



Classic Trials Championship 2014/15



Classic Trials Newsletter

ISSUE 011 September 2014



From The Newsletter Editor.

Well, another season opens, 2014 celebrated, champions crowned, new drivers joining, new cars and with a fantastic new sponsor PPG, supporting the Classic Trials for 2015. In each newsletter we will also endeavor to bring you a spotlight on various cars competing in Classic Trials, or of worthy historic note.

If Round One is anything to go by, it will be the most fun and competitive season ever. So a challenge to you all, drag out that car, slap on some tyres and lets make Classic Trials the biggest grids of every round this year!

-Paul C.



The prize giving for the 2014 Season was held at the Horse and Trap last month with over 60 people in attendance.

Congratulations to:

Paul Couper 2014 Classic Trial Champion

Sheridan Broadbent Highest placed Lady.

John Stone NZ Federation of Motor Racing Award

Peter O'Sullivan Winter Champion

Robyn Riding, the first recipient of the new Apparelmaster Cup

Directors Report

Greetings to all Classic Trial Register members.

The season opened this month with the HRC Icebreaker meeting at Hampton Downs Motorsport Park. The 2015 Season brings an exciting new development to the Register with the NZ company PPG taking on the sponsorship rights. We look forward to an exciting association with PPG

Mark Brearley, from our new sponsor PPG, spoke briefly about the company:

PPG Industries is an American company, originally founded in 1883 as Pittsburgh Plate Glass, which has long been associated with the automotive industry. Today, PPG is a global supplier of paints, coatings, optical products, specialty materials, glass and fibreglass. PPG Industries New Zealand Limited is our leading manufacturer and supplier of a broad range of high performance industrial coatings with a proud and longstanding tradition of quality products and innovative technology.

PPG is a major supplier of quality automotive paints and coatings for both light and heavy vehicles. In addition, they provide a diverse range of coatings for architectural work, construction and industrial equipment, the marine industry, and the aircraft and aerospace industries. This makes the Company an ideal sponsor for motorsport. In Australasia PPG is a strong supporter of Motorsport, sponsoring the Australian V8 Supercars, Angus Fogg's V8 Supertourer, and now the Classic Trial Register.

In New Zealand, the company is led by Business Manager Dave White, Sales Manager Tony Thorpe, Administration Manager Meri Matich, and Mark Brearley.





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Round 1 PPG Classic Trial Championships: HRC Icebreaker 13 September 2014

**Historic Racing
Club Inc**



Again the advance weather forecast was not good (*Make that Horrific-Ed*) for the two day Icebreaker meeting. We had arranged for all of our races to be held on the opening Saturday and this was meant to be the day with the worst weather. It was so wet on Friday that I didn't even venture outside to load my car onto the trailer. Then Saturday dawned overcast but without the predicted rain.



For the new season we welcomed two new drivers:

Murray Park 1994 Toyota Celica GT. Murray is register member Graeme Park's brother and has taken over his number 34 while Graeme has moved up to the AES/TradeZone in his Porsche.

Bronwynne Leech 1988 Peugeot 205 GTi Bronwynne and husband Andrew come to us from an extensive Targa background. Bronwynne has competed in two Targa Bambinas and two Targa Rotorua events, twice with Register member Robyn Riding as co-driver.



Peter Günter 1981 Renault Fuego Peter, from South Africa, had entered in the Trial and AES/TradeZone and at the end of the day decided the racing group was more for him. Peter is opening a Motorsport Supporters Backpackers Hostel right on SH1 at Pokeno – 10 minutes to either Pukekohe or Hampton Downs.



Ken Smith was one very disappointed non-starter! The paperwork and logbook for his Escort RS2000 was held up in Motorsport NZ Wellington office awaiting compliance certification for his new roll cage. See you at Pukekohe 4 October Ken.



We were first out for the practice sessions and faced a damp but drying track. We were tasked with drying out the racing line for the following groups! There were a few loose moments but all came home safely



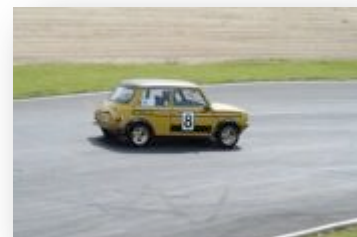


Classic Trials Newsletter

ISSUE 011 September 2014

Icebreaker Trial 1:

After a lot of practice sessions we were at last out onto the track – and it was dry! Seventeen starters and 17 finishers with 12 returning average laps under 1 second from their nominated times. This was a great result for the season opener. Brent Middlemiss showed that his good form at the conclusion of last season was still with him when he recorded a very good 0.24 second



Results: Trial 1:

- 1st Brent Middlemiss (Mini 1275GT) 0.24sec;
- 2nd Peter O'Sullivan (Ford Cortina Mk2) 0.32sec;
- 3rd Syd Davis (Porsche 944) 0.38sec;
- 4th Ian Christie (MG BGT) 0.48sec;
- 5th Paul Couper (Mazda MX5) 0.54sec.



Icebreaker Trial 2:

With three races in the afternoon there was not a lot of waiting around. A few drops of rain and dark clouds came to nothing. There was a lot of interest in the repair work being carried out on Roger Davis' 1976 Holden Torana SLR5000. This Holden was completely different from Register member Geoff Boyden's totally original SLR5000. Our own Syd Davis made the racer in 1985 incorporating part tubular frame with the original steel floor pan, a lightweight fibreglass body, and a massive 5.9 litre Chevy V8 motor. There will be more about this car later

Peter O'Sullivan produced another excellent lap average to equal Brent's first trial result. David Tolhurst was next home with a 0.45 second result. Peter's average of only 0.28 seconds per lap over 14 laps in two trials was going to be almost impossible to beat.

