



Classic Trials Championship 2015/16



Classic Trials Newsletter

ISSUE 034 January 2017

Welcome to the January Classic Trial newsletter.

Since the last newsletter we have had two rounds, the first at Taupo on Saturday 7th of January and the second this past weekend at Hampton Downs.

The Taupo round was a one day affair with a very quick turnaround between the Trials.

The day was to say the least a day that reminded me of Autumn and not the second month of summer. The temperature was a very mild 10 degrees when we arrived at the track and with a strong southerly blowing, the real feel was about 8 degrees.



And, the "buy a Lotto Ticket right now" Award goes to...

The Classic Trial was the third event of the day and it was great to see the field of 18 head out onto the track.

The practice session was not going to be a happy occasion for Sheridan and Peter.

Sheridan was excited about trying out her Christmas present from Peter which was a set of Brembo six pot calipers for the Pacer, but unfortunately on the third lap the front right suspension parted ways with the chassis. This would sideline Sheridan for the rest of the day.



Peter did not fare much better when after the practice session he noted that the alternator had parted ways from its mounting. Luck was not on his side either as neither Repco or SuperCheap had a replacement in stock. However being as resourceful as Peter is, the alternator was soon borrowed from the Pacer and Peter would be back for the second Trial.

Sadly another to suffer misfortune was Graham Hunter who was debuting his Peugeot 309 which he had recently acquired. He was out for the rest of the day as the car had run the bearings in the motor.

Trial one was won by David Tolhurst with a time variance of 0.28

Car Number	Driver	Car	Year	Trial One
43	David Tolhurst	Ford Capri GT	1975	0.28
72	Ian Christie	MGBGT	1973	0.38
111	Rex Fifield	Ford Escort Mexico	1974	0.50
5	Brian King	AJS Special	2006	0.62
36	James Bell-Booth	BMW E36	1992	0.67

Resident "Pull a rabbit out of a hat" Specialist- Peter
Performing another miracle



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Trial 2 Results

Trial two was another close fought event. This time Rex Fifield headed off a hard charging Peter O'Sullivan who was making up for missing the first Trial. Peter was followed in third by Paul Couper and Graham Hallen who dead heated on a 0.59 variation.

Car Number	Driver	Car	Year	Trial Two
111	Rex Fifield	Ford Escort Mexico	1974	0.35
116	Peter O'Sullivan	Ford Cortina Mk2	1968	0.54
47	Paul Couper	Lotus 11 Replica	2012	0.59
6	Graham Hallen	Toyota MR2	1992	0.59
101	Helen O'Sullivan	Mazda MX 5	1991	0.73

Trial 3 Results:

Trial three was won by John Campbell. When he was advised that he had won the Trial, John was delighted. He was heard to comment that he has been in the middle, last, but this was his first win in all the years he has been participating in the Trial. "well done John".

It was also great to see Brian King in the top 5. Brian does a great job muscling that big AJS around the track. Brian had tied with Paul Couper for 5th equal.

Car Number	Driver	Car	Year	Trial Three
180	John Campbell	MGBGT	1973	0.44
43	David Tolhurst	Ford Capri GT	1975	0.49
101	Helen O'Sullivan	Mazda MX5	1991	0.57
44	Colin Clark	Toyota MR2	1992	0.61
47	Paul Couper	Lotus 11 Replica	2012	0.63
5	Brian King	AJS Special	2006	0.63





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Round Results;

David Tolhurst won the round from Rex Fifield second, Ian Christie third, John Campbell fourth and Paul Couper fifth. This is Davids second Round win this season.

Car Number	Driver	Car	Year	Points	Position
43	David Tolhurst	Ford Capri GT	1975	161	1
111	Rex Fifield	Ford Escort Mexico	1974	157	2
72	Ian Christie	MGBGT	1973	147	3
180	John Campbell	MGBGT	1973	141	4
47	Paul Couper	Lotus 11 Replica	2012	139	5



On to the next event - The Hampton Downs round was on the 14th and 15th of January which made for two busy weekends in succession. Unusually this round was over two days as Chris Watson could not fit the Classic Trial into one day.

The Saturday for the practice and the first Trial was cloudy with a bit of wind and made for ideal conditions.

Paul Couper won the first Trial with a very good variation of 0.37 followed by David Tolhurst and again Helen O'Sullivan featured in the top five. Russell Goodwin was getting used to his Jensen again after his Escort let him down just before Taupo with damaged cam followers.



