



Classic Trials Championship 2015/16



Classic Trials Newsletter

ISSUE 035 March 2017

We are only weeks away from the end of the 2016 / 2017 Classic Trial season with the final event the HRC "Legends of Speed" on Saturday 25th of March at Hampton Downs. Over the last few years that I have been doing the results, I always think that I can predict the championship, but what reality has shown is that theory and actuality are dimensions apart.

This year however, fate intervened or should I say some person with no moral scruples. This person decided to borrow Helen O'Sullivan's MX5 from its parking space in central Auckland with the intention of not giving it back, thus preventing Helen from competing the following day.



REWARD – Dead.. or preferably dead- the scumbag who stole this car...

At the time of writing the newsletter, the car apart from one sighting on the Saturday morning has not been seen again, so Helen is now in the hunt for another car. Thankfully there is another MX5 in the family stable that she can use for the Legends round.



Round 7 was at Pukekohe Park on Saturday 18th of February. With the format for the Trial's back to a single day format, it was going to be a busy day. This with the small number of participants, would also mean an early finish for the day.

The big question however, was would the rain stay away and with just a brief shower just as the Classic Trial was lining up on the dummy grid, it would remain a fine but very humid day.

Practice was a relaxed affair and with only nine participants it meant that everyone could find their own piece of track and circulate at consistent time, and this would also be a feature of the day. However, practice was not without its dramas, Russell Goodwin came in early after his Escort started overheating and this would side-line him for the rest of the day. The same fate would befall Russell Sykes after the first Trial.



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David Tolhurst was missing from this event as the Capri was just not quite ready, a new differential being sourced from the most unlikely of places, his next door neighbor who had a plentiful collection of the correct Ford parts. Russell's demise would mean that the top two placing's in the championship would remain unchanged, for this round at least.

Trial One was won by Allan Horner with an excellent 0.37 variation, followed by Ross Vaughan and Neil Moore with a 0.43 Variation.

Car Number	Driver	Car	Year	Trial One
45	Allan Horner	Austin Healey Sprite	1963	0.37
916	Ross Vaughan	Alfa Romeo GTV TS	1997	0.43
51	Neil Moore	Jowett Jupiter	1951	0.43
111	Rex Fifield	Ford Escort Mexico	1974	0.45
72	Ian Christie	MGBGT	1973	0.56



Trial two was won again by Allan Horner, this time with a 0.47 variation with John Campbell second, 0.59 and Neil Moore third on 0.79



Car Number	Driver	Car	Year	Trial 2
45	Allan Horner	Austin Healey Sprite	1963	0.47
180	John Campbell	MGBGT	1973	0.59
51	Neil Moore	Jowett Jupiter	1951	0.79
916	Ross Vaughan	Alfa Romeo GTV TS	1997	0.93
5	Brian King	AJS Special	2006	1.01

Trial three was won by Ross Vaughan with a 0.37 variation, followed by Rex Fifield 0.39 and Ian Christie 0.44

Car Number	Driver	Car	Year	Trial 3
916	Ross Vaughan	Alfa Romeo GTV TS	1997	0.37
111	Rex Fifield	Ford Escort Mexico	1974	0.39
72	Ian Christie	MGBGT	1973	0.44
45	Allan Horner	Austin Healey Sprite	1963	0.55
180	John Campbell	MGBGT	1973	0.89



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The round win went to Ross Vaughan with a 0.40 variation, Allan Horner and Rex Fifield second equal on 0.42

Car Number	Driver	Car	Year	Average
916	Ross Vaughan	Alfa Romeo GTV TS	1997	0.40
45	Allan Horner	Austin Healey Sprite	1963	0.42
111	Rex Fifield	Ford Escort Mexico	1974	0.42
72	Ian Christie	MGBGT	1973	0.50
51	Neil Moore	Jowett Jupiter	1951	0.61



This was a very high scoring round and with Helen unable to defend her third place, there have been some changes to the top of the leader board.

David Tolhurst is still in first place due in part to Russell's Escort overheating, however all is not lost for Russell as he maintains second just two points behind. The big movers however were Rex Fifield and Allan Horner, with Rex moving up to third with Allan fourth just two points adrift of Rex. The net result of these two moving up was that Helen was down to fifth place.

Helen still maintains family bragging rights with a seventeen-point lead over Peter O'Sullivan and a forty-three-point lead over Sheridan.



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The next round is on March 25th at Hampton Downs, so it will be interesting to see how the championship unfolds, plus there will be three trophies up for grabs, the "Round Trophy", the "Manning Trophy" for Trial Two, which will be presented by Barbara Manning after the conclusion of the Trial and the "Legends Trophy" for Trial three.

Let's hope that this run of fine weather continues and I am sure we will have an exciting conclusion to the 2016 / 2017 season.

A few years ago, a Classic Trial endurance race was run and this was won by Chris Watson. Chris has offered the Classic Trial Register members a 30 minute endurance Trial at a meeting the HRC are running at Hampton Downs in May, I would be interested in any feedback from the Register members to gauge interest level in holding this event. If it goes ahead it would be good if we could entice Chris Watson back to defend his title.

Away from the track, the Classic Trial was represented at the Intermarque Concours, by John Miller, Ross Vaughan, Brian King, John Campbell, Graham Hunter and Allan Horner.

Thanks to John Miller for organising this display.



Just after Christmas at the Taupo round, I spent some time with Neil Moore and he regaled me with stories of his trip to take in the 24 Hours of Le Mans with Allan Horner last year. This was an interesting adventure and I will add an overview of the highlights of the trip in the next newsletter. I look forward to catching up with you at the Championship finale at Hampton Downs on the 25th March.

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