



Classic Trials Championship 2015/16



Classic Trials Newsletter

ISSUE 026 February 2016

Hello fellow trialers,

With the short change between the Taupo round and the NZ Festival of Motor Racing round 2 weeks later, the Taupo report missed the deadline.

I've decided to leave the Taupo report as it was and follow it with the more recent PPG Classic Trial Championship update that followed the Festival meeting.



We're now into the period where the PPG Classic Trial Championship results will show big changes as each round is completed. Many drivers have only completed 3 rounds. As the championship is based on the best 4 results, the drivers with only three previous results will initially show the greatest improvement. After 4 rounds Neil Moore was comfortably heading the field. However, after the Round 4 meeting at Taupo there were changes in the air.



The Taupo Motorsport Park has now been renamed Bruce McLaren Motorsport Park and is visited by the Register only once a year. Unfortunately I missed this year's event and with other members away too only a small field of 11 drivers competed for Round 5 honours.

The weather prior to the weekend was dismal and very wet for those that drove down on Friday. However, Saturday dawned fine and the sunshine lasted all day. Thanks to Terry Riding and his helpers for making it a successful day.

We welcomed Don Graham (Toyota MR2) to his first Classic Trial.



Neil Moore (Jowett Javelin), the current points leader, showed a clean pair of heels to the other drivers in the first trial

Results: Trial 1

1 st	Neil Moore	Jowett Jupiter	0.53 sec
2 nd	Ian Christie	MG BGT	0.72 sec
3 rd	Timothy Sparks	Ford Escort	0.94 sec
4 th	Brent Middlemiss	Mini 1275GT	0.99 sec
5 th	Rex Fifield	Ford Escort Mexico	1.22 sec





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After lunch Paul Couper (Westfield 11) returned the best time of the day

Results: Trial 2

1 st	Paul Couper	Westfield 11	0.27 sec
2 nd	Bronwynne Leech	Peugeot 205GTi	0.45 sec
3 rd	Neil Moore	Jowett Jupiter	0.58 sec
4 th	Syd Davis	Porsche 944	0.67 sec
5 th	Brent Middlemiss	Mini 1275	0.81 sec



As usual the last trial was going to give us the winner of the Round. Brent Middlemiss won in an excellent 0.29 second variance, but the round went to Bronwynne Leech with two excellent second places



Results: Trial 3

1 st	Brent Middlemiss	Mini 1275	0.29 sec
2 nd =	Bronwynne Leech	Peugeot 205GTi	0.47 sec
2 nd =	Robby Riding	Porsche 924	0.47 sec
4 th	Ian Christie	MG BGT	0.49 sec
5 th	Rex Fifield	Ford Escort Mexico	0.57 sec

2016 PPG Classic Trial Championship Round 5

1 st	Bronwynne Leech	Peugeot 205GTi	0.46 sec
2 nd	Brent Middlemiss	Mini 1275	0.55 sec
3 rd	Neil Moore	Jowett Jupiter	0.56 sec
4 th	Ian Christie	MG BGT	0.61 sec
5 th	Robby Riding	Porsche 924	0.67 sec



Congratulations to Bronwynne Leech who is now the new leader of the 2016 PPG Classic Trial Championship.



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2016 NZ Festival of Motor Racing celebrating Porsche



The Festival is our biggest event of the year and features competition over 3 days. With 5 Trials, and the best 3 times counting towards the round win, this event is hotly contested with the chance of dropping the 2 worst times.

The weather on the Monday after the first weekend of the Festival was shocking and we were all hoping it would clear for our long weekend. I can happily report that the weather was magnificent on every day of the Festival. We all appreciated the two sun shelters that stayed up for the weekend (no wind to blow them away this time)

The Festival always brings out some exotic cars that we don't usually see at Trials:

John Dennehy	Aston Martin V8 Zagato
Steve Price	Honda NSX
Mike Sexton	Porsche 993RS
John McCardle	Maserati Merak SS
Paul Halford	Ferrari 250 GTE/O



Unfortunately the Maserati and Ferrari were non-starters. John's Maserati developed a fault during the Thursday track session and a repair was not possible.