Car Number	Driver	Car	Year	Trial One
47	Paul Couper	Lotus 11 Replica	2012	0.37
43	David Tolhurst	Ford Capri GT	1975	0.47
111	Rex Fifield	Ford Escort Mexico	1974	0.53
101	Helen O'Sullivan	Mazda MX 5	1991	0.54
4	Russell Goodwin	Ford Escort	1974	0.59
75	John Miller	Ford Escort RS 2000	1974	0.84

There were a few menacing spits of rain before the second Trial but it came to nothing, but how that was about to change! For a change the Classic Trial was event three on the programme which meant an early finish to both days.

The conditions had changed and as such the times that were nominated on the Saturday were beyond most participants on the Sunday morning except for the top four.

Trail two was won by Ross Vaughan with a 0.44 variation followed by Alan Horner making a return to the series after missing the Taupo round as he spent Christmas in Fiji. The picture he sent me of the Sunset from his balcony was enough to make me jump on a plane and join him, then reality set in and I realized that I had to be at Taupo. Perhaps next year!

Sheridan had commandeered the MX 5 as both the Pacer and Cortina were still out of action and was getting used to the many differences in handling and speed from her usual steed.



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Trial Two results;

Car Number	Driver	Car	Year	Trial One
916	Ross Vaughan	Alfa Romeo GTV TS	1997	0.44
45	Allan Horner	Austin Healey Sprite	1963	0.50
4	Russell Goodwin	Ford Escort	1974	0.51
111	Rex Fifield	Ford Escort Mexico	1974	0.56
266	Sheridan Broadbent	Mazda MX 5	1991	0.80



Trial three was a totally different perspective and from memory the first time that a Classic Trial has had two red flags in one Trial.

Just before the Trialists went out on track the heavens opened and dumped about a normal months worth of rain in a matter of minutes. Convertible tops were hastily replaced as the Trialist waited for a BMW from the previous race to be recovered.

Finally a start, the first three rows got away without any issue, then as David Tolhurst went to move his diff locked solid. This created the first red flag of the Trial. The cars were stopped at the Red Flag line just after Pit entrance and waited until David's car was removed from the track on the back of a low loader.

By now the rain was easing but the track was soaked.

The second start went well and the Trial was progressing well until Sheridan got caught on a slippery line going into turn one and ended up bogged down in the sand trap. This brought out a safety car. It was instantly obvious that the pace behind the safety car was not going to allow anyone to circulate at their nominated times so the trail was red flagged again.

The results from Trial three were discarded.

Round Results

Car Number	Driver	Car	Year	Average	Points	Position
111	Rex Fifield	Ford Escort Mexico	1974	0.545	146	1
4	Russell Goodwin	Ford Escort	1974	0.55	145	2
45	Allan Horner	Austin Healey Sprite	1963	0.72	128	3
47	Paul Couper	Lotus 11 Replica	2012	0.76	124	4
916	Ross Vaughan	Alfa Romeo GTV TS	1997	0.91	109	5

The round went to Rex Fifield over Russell Goodwin on a 0.545 as opposed to Russell's 0.55

Allan Horner was third, followed by Paul Couper in fourth and Ross Vaughan fifth.

It is great to see Ross finally getting some good results after the initial teething problems with the Alfa Romeo.



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Championship Standings.

After the relatively low points scoring rounds to which the top paced people in the championship have attained, the only change was that Paul Couper has moved up to fourth place.

Championship placing after six rounds.

Car Number	Driver	Car Model	Year	Total	Position
43	David Tolhurst	Ford Capri GT	1975	637	1
4	Russell Goodwin	Ford Escort RS 2000	1974	635	2
101	Helen O'Sullivan	Mazda MX 5	1991	598	3
47	Paul Couper	Lotus 11 Replica	2012	589	4
116	Peter O'Sullivan	Ford Cortina Mk 2	1968	581	5

The next round is at Pukekohe on the 18th and 19th of February. I am still waiting to ascertain if this will be a one or two day meeting.

The last round of the season will be the Legends of Speed on the 25th and 26th of March. Once again I will advise if we have been able to get back to the one day format.

As always if you have any questions regarding the Classic Trial or any questions regarding Motor Sport in general, please do not hesitate to contact me.

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