



Classic Trials Newsletter

ISSUE 015 January 2015

Director's Report-

The fine weather we experienced over the Christmas break continued for our annual return to the Taupo Motorsport Park. Due to a misunderstanding all our trials were scheduled for the Saturday of this 2-day HRC Tasman Revival Series. While it meant a long day on Saturday, for most it was a good change with other activities organised for Sunday or a more leisurely trip home.



Considering the distance from home it was great to get 17 entries for the round. Surprisingly, there was rain in the night! However, the dry but cloudy Saturday soon became the familiar hot Taupo day. Robyn, David, Paul and Scott elected to hire a garage which was a wise move considering the heat. The rest of us shared Ian and Brent's portable shelters.



This diverse meeting had classes we don't usually encounter at the regular HRC Hampton downs meetings – Rotary Racing, Classic Japanese, Motul Honda Cup, NZ Super Lap and Super Karts. The slick organisation by HRC and the host Taupo Car Club had the events flying along. Fortunately, unlike last year's event, there was no need for the rescue helicopter to take injured drivers to hospital!



Practice brought casualties of a different kind. Late entry Steve Moon (Morris Marina Coupe) and Neil Moore (Jowett Jupiter) had engine trouble the finished their meeting there and then. Steve has a trailer but resourceful Neil organised a new head gasket to be freighted down to Taupo on the overnight coach. He collected it at 1.40am from the Taupo bus depot. When I loaded my car at the track on Sunday Neil was well on the way to getting his car ready for the drive back to Auckland. Reminiscent of the Le mans winning Jowett team from the 1950s when all spares had to be carried in the car and repairs carried out trackside by the driver.





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Race Report

Trial 1:

Scott Mitchell was back to his consistent form of last year with by far the best result of the day – 0.26 seconds! Four drivers ran times under 1 second

Results: Trial 1:

- 1st Scott Mitchell (Porsche 964) 0.26sec;
- 2nd Ross Vaughan (Mazda MX5) 0.76sec;
- 3rd Ken Smith (Ford Escort RS2000) 0.93sec;
- 4th Ian Christie (MG BGT) 0.97sec;
- 5th David Tolhurst (Ford Capri GT) 1.35sec.



Trial 2:

After lunch it was Timothy Sparks' turn to bring the white Escort in with the second best time for the Round. Tim's been busy establishing his new gardening venture and this was his first drive with us this season. Scott missed a result due to one lap being one hundredth of a second under the Speed Bar.

Results: Trial 2:

- 1st Timothy Sparks (Ford Escort Mk2) 0.43sec;
- 2nd Brent Middlemiss (Mini 1275GT) 0.61sec;
- 3rd Ken Smith (Ford Escort RS2000) 0.8sec;
- 4th Paul Couper (Mazda MX5) 0.81sec;
- 5th Bronwynne Leech (Peugeot 106 GTi) 0.92sec.



Trial 3: It was late in the day when we hit the track for our last Trial. The low sun didn't prevent us all going for it. There was no clear leader and this last Trial would decide the Round winner. And try hard we did with 10 drivers recording times less than 1 second.

There was a dinner date so we didn't wait for Terry to do his calculations. The results would be announced at Finn MacCuhals Irish Pub in Taupo when we met for dinner.

Results: Trial 3:

- 1st John Miller (Ford Escort RS2000) 0.46sec;
- 2nd Bronwynne Leech (Peugeot 106 GTi) 0.49sec;
- 3rd Ross Vaughan (Mazda MX5) 0.54sec;
- 4th Ken Smith (Ford Escort RS2000) 0.54sec;
- 5th Brent Middlemiss (Mini 1275GT) 0.67sec.





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If you glanced at the results you would have difficulty picking a winner. There was a spread of names and no obvious winner. Terry had no problem and congratulations to Timothy Sparks and Brent Middlemiss for jointly taking the Round.

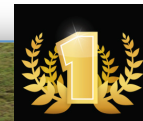
2015 PPG Classic Trial Championship Round 5 Taupo 10 January 2015

1st = Timothy Sparks (Ford Escort Mk2) and Brent Middlemiss (Mini 1275GT) 0.64sec;

3rd Ross Vaughan (Mazda MX5) 0.65sec;

4th Ken Smith (Ford Escort RS2000) 0.69sec;

5th Bronwynne Leech (Peugeot 106 GTi) 0.71sec.



Dinner was at Finn MacCuhals was a pleasant way to end a long day. Sunday dawned clear and hot and the golfing fraternity started what may be an annual event if we continue with one-day Taupo meetings.



Round 6 of the PPG Classic Trial Championship

Our 3-day event at the big Gulf Oil NZ Federation of Motor Racing meeting starts on Friday 23 January. Drivers briefing is at 8am and our practice is the last before lunch so there will be plenty of time to set up. If it suits you, you can do your registration/scrutineering on Thursday 22 January. can be left in our pit area.

Tickets (4 passes) and infield car pass can be collected when you register at Hampton Downs.

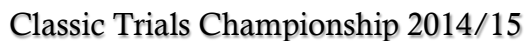
You can leave your car there and register from Thursday. Friday will be busy so get there early, especially if your car needs scrutineering.

Driver's briefing is at 8am (must attend). **Parking map attached and there will be no room for service vehicles.**

There will be a **Classic Trial Drivers briefing** after the main briefing and all drivers must attend. We may have to park 3 deep. See Terry's email below. Trailer must be left at the trailer park.

First practice is 11:45am on Friday and the Trial is at 4:30pm so lots of waiting around.

Sunday the last Trial is at 4:15pm and prize giving is at 5:30pm



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Classic Trials Championship