Results: Trial 2:

- 1st Peter O'Sullivan (Ford Cortina Mk2) 0.24sec;
- 2nd David Tolhurst (Ford Capri GT) 0.45sec;
- 3rd Ross Vaughan (Mazda MX5) 0.54sec;
- 4th = Paul Couper (Mazda MX5)
John Miller (Ford Escort RS2000) 0.57sec.





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Classic Trials Newsletter

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Then the rain came! AndThen the rain stopped! We couldn't believe it but the track dried before the last race of the day – the final Classic Trial round. No one went home early! No one had mechanical problems and we all faced the starter for the final trial.

Peter was so far ahead that it would take an amazing drive to take the round from him.



Russell Ness in the Mini Cooper S had his first win and 11 other drivers were sub-1 second, but the Round 1 crown stayed with Peter.

Results: Trial 3:

- 1st Russell Ness (Mini Cooper S) 0.33sec;
- 2nd Graham Hallen (Toyota MR2) 0.51sec;
- 3rd Neil Moore (Jowett Jupiter) 0.52sec;
- 4th Ian Christie (MG BGT) 0.53sec;
- 5th = Brent Middlemiss (Mini 1275GT)
Paul Couper (Mazda MX5) 0.54sec.



2015 PPG Classic Trial Championship Round 1

- 1st Peter O'Sullivan (Ford Cortina Mk2) 0.28sec;
- 2nd Brent Middlemiss (Mini 1275GT) 0.39sec;
- 3rd Russell Ness (Mini Cooper S) 0.45sec;
- 4th Syd Davis (Porsche 944) 0.49sec;
- 5th Ian Christie (MG BGT) 0.5sec.



Good news ! - it also appears Classic Trials has a new PR Department





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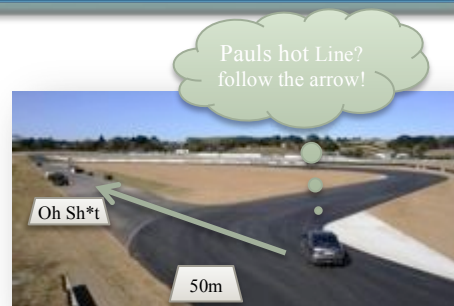
Classic Trials Newsletter

ISSUE 011 September 2014

Coming up next:

Round 2 is again a one-day/Saturday affair at **Pukekohe Park Raceway on 4 October.**

We only get to drive at Puke twice in the season so lets have a big turn out. See John Miller for your PPG T-shirt, cap and car sticker if you don't already have one.



So ended a great start to the new season. We had the weather Gods on our side – I got soaked unloading the car when I returned to Hunua and the second day of the Icebreaker had lots of showers too.

2014/15 Calendar

- Round 1 HRC Icebreaker Meeting - Hampton Downs - 13 September 2014
- Round 2 TACCOC Spring Classic Meeting - Pukekohe - 4 October 2014
- Round 3 TACCOC Summer Classic Meeting - Hampton Downs - 9 November 2014
- Round 4 TACCOC Outsource IT Christmas at the Downs - Hampton Downs - 14 December 2014
- Round 5 HRC Tasman Revival Meeting - Taupo - 10 / 11 January 2015
- Round 6 HRC NZ Festival of Motor Racing - Hampton Downs - 23 / 25 January 2015
- Round 7 HRC Tasman Revival Meeting - Pukekohe - 21 February 2015
- Round 8 HRC Legends of Speed - Hampton Downs - 28 March 2015 (Geoff Manning Memorial)

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Cheers

Ross

Classic Trial Director

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Paul Couper- Newsletter Editor- paul.couper@icloud.com



Rex Oddy, as president of Club Lotus, has extended an invitation to Classic Trial Register members to log in to Club Lotus and get direct invites to the Wednesday Wanders.
Email Rex at president@clublotus.org.nz and he will take it from there.

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A new Section to our newsletter will be a spotlight on some of the cars owned and raced by Classic Trials Members. Our first article features a very special car built and raced by our 2008 Classic Trials Champion Syd Davis and his Son Roger



The Torana started life as a 1900 car. We purchased it late 1985 as a family project (teenage sons). The first outing was late 1986. The car ran in SPORTS SEDAN (big banger) series with mild (300hp) 350 Chevy, a Muncie gearbox, a Ford 9 inch diff with 4-link rear end and watts linkage. Front had Holden HQ brakes. It has evolved since then with many changes. The car won the 1992 SPORTS SEDAN series against many faster cars by usually finishing races!

It's been packed up for some time and was returned to the race track at the NZFMR Ferrari Festival earlier this year running and matching cars we had no hope of getting close to once. Roger was 19 at the time he started, a generation younger than most of the then stars and names! The car still has the original floor pan so not really a space frame car as such.

Unlike many of his competitors Roger built up the front and suspension himself after some time overseas. He came home with ideas and lots of luggage (Brakes for instance from a LE MANS Porsche of mid 90s vintage) The body still has steel floor, roof, and rear guards – the rest is fibreglass.

Most of running gear is original and old so it needs plenty of TLC. The drama on Saturday was a dodgy rocker cover gasket so no more events till the January NZFMR Festival A few more of these cars are being traced and are now classed as historic.

Graeme Park has recently tracked down and purchased a car he built and raced more than 35 yrs ago (Marina Coupe Turbo P76 engine etc) I believe Graeme's brother, Murray Park, our new competitor is assisting He was involved in original build (Petrol heads never die just get older!)

Regards Syd.

PS.I had never attempted a car build before so there were many challenges I had 3 sons so also built: Corolla Club car SS 2000, Mk 2 Escort and RX7 class car



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