis, Peter O'Sullivan, Paul Couper, and Robby Riding took the following places. It was a good ending to a day where most of the drivers collected the minimum 24 Championship points for their efforts.

Results: Trial 15: 1st David Tolhurst (Ford Capri GT) 0.38sec;
2nd Syd Davis (Porsche 944) 0.42sec;
3rd Peter O'Sullivan (Ford Cortina Mk2) 0.57sec;
4th Paul Couper (Mazda MX5) 0.77sec;
5th Robyn Riding (Porsche 924) 0.78sec.



2014 Apparelmaster Classic Trial Championship Round 4 Final Result

1st David Tolhurst (Ford Capri GT) 1.11sec;
2nd Ian Christie (MG BGT) 1.89sec;
3rd Paul Couper (Mazda MX5) 1.94sec;
4th Ross Vaughan (Mazda MX5) 2.59sec;
5th John Fulford (MG BGT) 2.87sec.

Quote of the day: "If you're the first to smell a bad smell, it's probably coming from yourself" (DT)
Many thanks to our event manager of the day, David Tolhurst, who not only set up the new grid system, dealt with a major mechanical problem, but also managed to take the Round in very trying conditions.

You know, they only have weather presenters- to make the financial analysts look good !



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No	Name		Year	Car	Trial 5	Trial 10	Trial 15	Ave	Place	Points
43	David	Tolhurst	1975	Ford Capri GT	2.53	1.84	0.38	1.11	1	95
72	Ian	Christie	1972	MG BGT	9.24	2.86	0.91	1.89	2	56
47	Paul	Couper	1989	Mazda MX5	3.1	4.46	0.77	1.94	3	54
91	Ross	Vaughan	1991	Mazda MX5	6.06	3.71	1.47	2.59	4	24
146	John	Fulford	1973	MG BGT	7.74	4.07	1.67	2.87	5	24
127	Russell	Ness	1967	Morris Cooper S	4.75	1.32	DNF	3.03	6	24
939	Bruce	Gerring	1972	MG BGT	5.43	3.86	2.47	3.16	7	24
931	Robyn	Riding	1981	Porsche 924	5.73	6.32	0.78	3.25	8	24
75	John	Miller	1974	Ford Escort	5.66	4.92	1.69	3.3	9	24
944	Syd	Davis	1989	Porsche 944	6.64	8.37	0.42	3.53	10	24
22	Ken	Smith	1973	Ford Escort	4.62	6.6	2.45	3.54	11	24
33	Mike	McCowan	1977	MG BGT V8	6.53	6.21	1.02	3.61	12	24
116	Peter	O'Sullivan	1969	Ford Cortina Mk2	6.94	7.77	0.57	3.76	13	24
136	John	Western	1990	Honda civic SIR	6.7	1.05	DNS	3.88	14	24
265	Sheridan	Broadbent	1972	Valiant Pacer	6.65	7.34	1.81	4.23	15	24
19	Frank	Karl	1966	Austin Healey 3000	5.88	3.03	DNS	4.45	16	24
45	Allan	Horner	1963	Austin Healey Sprite	4.4	9.01	DNS	6.71	17	24
248	Alistair	Jones	1974	2002ii	7.27	8.92	DNS	8.1	18	24
266	Helen	O'Sullivan	1990	Mazda MX5	15.13	11.4	6.68	9.04	19	24
214	Russell	Sykes	1974	MG BGT	3.67	DNS	DNS		20	24

2014 APPARELMASTER CLASSIC TRIAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Championship wide open

Below are the Championship standings after 4 Rounds. The Championship status will be calculated using each driver's best 4 results. With 6 Rounds still to go there will be a lot of changes before the 2014 Apparelmaster Classic Trials Champion is found. The past 2 years have seen the final Round deciding the Champion.

No	Name		Year	Model	Make	Points	Place
47	Paul	Couper	1989	Mazda	MX5	443	1
265	Sheridan	Broadbent	1972	Valiant	Pacer	415	2
116	Peter	O'Sullivan	1969	Ford	Cortina Mk II	375	3
22	Ken	Smith	1973	Ford	Escort	370	4
72	Ian	Christie	1972	MG	BGT	368	5



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What's next?

Round 5: Taupo Raceway 11 – 12 January 2014

We only visit Taupo once a year and this HRC meeting is one not to be missed, so get in and book your accommodation and enter on www.motorsportentry.com

We all meet for dinner on the lakefront on Saturday night.

And a week later: Our biggest meeting of the year.: The **Ferrari Festival** at Hampton Downs on 15 – 17 January 2014. Get your entry in now to ensure your name is in the glossy souvenir programme. This is our chance to showcase Classic Trials to the motoring public and we often get cars that only come out one or twice a year.



Round 5	11/12 January 2014 HRC Taupo
Round 6	18/19 January 2014 NZ Festival of Motor Racing Hampton Downs
Round 7	22/23 February 2014 HRC Tasman Revival Pukekohe
Round 8	29/30 March 2014 HRC Legends of Speed Hampton Downs
Round 9	20 April 2014 Monza Meeting Hampton Downs

Newsletters:

Thanks to Rex, there is now a link on the Club Lotus/Classic Trial Web Site to the newsletters. If asked, direct any potential new drivers to this site where they will find a wealth of information on Classic Trials, photographs, results and how to get in touch with the committee.

Remember its “clublotus.org.nz”

Merry Christmas !!! and may santa bring a nice new set of sticky tyres (hint hint)

Cheers

Ross

Classic Trial Director



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