

# CLASSIC TRIALS NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 007 march 2014

## Round 7 Report

HRC Tasman Revival  
Series Pukekohe park  
22<sup>nd</sup> Feb 2014

**Historic Racing  
Club Inc**



## Director's Report March 2014

Back to Pukekohe for the 7<sup>th</sup> Round of the Apparelmaster Championships and the weather forecast was not good. The sky looked threatening and there was misty spit in the air.

We arrived to park in our usual meeting spot under the GT Radial bridge to find a couple of Historic Muscle car drivers and support vehicle already there. Reserved for "Racers only" apparently, it was heard.

Well- They tried to move us on, saying the spot was reserved for HMCs (which, dear readers it wasn't- and lets not forget Classic Trial cars had been parking there for the past 10 years!)

After a bit of a stand off, relative peace prevailed and we all settled in.

Oh... this gets better later...

Forget the fan belt-  
whats the part  
number for the  
front wheel  
bearings?

We welcomed a new driver, Robin Williams, in a very rare and original looking Ford Escort Twin Cam. Only 883 of the Lotus TC powered cars were made and it's great to see such a rare car running in Classic Trials. They sold new in the UK in 1968 for £2919 and an immaculate restoration is for sale over there for £65,000!

That reminds me of John Miller's wonderful RS1600 Ford Escort hidden in his garage. Only 1200 of these Cosworth BDA 16 valve powered Escorts were made and it would be great to see this car come out one day.....



Escort Twin-Cam gives you a lot to go on:



John Fulford arrived with a new car. The old MG BGT changed colour, grew 4 more cylinders, and nearly doubled in engine capacity. Really doubled everything....err except the reliability!

Practice was an odd affair as there was a damp mist in the air but the track was dry. Times for most drivers were several seconds down on our last Pukekohe visit when it was dry and hot. (That's my excuse for putting in a slow time and running under it all day!)



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## Round 7 Report Cont..



The first trial was quite unusual. There had been some light rain and the track was wet. The committee was unsure to call the trial wet or damp as the track was rapidly drying. Incoming cars told us the track was still wet around the back straight and hairpin so the decision was Damp! The starting grid was set accordingly on Damp Times. We sat for some time in the sticky heat waiting for a breakdown to be cleared and just before entering the circuit the Trial was changed to Dry. A good last minute change as the racing line, and indeed most of the track, was dry by the time we started.

The two leaders in the 2014 Apparelmaster Championship Scott Mitchell and Paul Couper continued their close rivalry by finishing 1<sup>st</sup> equal. Brent Middlemiss, driving in only his 4<sup>th</sup> Championship round this season, came in a close 3<sup>rd</sup>.

David Tolhurst was just ahead of me at Castrol when the Capri backfired with a report so loud, any Queen St hoon would have been proud of! I nearly died of fright! Later his exhaust header parted company with the manifold and a great kiwi repair was soon underway with a Coco Cola can and a couple of hose clips.

John Fulford parked up at the end of the back straight when a front wheel bearing failed.

Sheridan had a great run without a fan belt; a total lost battery system being preferable to a broken fan belt!



Backfire, Ross? That weren't no back fire- THIS is a backfire !!!

### Results Trial 3:

- 1<sup>st</sup> = Scott Mitchell (Porsche 964);
- 1<sup>st</sup> = Paul Couper (Mazda MX5) 0.59sec;
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Brent Middlemiss (Mini 1275GT) 0.65sec;
- 4<sup>th</sup> Sheridan Broadbent (Valiant Pacer) 0.76sec;
- 5<sup>th</sup> Robyn Riding (Porsche 924) 0.93sec.



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The hot sticky weather continued (it was 94% humidity in Auckland) and we were stuck in the cars in pit lane all ready to go for 20 minutes while something was cleared off the track from the previous race. It sure was raining on the inside!

Paul Couper took the Trial with the best time differential of the day (0.3sec)

New driver Robin Williams in the Twin Cam Escort was snapping on his heels with an excellent time 4 hundredths of a second behind.

Scott Mitchell was the only driver of the day to break the speed bar with the consequence of no result for the Trial.

The green Fulford MG BGT was becoming a regular sight parked in the same position down the back straight. This time it has Pacer-itis when the fan belt parted company. I think John said both fan belts parted company! Sheridan Beltless had another great run.



