

CLASSIC TRIALS NEWSLETTER

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

ISSUE 006 January 2014

Round 5 & 6 Report

Tasman revival- Taupo
Ferrari Festiva- Hampton
Downs

Director's Report January 2014

What a start for 2014! Two meetings, 5 days apart, 5 days on the track, and to top it off, 5 days of good weather. You couldn't ask for much more than that!

The Tasman Revival meeting at Taupo Motorsport Park started the ball rolling on 11th January and a week later it all ended on the last Sunday afternoon of the first week of the Ferrari Festival at Hampton Downs, resulting in more than our fair share of incidents, intrigue and amongst other things, the biggest newsletter published to date. (apologies!)

Tasman Revival Taupo

It shows that the Classic Trial competitor numbers are up on last season when 19 cars travelled down to Taupo for the popular Tasman Revival meeting organised by HRC. Taupo put on its usual hot sunny weather and we were all appreciative of Ian Christie's sun shelter.

Ian sponsored his trip to Taupo by auctioning off all the items left in said shelter, on Saturday night!

Terry Riding was once again our timing man and lap times were sent to Rex Oddy back in Auckland, who calculated the results. These were then emailed back to Terry who quickly furnished us with a printed result sheet.

The drivers are indebted to Terry and Rex for these rapid results. It certainly makes for a better day when you know how well (or how badly!) you've done going into the final Trial of the day.



Sheridan came in from practice with the usual black snake trailing from the radiator pulley. Just as well Peter had 10 spares in his tool box. It's rumoured that Pacer fan belts are now one of the top sellers at Repco.



The Championship leader Paul Couper's tow wagon limped into Taupo on Friday and needed repairs (coincidentally after Paul needing a calming drink - having run the gauntlet of Logging trucks passing by, while the mighty pajero could only muster up 45Km/h). Paul spent most of Saturday morning under the bonnet. Err..Literally under the bonnet! Good news though, now he has a 12mm socket, a spare filter and a selection of bolts, nuts & screws conveniently stored on the transfer case and under tray of the Pajero for future use !



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Taupo track is quite tricky and about 30% longer than Pukekohe and Hampton Downs. This difficulty is compounded by the fact that we usually only drive there once a year. If you can achieve a lap average difference of under 0.5 second you're doing well on this track. Old hand Ian Christie did just that over the first Trial to return the best result of the meeting. The closeness of the driving is shown by the following four drivers all recording lap differences within 5 hundredths of a second of each other! Seven drivers recorded times under 1 second.

Results: Trial 2:

- 1st Ian Christie (MG BGT) 0.41sec;
- 2nd Brent Middlemiss (Mini 1275GT) 0.57sec;
- 3rd John Miller (Ford Escort RS2000) 0.61sec;
- 4th = John Fulford (MG BGT) 0.62sec;
- 4th = Robyn Riding (Porsche 924) 0.62sec.

The Tasman Revival is a huge meeting with 12 classes racing. The slick organisation by HRC with the assistance of the host club, Taupo Car Club, meant that the programme was quick-fire with very little time lost between races.

As a result we had our second Trial late on the Saturday afternoon. This was great news for us because we had a late start and early finish on the following day.

Scott Mitchell showed that his consistent driving was not just a Hampton Down phenomenon when he took the second Trial. Again the next four place getters were within 5 hundredths of a second of each other. Nine drivers lapped within 1 second of their nominated time.



- Results Trial 14:** 1st Scott Mitchell (Porsche 964) 0.57sec;
2nd = Peter O'Sullivan (Ford Cortina Mk2) 0.6sec;
2nd = Sheridan Broadbent (Valiant Pacer) 0.60sec;
4th Syd Davis (Porsche 944) 0.63sec;
5th Wayne Rowlands



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The day closed with an interesting set of results. Ian Christie led from Syd and David. However, there were a lot of drivers with one fairly good result and their performance at the Sunday Trial, as usual, would sort out the Round winner.

As we drove back to Taupo we were all shocked to see an ambulance and the rescue helicopter called to an accident at the south end of the circuit.

Saturday night followed our time-honoured tradition of us all meeting together in town for meal and a chinwag about the day's events. Alas, the Lava Rock was now the Lake House and couldn't take our booking so we all met at an Irish pub, Finn MacCuhals. No longer did we wait for hours for our orders to arrive (last year!) and the shelter courtyard meant that this could be our Saturday night meeting spot for the future. Thanks to Peter for recommending the location.

