

NZ Sports Car Series, Round Five.
Taupo, 14/15 January, 2012

Everyone had one eye on the weather after some nasty showers on the Friday at this Tasman Revival Series meeting hosted by the Historic Racing Club. However Saturday and Sunday delivered reasonable weather although a tad windy at times.

Most of the front runners were back for Round 5 of the Championship, but unfortunately there were a few late withdrawals, with Andrew Mellor, Allison Allen and Kev Adlington not able to make it.

Some of the racing overalls appeared to have shrunk over the Christmas break as drivers squeezed into their suits, or perhaps it was just too much Christmas pudding!

Ten series cars fronted for qualifying but taking the tally to 12 was the welcome entry of local Redline racer Craig Sawyer and the Lotus 211 of Russell Burling, thanks guys great to have you along.

Qualifying:

Iain Slight had at last got rid of the engine miss in the Juno but was still sorting out some handling issues. John "Bloomers" Bloemendal was having brake problems with the Fraser suffering from uneven wear on brake pads, but everyone else seemed happy enough although qualifying seemed to be at least 3 laps short and this prevented a few drivers from getting in that crucial hot lap.

Race 1: (Rolling Start)

Dave Glasson was on pole after a great 1.31 in qualifying and was first into turn one in the Radical, with Johnny Mines' and the JRM next, closely followed by the Juno's of Iain Slight and Alan Barker. Trev Lines RPC Redline, John Bloemendal' Fraser, and Craig Sawyer's RPC Redline were next followed by the Frasers of Chris MacLennan and James Coup, then came Russell Burling's Lotus 211 with Gary O'Keeffe's Chevron Aprisa completing the field.

On lap three, "Slighty" and "Fletch" Barker got past Johnny Mines and the race was beginning to settle down when on lap 3 Craig Sawyer got it wrong at turn two, having a brief excursion into the agrarian sector, coming back on, still out of shape and being clouted by an unwilling participant in Chris MacLennan. Chris's car suffered some serious damage with the Fraser's radiator and oil cooler unable to be repaired at the track and unfortunately put the Clubsport points leader out for the weekend. Craig's car had the rear fibreglass section ripped off but no serious damage and was able to be back for Race 2.

Trev and John were having their usual close battle but "Bloomers" Fraser suffered engine issues and pulled in for a DNF, Coup and Burling got past O'Keeffe on lap five and David Glasson lead the pack home from Slighty, Barker, Mines, Lines, Coup, Burling, and O'Keeffe.

Race 2: (Scratch Start)

A grid start this time instead of the usual rolling start and Fletch Barker got a great start and lead from David Glasson, Johnny Mines, Iain Slight, James Coup and Trev Lines. James Coup also got a great start and managed to get in front of Trev Lines at turn one and, Russell Burling dispatched Sawyer a spot on turn three. Trev got back passed James before the sweeper and again had a lonely race.

By lap three, David Glasson had the lead from Barker, Slightly and Johnny as the field started to stretch out a bit. Without Bloomers to keep him honest "Stumpy" Lines was having a lonely race in 5th place, behind him was a close race between Burling and Sawyer, Coup and "Gazza" O'Keeffe.

The finish order was again David in first with "Fletch" Barker 2nd and Slightly 3rd. Johnny Mines was next followed by Trev Lines, Russell Burling, Craig Sawyer, James Coup and "Gazza" O'Keeffe.

Race 3: (Handicap Scratch)

Gary O'Keeffe was away first, then Russell Burling, Craig Sawyer, James Coup starting together in a drag for turn one, Trev Lines was the last of the Club Sport cars away, with all the big guns started from pit lane. Johnny Mines was away first with Slightly and Alan Barker next and David Glasson last away. Craig Sawyer made the most of his start and pulled out a healthy lead over James and Russell, and eventually caught and passed Gary to take the lead of the race. Johnny was the first of the scratch guys through but ran out of laps to catch Craig and Gary who finished first and second, Johnny was third followed closely by David and Trev.

James Coup stayed in front of Slightly and Alan who completed the field.

Summary:

It was certainly entertaining for the spectators and enjoyable for the drivers to have the return of "scratch" races, and the handicap race was great. Sad to see Chris out so early in the weekend especially as he was doing so well in Championship points, I hope you will be back for Hampton Downs Chris.

We also had 3 Super Historics racing with us this weekend and apart from one rather unnecessary incident in Race 3, it seemed to go ok..... I guess.

Thanks to Bazza for his Race Report and my apologies to you for re writing parts of it and deleting reference to the Super Historics mate, but as they are not part of our club or championship we thought it best to exclude them to avoid confusion.

Kind Regards
Stumpy