### Results Trial 8:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Paul Couper (Mazda MX5) 0.3sec;
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Robin Williams (Ford Escort Twin Cam) 0.34sec;
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Russell Goodwin (Jensen Healey) 0.53sec;
- 4<sup>th</sup> David Tolhurst (Ford Capri GT) 0.7sec;
- 5<sup>th</sup> Brent Middlemiss (Mini 1275GT) 0.81sec.

When we returned to our parking spot under the GT Radial Bridge I was horrified to see a new dent and red paint scrape in the door of the Historic Muscle car support vehicle. My car and a number of others parked nearby were of the offending colour.



Turned out that their red Escort had run forward and done the deed! That's Karma one of our drivers was heard to mutter!





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Then the rain came down. It wasn't too bad and the last Trial was deemed to be Damp. Damp it was- until the second lap when more rain came down and the track got steadily wetter. Sheridan's Pacer battery said the power drain from the wipers and headlights was just too much and decided to shut down. We were all thankful that no one touched the infamous Pukekohe steel barrier and Paul Couper showed us his total dominance of the meeting by taking the last Trial to make it 3 in a row.



## Results Trial 12:

1<sup>st</sup> Paul Couper (Mazda MX5) 4.82sec;  
2<sup>nd</sup> Graham Hallen (Ford Mustang) 5.23sec;  
3<sup>rd</sup> Ross Vaughan (Mazda MX5) 5.28sec;  
4<sup>th</sup> Scott Mitchell (Porsche 964) 6.03sec;  
5<sup>th</sup> = Robyn Riding (Porsche 924) 8.28;  
5<sup>th</sup> + David Tolhurst (Ford Capri GT) 8.28sec.

Paul Couper's excellent result saw him retake the lead from Scott Mitchell in a seesaw battle that will probably go to the last round.

Brent Middlemiss, who now can count four results, takes a huge leap from thirteenth to third place one point ahead of Sheridan Broadbent.

With ~~two~~ One round still to go those with only 3 results and those with a low point result still have a chance to improve.



## 2014 Apparelmaster Classic Trial Championship - Round 7 - HRC Tasman Revival - Pukekohe - 22 / 23 February 2014

Placing	Driver	Car	Year	Time Variance
1	PAUL COUPER	MAZDA MX5	1989	0.45
2	BRENT MIDDLEMISS	MINI 1275GT	1980	0.73
3	RUSSELL GOODWIN	JENSEN HEALEY	1972	0.82
4	ROBYN RIDING	PORSCHE 924	1981	0.90
5	ALLAN HORNER	AUSTIN HEALEY SPRITE	1963	0.95
6	JOHN MILLER	FORD ESCORT RS2000	1974	1.00
7	SHERIDAN BROADBENT	CHRYSLER VALIANT PACER	1972	1.03
8	SYD DAVIS	PORSCHE 944	1989	1.08
9	ROBIN WILLIAMS	FORD ESCORT TWIN CAM	1968	1.09

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For the next meeting, the Legends of Speed at Hampton Downs, all Trials will again be on the Saturday.(29<sup>th</sup> March) As well as the 8<sup>th</sup> Round Trophy we will be competing for the Legends Trophy and the Manning Trophy. This one day meeting is very special so get your entry in now to [www.motorsportentry.com](http://www.motorsportentry.com)



## MotorSportEntry

operated by The  
HISTORIC RACING CLUB Inc

### What's coming up?

#### 2014 Apparelmaster Classic Trial Championship

Round 8 HRC Legends of Speed Hampton Downs Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> March

~~Round 9 Monza meeting, Hampton Downs Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> April (Easter Sunday)~~

Terry Riding is fitting new race seats to Robyn's Porsche and has generously offered the old KW pair free to a good home.

The seat runners and belts are not included. Drivers seat has a very small rip. Contact Terry at [terbyn@xtra.co.nz](mailto:terbyn@xtra.co.nz) if you are interested.



### STOP PRESS:

On Friday 9 February I received an email notification from Ray Green informing us that the **Monza meeting at Hampton Downs on 20 April has been cancelled.**

That means there will be **no** Round 9 for the 2014 Apparelmaster Classic Trial Championship and the Legends meeting on Saturday 29 March at Hampton Downs will be our last Round of the season. Lets make this a grand finale to a great year! Get your entry in now, it's only 3 weeks away.