The weather on Sunday looked a little iffy, but despite the cloud and cool wind, the dryness prevailed. We were again reminded that motor racing is not without risks when we were greeted at the circuit with more red flashing lights, ambulances and the rescue helicopter taking another seriously injured driver to Waikato Hospital.

Paul put his Saturday distractions behind him and returned the winning time of 0.49 second with David Tolhurst, a past Taupo winner, coming in second.

As predicted, the Sunday run produced a dramatic change in the overall placings.

Scott Mitchell's 3rd placed 0.65 second result was enough to propel him into the winning spot for Round 5

2014 Apparelmaster Classic Trial Championship Round 5 **Taupo Motorsport Park**

- 1st Scott Mitchell (Porsche 964) 0.61sec;**
2nd Peter O'Sullivan (Ford Cortina Mk2) 0.64sec;
3rd Ian Christie (MG BGT) 0.68sec;
4th John Fulford (MG BGT) 0.72sec;
5th = Sheridan Broadbent (Valiant Pacer) 0.75sec;
5th = David Tolhurst (Ford Capri GT) 0.75sec.



Results Trial 26:

- 1st Paul Couper (Mazda MX5) 0.49sec;**
2nd David Tolhurst (Ford Capri GT) 0.61sec;
3rd Scott Mitchell (Porsche 964) 0.65sec;
4th Peter O'Sullivan (Ford Cortina Mk2) 0.68 sec;



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17 – 19 January 2014

Ferrari Festival – Hampton Downs Motorsport Park



Five days after Taupo it was all on again with our biggest meeting of the season.

This was the 5th year of the annual NZ Festival of Motor Racing and this year Ferrari was the marque to be celebrated. We missed last years wet practice and the good weather was to continue throughout the Festival. With 35 entries we had the biggest field since the inaugural Bruce McLaren Festival in 2010 when we were over subscribed with a 40 car limit. Even so, the Apparelmaster Classic Trial had the biggest field of the meeting.

The beauty of the Festival event is the appearance of some cars that we don't see on a regular basis. It was great to see John McCardle in the Maserati Merak SS – in my opinion one of the best looking cars there. It was unfortunate that Brian Day's Ferrari Modena 360 F1 was involved in a motorway head to tail 2 weeks before the Festival and as a result was a non-starter.

The good news is that the engine/transaxle was not damaged and the panel damage can be fixed for 40K! (reminder: check my third party insurance is up to date)



However, we still had two Ferraris entered in the Classic Trial. We welcomed four new drivers to the meeting: Gary Baildon in a very

smart BMW 318i, Geoff Boydon from Palmy with a beautifully prepared Holden Torana SS V8, Roman Schiff, in the very quick ex Earl Cruickshank Datsun 240Z, and Steven Price in an even quicker bright red Honda NSX. This

Honda super car really took the fancy of the spectators and surprisingly, for such a rare car, there was another displayed in the show and shine across the way.



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As we didn't have to qualify for grid positions, we took our usual Festival course and ran the afternoon qualifying session as the first Trial. With two Trials on Saturday and Sunday the meeting now had five Trials with the best three results to count.



From the onset it was apparent that the 1 minute 28 second Speed Bar set for Classic Trials at Hampton Downs was going to be a problem for the faster cars. Any car that recorded a lap time of under 1min 27.00sec would not get a result for that Trial. There were a number of disappointed drivers who often missed getting a result by only dipping under on one lap.



Russel Showing his style in achieving a 0.37 and a 0.17- all the more impressive considering he did it on what appears to be Two wheels

Russell Goodwin, a past winner at Hampton Downs and on his first drive in the 2014 season took the first Trial with a very good 0.37sec lap average from his nominated time. Paul Couper, was a close second, followed by Graham Hallen.

After problems throughout the season with a number of drives down from Whangarei in the Audi resulting in DNS, John Stone had his first drive of the 2014 season. Welcome back John!

Results Trial 15:

- 1st Russell Goodwin (Jensen Healey) 0.37sec;
- 2nd Paul Couper (Mazda MX5) 0.41sec;
- 3rd Graham Hallen (Toyota MR2) 0.51sec;
- 4th Brent Middlemiss (Mini1275 GT) 0.55sec;
- 5th Scott Mitchell (Porsche 964) 0.57sec.