Paul Halford had a fall from his transporter before the event and suffered a broken wrist! However, the beautiful Ferrari 250 GTE/O was on display each day.

Maybe next year Paul...

Bruce Mitchell entered his green Porsche 964 that son Scott had been driving last season. Scott, who has been transferred to Fiji, drove the same car in the Porsche dual car sprints.

We also welcomed back to another Festival, Stephen Wilkins from Queensland, with his Sunbeam Rapier.

Finally, we were pleased to welcome back photographer Gary Baildon, BMW 325is





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After Friday morning's practice, Allan Horner won the first Trial in the afternoon. After a few speed bar infringements in practice, the times reflected a slightly more subdued approach as only 4 drivers returned a lap deviation of under 1 second.

The Miller Escort RS2000 suffered gearbox failure at the end of practice and missed the first Trial. It turned out that John just happened to have a spare gearbox under his bench and Stephen popped home, swapped them over and was back rearing to go on Saturday morning.

Results: Trial 1:

1 st	Allan Horner	Austin Healey Sprite	0.67 sec
2 nd	Gary Baidon	BMW 325is	0.72 sec
3 rd	Russell Ness	Mini Cooper S	0.73 sec
4 th	Brian King	Alfriston Jaguar Special	0.89 sec
5 th	Stephen Wilkins	Sunbeam Rapier	1.02 sec



Saturday was again fine and hot. Ross Vaughan, starting the red Alfa in its first Trial since the first start engine blowup, to his surprise, won with the best time of the Festival. This was an immense relief to him as the big sweeper/oil surge/no oil/ no engine weighed heavily on his mind! Paul, Sheridan, and Murray were all 2nd equal on 0.53 second.

Daniel Bulog was running his BMW 2002 while the Fiat 125 was off the road. Sixteen of the 29 drivers recorded lap deviations of under 1 second.

Results: Trial 2:

1 st	Ross Vaughan	Alfa Romeo Gtv	0.45 sec
2 nd =	Paul Couper	Westfield 11	0.53 sec
2 nd =	Sheridan Broadbent	Valiant Pacer	0.53 sec
2 nd =	Murray Park	Honda Prelude	0.53 sec
5 th	Daniel Bulog	BMW 2002	0.58 sec



The second Trial of the day, right after lunch, was again closely contested with 12 drivers under 1 second from their nominated times. Rex Fifield in the yellow Escort Mexico winning ahead of Robyn Riding and Bronwynne Leech. Terry again produced quick results and at the end of Day 2 Ross Vaughan found it hard to believe that he was in the lead. However, as we all know, two more trials can bring big changes!



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Results: Trial 3:

1 st	Rex Fifield	Ford Escort Mexico	0.54 sec
2 nd	Robyn Riding	Porsche 928	0.61 sec
3 rd	Bronwynne Leech	Peugeot 205GTi	0.66 sec
4 th	Daniel Bulog	BMW 2002	0.68 sec
5 th	Murray Park	Honda Prelude	0.74 sec



Sunday's weather was more of the same. No complaints there! The meeting started 30 minutes earlier than Saturday and all drivers arrived on time! January 23rd will be a Red Letter Day for Helen O'Sullivan. All season her times have been more and more consistent and her first time Trial win with sister-in law Sheridan Broadbent placing second was cause for great celebration in the camp. Our four regular lady drivers are now all placed in the top 10 of the PPG Championship.

Seventeen drivers recorded times within 1 second of their nominated time

Results: Trial 4:

1 st	Helen O'Sullivan	Mazda MX5	0.55 sec
2 nd	Sheridan Broadbent	Valiant Pacer	0.58 sec
3 rd	Allan Horner	Austin Healey Sprite	0.64 sec
4 th	Rex Fifield	Ford Escort Mexico	0.69 sec
5 th	Stephen Wilkins	Sunbeam Rapier	0.71 sec



Terry's results were carefully analyzed as a number of drivers had the potential to win the Round. The final results were very close and the win went to John Miller driving the Riding's blue Cambridge Racing Porsche 944. The results were very close with 14 drivers finishing within 0.5 seconds of each other.



