



Classic Trials Newsletter



Classic Trail 2016 / 2017 Championship

Volume 036 May 2017

As I sat down to write this edition of the newsletter, I realized that Summer was now a distant memory. The warm afternoon sun spilling through the office window as I am writing is creating a false sense of serenity as we are now heading into the depths of winter.

The season is well and truly over and even the Endurance Trial is a distant memory. The first round of the 2017 / 2018 season is only 114 days away and to that end Christmas is only another 92 days after that.



This year TACCOC will not be holding an event at Pukekohe, it appears that the Pukekohe Park Raceway promoters have cancelled the TACCOC rollover date for this event, claiming some conflict with the new Auckland Council Unitary Plan.

TACCOC's analysis of the Unitary Plan has failed to find any such potential conflict, but Pukekohe Park Raceway Promoters have also failed to provide any better reason. TACCOC are currently trying to find another date for early next year.

I will update you as information comes to hand, but in the interim, they will only run two events at Hampton Downs and these will be in October and December.

The season will start with the usual HRC Icebreaker meeting at Hampton Downs on Saturday the 23rd of September and will conclude with the Legends of Speed meeting on the 17th of March.

The consensus after the last Endurance Race was that everyone would have loved to keep on racing. Chris Watson jokingly suggested a 45-minute race next time. But was he actually joking? Sense will prevail and perhaps we will stick to the 30 minutes.

The full list of dates for the 2017 / 2018 season are at the back of this newsletter. So, you now have no excuses for leaving the jobs on the car to the last minute and missing the first round. So off to the engine reconditioner's, the gearbox shop or to purchase that new suspension so you can be there at Round One.

The last round of the championship was going to be interesting, could anyone topple David Tolhurst from the leader board?

Talking of David, I must thank him sincerely for managing the race day events for me this season. Trying to manage the results remotely did have its own inherent issues, and the two rounds that I missed were the first since taking over the role of results coordinator in 2013.

But what this has illustrated is that we need a second person to learn how to do the results. So, if anyone is interested just get in touch with me some time.



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For Paul Couper the day got off to a bad start when a 50 cent o ring blocked his fuel supply from the tank and Peter O'Sullivan was sidelined in the first trial when the Cortina jammed in gear.

The first Trial was won by new register member Gerry Hodges with a 0.46 variation.



He had a little assistance due to the fact that the Trial had to be Red Flagged and the actual results had to be manually calculated. However well done! Gerry was the second new Register member this year to win his first trial a feat emulated by James Bell Booth last year.

Helen and Sheridan fought over family bragging rights in second and third respectively.

Car Number	Driver	Car	Year	Trial One
Classic Trial Championship 2016 / 2017 Hampton Down Legends of Speed				
25	Gerry Hodges	BMW 318iS Motorsport	1997	0.46
266	Helen O'Sullivan	Mazda MX 5	1990	0.50
265	Sheridan Broadbent	Valiant Pacer	1972	0.65
111	Rex Fifield	Ford Mexico Replica	1974	1.15
916	Ross Vaughan	Alfa Romeo Gtv TS	1997	1.50

Trial two was won Ross Vaughan with a variation of 0.29, followed by Allan Horner and Russell Goodwin.





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Car Number	Driver	Car	Year	Trial 2
Classic Trial Championship 2016 / 2017 Hampton Down Legends of Speed				
916	Ross Vaughan	Alfa Romeo Gtv TS	1997	0.29
45	Allan Horner	Austin Healey Sprite	1963	0.33
4	Russell Goodwin	Ford Escort	1974	0.84
265	Sheridan Broadbent	Valiant Pacer	1972	1.26
111	Rex Fifield	Ford Mexico Replica	1974	1.26

Trial three was won by David Tolhurst with a 0.31 variation followed home by Russell Goodwin and Sheridan Broadbent.



Car Number	Driver	Car	Year	Trial 3
Classic Trial Championship 2016 / 2017 Hampton Down Legends of Speed				
43	David Tolhurst	Ford Capri GT	1975	0.31
4	Russell Goodwin	Ford Escort	1974	0.48
265	Sheridan Broadbent	Valiant Pacer	1972	0.62
266	Helen O'Sullivan	Mazda MX 5	1990	0.66
45	Allan Horner	Austin Healey Sprite	1963	0.79



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The final round of the 2016 / 2017 season went to Allan Horner with a 0.56 variation followed by Helen O'Sullivan and Sheridan Broadbent.