Saturday:

Another fine day and more close racing. David Tolhurst, with an even better time than time than Russell's (0.28sec) took the Saturday morning Trial from Ian Christie.

Results Trial 24: 1st David Tolhurst (Ford Capri GT) 0.28 sec; 2nd Ian Christie (MG BGT) 0.47sec; 3rd Ross Vaughan (Mazda MX5) 0.52; 4th Russell Goodwin (Jensen Healey) 0.6sec; 5th Allan Horner (Austin Healey Sprite) 0.68sec.

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After listening to that unforgettable Ferrari Formula 1 V12 scream around the circuit and wandering through the millions of dollars of Ferraris on display it was back to reality and our afternoon Trial. I'm told the commentator did a good job explaining Classic Trials and gave the Register a good plug. Now we should be inundated with people wanting to join up! The wins were being shared around and this one went to John Fulford ahead of Russell and Brent Middlemiss.



Results Trial 33:

- 1st John Fulford (MG BGT) 0.34sec;
- 2nd Russell Goodwin (Jensen Healey) 0.53sec;
- 3rd Brent Middlemiss (Mini 1275 GT) 0.54sec;
- 4th John Miller (Ford Escort RS2000) 0.56sec;
- 5th = Roman Schiff (Datsun 240Z) 0.65sec;



At the close of Saturday, it was looking good for Russell Goodwin with a 1st, 4th, and 2nd under his belt. However, Sunday had two more Trials and in Classic Trials it usually goes down to the last drive.



Sunday:

Thirty-two cars returned to face the starter on Sunday morning. There was drama on lap 3 when Robyn Riding missed a gear on the fast turn 2, then coming off the grass blew a tyre on the ripple strip and ended back on the grass and into the tyre barrier. The position of the car resulted in a Red Flag and after a short time sitting on the starting grid, the trial was restarted. Russell went on to win with an amazing lap differential of 0.17 seconds with Graeme Park also returning an excellent time of 0.27 second. The fast boys kept under the Speed Bar and filled the next 4 places. It was a great result for a 15-minute trial with 17 drivers returning times of under 1 second.

However, it would now take an amazing time in the last Trial for anyone to get ahead of Russell.

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Results Trial 42:

- 1st Russell Goodwin (Jensen Healey) 0.17sec;
- 2nd Graeme Park (BMW 325i) 0.27sec;
- 3rd Paul Miller (Porsche 911) 0.3sec;
- 4th Steven Price (Honda NSX) 0.34sec;
- 5th = Paul Couper (Mazda MX5) 0.39sec;
- 5th = Graham Hallen (Toyota MR2) 0.39sec



Picture courtesy of John McMillan – youtube

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A2uu5kcc26s&feature=youtu.be>

1st place- Spin of the day



Its cool- I Got this..
Caught it...Ooohhh..
yes- no- yes... no –
sand, grass, track,
grass... tyres!

The Ridings come from a Targa background and as you know the Targa boys do roadside repairs, overnight engine changes and anything else needed to keep their cars in the race. So it was no surprise that Terry had a couple of spare wheels in his stock of spares; panels were gently moved to clear rims and Robyn showed great fortitude in returning to the track for the last trial

I thought it quite fitting that the Classic Trial Director was allowed to take the last Trial of the meeting which saw 18 drivers lapping within 1 second of their nominated times. The longer trial time of 15 minutes allowed drivers to get into a good rhythm and was more forgiving if one lap was a bit off. It's rare for more than half of such a large field to lap so close to their times.

So ended one of the most enjoyable events I have attended. The weather certainly played a part, but the friendship, close driving and great atmosphere, not to mention being surrounded by millions of dollars of Ferraris, will take a lot of beating.



Results Trial 51:

- 1st Ross Vaughan (Mazda MX5) 0.35sec;
- 2nd David Tolhurst (Ford Capri GT) 0.43sec;
- 3rd Brent Middlemiss (Mini 1275 GT) 0.49sec;
- 4th Peter O'Sullivan (Ford Cortina Mk2) 0.5sec;
- 5th Tim Walton (Lotus Elan) 0.52 sec



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Congratulations to Russell Goodwin who was a clear Round 6 winner from Paul Couper. The next three were separated by a mere 2 hundredth of a second. Go the Red cars!

