



Classic Trials Championship 2015/16



Classic Trials Newsletter

ISSUE 028 March 2016

Directors Report

It is always good to get back to Pukekohe Park Raceway and it's hard to believe that only 5 years ago most of our Championship rounds were competed here. Of course, the big change from those earlier days is the addition of the kink near the end of the back straight. I consider those extra bends have made the circuit much more interesting. My memories of Pukekohe are centred around stinking hot summer days, huge crowds of spectators and sitting on the grass hill on the site now occupied by the Members Stand. For big meetings, like the NZIGP, we would arrive early and park in the country back roads and walk to the track. We never considered shelling out for the Public Car Park! Even the grass paddocks across the road (where the onions now grow) were filled with cars. Then there was the gridlock jam of cars heading home through Paerata at the end of the day.



While the crowds have diminished, the excitement of a race meeting at Pukekohe is still there and the 20th February 2016 was just as hot as my 40-year-old memories. The Tasman Series was held in conjunction with the NZIGP from 1964 to 1975. We are now privileged to be invited to compete at the HRC organised Tasman Revival Series.



With the charging of high fees now for garage space, the pit area was very crowded. At a previous Pukekohe Tasman Revival all the Classic Trial cars had parked on the grass knoll adjacent to the overbridge. Terry arranged for it to happen again and suddenly we had a new pit area and the freedom of sitting on the grass in the shade of the trees on the embankment. The grid was set up in the car park where we could drive directly onto the circuit when called. We were probably lucky that there weren't the huge crowds of yesteryear!

Trial 1: This Trial was a bonanza for Russell Ness in the flying Cooper S! With one of the most consistent laps times ever, Russell blitzed the field. The next four finishers, while setting times within 1/10th of a second of each other, were 0.3 sec behind Russell.

It was good to see John McGregor back on the track and the Lotus running well.

Results Trial 1:

1 st	Russell Ness	Morris Cooper S	0.16sec
2 nd	Peter O'Sullivan	Ford Cortina Mk2	0.48sec
3 rd	Neil Moore	Jowett Jupiter	0.54sec
4 th	Ray Chubb	Nissan Skyline GT4S	0.56sec
5 th	John McGregor	Lotus 11	0.57sec





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We enjoyed the lunch break out of the midday heat and soon it was out again for Trial 2. This meeting marked the time, to the day, since David Tolhurst had last competed.

While the yellow Capri was out of action David has been around as a flaggy. Another great performance with David, like Russell in the first Trial, finishing streets ahead of the pack. A disappointed Russell did well to take 5th place as a gearbox problem left him with only first and fourth gear! (I would say that this resulted in some healthy over-revving in first!)



Ouch, a Mini Clutch..well
Most of it anyway



Results Trial 2:

1 st	David Tolhurst	Ford Capri GT	0.21sec
2 nd	Ray Chubb	Nissan Skyline GT4S	0.39sec
3 rd	Robyn Riding	Porsche 944 Turbo	0.40sec
4 th	Peter O'Sullivan	Ford Cortina Mk2	0.41sec
5 th	Russell Ness	Morris Cooper S	0.63sec

The day progressed and with the usual track hold-ups and finally it was our time to take the last event of the day. As is usually the case this would be the make or break trial. The current Championship leaders had not featured and those further down the list were vying for good times to improve their positions. A great result saw Bronwynne Leech take the win in the closest finish of the day.

Russell had by now retired with what turned out to be a damaged clutch (or was that caused by the slipping between 1st and 4th!)

A bit of historical interest: The Pukekohe lap record (45 years ago) for the 0 – 1000cc NZ Championship was jointly held by Barry Phillips and Rod Collingwood. (both driving 998 Mini Coopers) The time: 1:18.6) Jimmy Richards (Ford Escort 1598cc) held the 1001 – 4200cc record (1:12.0) and Paul Fahey (Ford Mustang 5L) the 0 – 6000cc record (1:08.6) Racing cars: Frank Matich (McLaren M10B) in 0:56.7



Results Trial 3:

1 st	Bronwynne Leech	Peugeot 205 GT4	0.40sec
2 nd	Mike McCowan	MG BGT V8	0.41sec
3 rd	Robyn Riding	Porsche 944 Turbo	0.45sec
4 th	Ray Chubb	Nissan Skyline GT4S	0.59sec
5 th	Peter O'Sullivan	Ford Cortina Mk2	0.69sec





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Despite his mechanical problems and only competing in two of the three Trials, Russell Ness pulled off a great first time win.

Robyn Riding, David Tolhurst and Peter O'Sullivan all finished closely for the minor Round placings. More importantly, they all picked up higher point tallies and improved their positions in the Championship standings.

Round 7 Results: 2016 PPG Classic Trial Championship

1 st	Russell Ness	Morris Cooper S	0.40sec	160 points
2 nd	Robyn Riding	Porsche 944 Turbo	0.43sec	157 points
3 rd	David Tolhurst	Ford Capri GT	0.44sec	156 points
4 th	Peter O'Sullivan	Ford Cortina Mk2	0.45sec	155 points
5 th	Ray Chubb	Nissan Skyline GT4S	0.48sec	152 points
6 th	Allan Horner	Austin Healey Sprite	0.62sec	138 points
7 th	Mike McCowan	MG BGT V8	0.64sec	136points
8 th	Sheridan Broadbent	Valiant Pacer	0.72sec	128 points
9 th	Brent Middlemiss	Mini 1275GT	0.74sec	126 points
10 th	John McGregor	Lotus 11	0.79sec	121 points



All in all it was a great day. There was the typical hot Pukekohe sun, a fast track, great companionship and heaps of fun out there! We all headed to our various destinations with the final outcome to be calculated later.

Special thanks to Terry Riding, who, while officiating at the meeting, also provided us with very quick results.



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Overall results after 7 Rounds:

2016 PPG Classic Trial Championship

1 st	Brent Middlemiss	Mini 1275GT	581 points
2 nd	Bronwynne Leech	Peugeot 205 GT4	569 points
3 rd	Neil Moore	Jowett Jupiter	567 points
4 th	Robyn Riding	Porsche 944 Turbo	539 points
5 th =	Allan Horner	Austin Healey Sprite	537 points
5 th =	Peter O'Sullivan	Ford Cortina Mk2	537 points
7 th	Sheridan Broadbent	Valiant Pacer	508 points
8 th	Russell Ness	Morris Cooper S	492 points
9 th	Ian Christie	MG BGT	478 points
10 th	Paul Couper	Westfield 11	471 points



The Championship leaders have not improved their point tallies with this round and now the pack is snapping at their heels. With the best 4 Rounds counting towards the Final Championship points, and many drivers still carrying a low point result, the last round on 2 April will be the Championship decider.

Make sure you are part of the action at the **HRC Legends of Speed meeting** at Hampton Downs. Once again, all the Trials will be held on the one day. (Saturday 2nd April) Enter at www.motorsportentry.com

Geoff Manning Memorial Trophy:

Barbara Manning will present this prestigious trophy on the day to the winner of the second Trial.

I hope to see you all there for the crowning of the 2016 PPG Classic Trial Champion

Cheers

Ross

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