Results: Trial 6:

1 st	John Miller	Porsche 944	0.48 sec
2 nd	Ross Vaughan	Alfa Romeo Gtv TS	0.50 sec
3 rd =	Russell Goodwin	Ford Escort Mk1	0.52 sec
3 rd =	Rex Fifield	Ford Escort Mexico	0.52 sec
5 th	John Campbell	MG BGT	0.55 sec

Congratulations to Rex Fifield on winning the 6th Round of the 2016 PPG Classic Trial Championship. Rex's yellow Escort Mexico ran in four excellent results (0.60, 0.54, 0.69, and 0.52) to give him a well-deserved first Round win in a Classic Trial. Ross and Russell, both driving cars new to trialing, took the minor places.



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2016 PPG Classic Trial Championship Round 6 results:

1 st	Rex Fifield	Ford Escort Mexico	0.55 sec
2 nd	Ross Vaughan	Alfa Romeo Gtv TS	0.59 sec
3 rd	Russell Goodwin	Ford Escort Mk1	0.70 sec
4 th =	John Campbell	MG BGT	0.75 sec
4 th =	Neil Moore	Jowett Jupiter	0.75 sec



The 2016 PPG Championship placing are now at the interesting phase as lesser results can be dropped. Bronwynne's points remained unchanged and she moved to second place. Neil's result, 0.75 second (125 points) was 2 points better than previous third best place (round 1) and his total increased by 2 points.

With all the attention on Neil and Bronwynne over the last 3 Rounds, no one noticed Brent Middlemiss slip in the back door! Brent, the new Championship leader, dropped his 24 point result from Round 2 and replaced it with 123 points from this Round.

Many drivers have Rounds with very low point tallies – especially Round 2 when two thirds of the drivers collected the minimum 24 points! We can therefore expect more changes in the Championship placing's over the final two Rounds.

2016 PPG Classic Trial Championship – Overall result after 6 Rounds

1 st	Brent Middlemiss	Mini 1275GT	578 points
2 nd	Bronwynne Leech	Peugeot 205Gti	569 points
3 rd	Neil Moore	Jowett Jupiter	567 points
4 th	Allan Horner	Austin Healey Sprite	484 points
5 th	Sheridan Broadbent	Valiant Pacer	478 points
6 th	Peter O'Sullivan	Mazda MX5/Cortina	477 points
7 th	Paul Couper	Westfied Eleven	471 Points
8 th	Robyn Riding	Porsche 924	429 points
9 th	Ken Smith	Ford Escort RS2000	427 points
10 th	Syd Davis	Porsche 944	409 points



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At the prize giving held at the conclusion of the Porsche Festival Robyn Riding was awarded the Spirit of the Meeting Award for the Classic Trial group. It was a great reward and recognized her happy, cheerful disposition and her dedication to the Sport.

Neil Moore was the surprise award winner for entering the oldest car in the Festival. The Jowett, at 65 years old, and it's driver, are showing the young pretenders how it should be done! Congratulations Robby and Neil from all your Register friends.

Another surprise for the Riding household was the award to Terry and Robyn of the Special Festival Trophy for their work as Chiefs of Pit Paddock. They managed, with great skill and diplomacy, the unenviable task of controlling the infield parking and dealing with stroppy racers. Well done, Terry and Robyn.

What's coming up:

- 14 February **Classic Car Show Ellerslie** (Classic Trial cars on display)

Last 2 Rounds of the 2016 PPG Classic Trial Championship

- | | | | |
|------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| • Round 7 | 20 February 2016 | HRC Tasman Revival | Pukekohe |
| • Round 8 | 2 April 2016 | HRC Legends of Speed | Hampton |

Cheers

Ross

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