2014 Apparelmaster Classic Trial Championship Round 6 Ferrari Festival Hampton Downs Motorsport Park

1st Russell Goodwin (Jensen Healey) 0.36sec;
2nd Paul Couper (Mazda MX5) 0.43sec;
3rd Ross Vaughan (Mazda MX5) .051sec;
4th David Tolhurst (Ford Capri GT) 0.52sec;
5th Brent Middlemiss (Mini 1275 GT) 0.53sec



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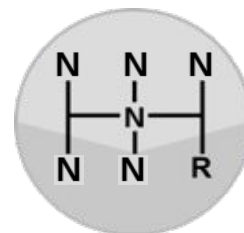
Hot off the Press- Good news Folks!

British Motor Corp.- British Leyland and Rover Group announce they've completed (slightly belatedly)

ANCAP crash rating for the Venerable Mk1 & 2 Mini.

Unfortunately the stationary 5mph frontal & rear impact test yielded less than optimal results.

(-1.4 stars) Audi on the other hand fared slightly better, however got marked down because of the new Spec N gearbox design released as an option on some* models



*Audi Quattro Optional Spec N Gearbox layout

Note: Can only be installed after disconnecting factory Clutch Ignition lockout



We all wish Russell the best in the repair of his immaculate Mini. See you soon !

Season Standings after Round 5

			Best four results				Total
1	Scott Mitchell	Porsche 964	154	132	139	122	547
2	Paul Couper	Mazda MX5	115	151	124	152	542
3	Sheridan Broadbent	Valiant Pacer	126	149	126	123	524
4	Ian Christie	MG BGT	99	126	133	138	496
5	David Tolhurst	Ford Capri GT	123	94	126	148	491
6	Peter O'Sullivan	Ford Cortina Mk2	102	126	123	136	487
7	John Miller	Ford Escort RS2000	118	103	122	138	481
8	Ross Vaughan	Mazda MX5	101	125	96	149	471
9	Ken Smith	Ford Escort RS2000	127	126	93	110	456
10	Robby Riding	Porsche 924	141	119	89	98	447

There are still 3 rounds of the Apparelmaster Classic Trial Championship to run and as you can see from the top 10 scores above, there are still some low points that can be dropped for a better result. We have results for 49 drivers and I will send out a full spreadsheet listing all drivers before the next meeting

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Championship wide open

The overall winner usually has to accumulate over 600 points and with 3 Rounds ahead of us there will be changes to the above list. Remember it is the best 4 results that count towards the Championship. If you want to move up the ladder get your entry in now for Round 6 at Pukekohe on Saturday 22 February.



NZ Classic Car Show 2014

Classic Car Show – On at the Ellerslie Race Course this Sunday (9 Feb. 9am – 4pm)

This is the biggest Classic Car show in NZ and the Classic Trial Register cars will be on display along with every type of Classic car imaginable. This is a show you don't want to miss!

Special Announcement:

The programme for the remainder of the 2014 season is listed at the end of this report.

NOTE: We have arranged with the promoters, HRC, to have the Classic Trials all on the Saturday of these 2-day meetings. This means we will have practice and 3 Trial all on one day. I told Chris Watson that this would result in a bigger field of Classic Trialers, so get those entries in and look forward to a great quick fire meeting.

2015 South Island Track Tour

18 places have been tentatively booked for this mid April to mid May Tour.

The cost for time on the 4 main South Island circuits will be similar to this year's trip (\$600 - \$700)

See Ian Christie if you are interested. Phone: 479 2771 or email icl@ihug.co.nz



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Jim Lister – Photographer

Jim has some great shots from the Ferrari Festival. If you are interested in a professional quality drop him a line with your car no. at twincamera@outlook.co.nz



Muzz Handley – Photographer

Muzz specializes in Photo Books. Check the link below:

<http://www.muzzpix.com/?p=1200>

A word on navigating the slide shows. When you open the album you want to view there is a slideshow play button at bottom of first image that pops up. Use this navigation feature to stop/start the slideshow or just click on any image in the gallery on the left to bring up large. If interested contact Muzz with your car number.



Groundsky Photographers: This is our premier local photography group. Groundsky has an amazing website where you can enter your name or race number in the search field and probably find photos of your car at any meeting you have ever attended. Very easy to use too. www.groundsky.co.nz

Events Coming up:

- Round 7 22 February 2014 HRC Tasman Revival Pukekohe
- Round 8 29 March 2014 HRC Legends of Speed Hampton Downs
- Round 9 20 April 2014 Monza Meeting Hampton Downs

Cheers

Ross

Classic Trial Director

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