Classic Trial Championship 2016 / 2017 Hampton Down Legends of Speed				
Car Number	Driver	Car	Year	Average
45	Allan Horner	Austin Healey Sprite	1963	0.56
266	Helen O'Sullivan	Mazda MX 5	1990	0.58
265	Sheridan Broadbent	Valiant Pacer	1972	0.64
916	Ross Vaughan	Alfa Romeo Gtv TS	1997	0.64
4	Russell Goodwin	Ford Escort	1974	0.66

The only change to the championship from the results of this round was that Allan Horner moved from 5th to 3rd overall.

What was interesting was that David carried his two-point advantage over Russell Goodwin for four rounds with both scoring their highest points in the first four rounds.



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Well done to David Tolhurst the 2016 / 2017 Classic Trial register winner.



2016 / 2017 Classic Trial Register Championship					
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
45	Allan Horner	Austin Healey Sprite	1963	626	3
111	Rex Fifield	Ford Escort Mexico	1974	612	4
101	Helen O'Sullivan	Mazda MX 5	1991	605	5

The final tally of points for all the Classic Trial members is on the web site.

The last event for the season all though not part of the championship, was the Classic Trial 30-minute endurance race. We again welcomed another new member to the register Mike Kliwer. Mike has a sister car to Gerry Hodges BMW 318iS.





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Others new to the register or returning after a long absence, were Tim Hill in a 1954 Austin A30 with a supercharger and Jane Farris in a 1956 Standard 10 who finished a credible 5th.



The day started late from the beginning when practice was delayed by 90 minutes due to the thick fog that Hampton Downs can be notorious for. This meant that practice, when it did get underway was shortened to 10 minutes.

During the day, we co-opted the HRC Accident Investigator's car to secure the PPG banner. He went off proudly wearing a PPG Classic Trial cap. Over the last two years Kim has become an enthusiastic supporter of the Classic Trial.

The endurance race got underway early afternoon in bright sunshine, with the temperature just right for an endurance race, and with a good field of 16 Competitors.

However, missing from the grid was Russell Goodwin who had engine issues in practice.





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The 30-minute race was won by Robyn Riding, returning to the Trial after a six-month absence with a variation of 0.56 of a second over 21 laps.



Paul Couper was definitely on for a podium spot until his exuberance got the better of him and he broke out on the last two laps. Robyn was followed home by John Campbell and Trevor Clark.

Classic Trial Championship 2016 / 2017 Hampton Downs Endurance Race

Car Number	Driver	Car	Year	Endurance Result
931	Robyn Riding	Porsche 924	1981	0.56
180	John Campbell	MGBGT	1971	0.64
44	Trevor Clark	Toyota MR2	1990	0.71
15	Chris Watson	Toyota Curren	1994	0.79
10	Jane Farris	Standard 10	1956	0.94

Another new twist for the 2017 / 2018 season, is that John Tomlin (who does all the race commentaries at Hampton Downs and Pukekohe) is going to participate in the Trials in his 1995 Mercedes SL 500 R129 coupe and provide an in-car commentary during the Trial in order to lift fellow competitor's attention to the skill level required to circulate in a consistent time.



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2016 / 2017 Prizegiving.

The annual awards luncheon will be held at the Horse and Trap in Mount Eden on Sunday the 27th of August and will commence at 11:30am for a 12:00pm lunch with the prizegiving to follow.



The proposed dates for the 2017 / 2018 Classic Trial Championship are as follows;

- Round 1: 30th September 2017 - HRC Icebreaker, HD
- Round 2: 14th October 2017 (Sat) - TACCOC Spring Classic, HD
- Round 3: 10th December 2017 (Sun) - TACCOC Xmas at the Downs, HD
- Round 4: 6th January 2018 - HRC Tasman Revival Taupo
- Round 5: 20th January Tasman Revival Meeting Hampton Downs (TBC)
- Round 6: 24th February 2018 - HRC Tasman Revival Pukekohe
- Round 7: 17th March 2018 - HRC Legends of Speed, HD
- Round 8: TACCOC date and venue to be advised
- Round 9: May Endurance Round (Non-Championship) date TBC

As in past years only the four best scores will count for the Championship.

I look forward to catching up with you at the Horse and Trap for the annual prizegiving lunch on Sunday 27th August.

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Classic Trial Event Director

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