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## 2014 Championship Standings

Placing	Driver	Car	Year	Points
1	PAUL COUPER	MAZDA MX5	1989	582
2	SCOTT MITCHELL	PORSCHE 964	1992	547
3	BRENT MIDDLEMISS	MINI 1275GT	1980	525
4	SHERIDAN BROADBENT	VALIANT PACER	1972	524
5	IAN CHRISTIE	MG BGT	1973	496
6	DAVID TOLHURST	FORD CAPRI GT	1975	491
7	PETER O'SULLIVAN	FORD CORTINA Mk2	1968	487
8	JOHN MILLER	FORD ESCORT RS2000	1974	481
9	ROSS VAUGHAN	MAZDA MX5	1991	471
10	ROBYN RIDING	PORSCHE 924	1981	468
11	SYD DAVIS	PORSCHE 944	1989	459
12	KEN SMITH	FORD ESCORT RS2000	1972	456
13	MIKE McCOWAN	MG BGT V8	1977	427
14	ALLAN HORNER	AUSTIN HEALEY SPRITE	1963	378
15	JOHN FULFORD	MG BGT	1973	342
16	JOHN McMILLAN	PORSCHE 964	1990	303
17	GRAHAM HUNTER	SUZUKI SWIFT GTi	1989	284
18	RUSSELL GOODWIN	JENSEN HEALEY	1972	282
19	MARIA SUTHERLAND	BMW 2002tii	1974	267
20	ALISTAIR JONES	BMW 2002tii	1974	262
21	TIM WALTON	LOTUS ELAN COUPE S3	1966	229
22	GRAHAM HALLEN	FORD MUSTANG / TOYOTA MR2	87/92	227
23	FRANK DENNISON	DATSUN 1200	1972	226
24	GRAEME PARK	PORSCHE 944 / 944 Turbo	1986	208
25	PAUL MILLER	PORSCHE 911	1976	201
26	WAYNE ROWLANDS	BMW 325i	1987	184
27	HELEN O'SULLIVAN	MAZDA MX5	1990	176
28	BRIAN DAY	FERRARI 308 GT4	1976	166
29=	ARTHUR HOPKINS	TRIUMPH TR2	1956	141
29=	STEVE MOON	MORRIS MARINA COUPE	1973	141
31	ERRIN HALLEN	TOYOTA MR2	1992	124
32	BRIAN KING	ALFRISTON JAGUAR SPECIAL	2006	122
33=	JOHN WESTERN	HONDA CIVIC SIR	1990	121
33=	FRANK KARL	AUSTIN HEALEY 3000	1966	121
33=	STEVEN PRICE	HONDA NSX	1990	121
36	JOHN STONE	AUDI QUATTRO	1986	110
37	GEOFF BOYDEN	HOLDEN TORANA SS	1977	98
38	ROBIN WILLIAMS	FORD ESCORT TWIN CAM	1968	96
39	GARY BAILDON	BMW 325is	1991	91
40	ROGER DAVIS	PORSCHE 944	1986	75



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NZ Classic Car Show 2014

## CLASSIC CAR SHOW and CONCOURS D'ELEGANCE 2014

The Classic Trial Register was again well represented at the Ellerslie Classic Car Show. This is the premier Classic Car Show in NZ and the sunny weather drew in a record crowd. It is an excellent venue to attract potential future Trialists and a number of interested parties took our pamphlet away.

Thanks to Helen O'Sullivan, John Miller, Scott Mitchell, Sheridan Broadbent, Syd Davis, Ian Christie, and Allan Horner for bringing their cars in for the display. It's the shiny cars that pull in the punters!

Thanks to Rex Oddy for producing the very

professional window sheets for each car. Rex was also the man behind the Club Lotus stand that was judged second of the many club displays. I even got to shake hands with Howden Ganley at the Club Lotus stand. Howden and his Lotus 11 will be featured at next years Festival of Motor racing.



2014 Apparelmaster Classic Trial Championship

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## Events Coming up:

Round 8 29 March 2014 HRC Legends of Speed Hampton Downs

~~Round 9 20 April 2014 Monza Meeting Hampton Downs-~~ **CANCELLED**

Well... Nothing else to print & space to use up.. so-

Being newsletter 007 and all...  
Hmm... only 12 odd years to go & its eligible for Classic Trials!



Cheers

**Ross**

Classic Trial Director

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