

Taupo 23/24 October 2011 NEWSLETTER ROUND 2

Hi there everyone, what a great weekend at Taupo, just a lot of rain on Saturday.

I went and met some of the new drivers and nearly new drivers, over the weekend and did a few interviews, thanks for your support, as I was a bit nervous. The people I missed I will try and get you next time.

NO 16; Paul smith NZGT: lives in Tauranga, has been racing with kiwisports, and has raced in super GT and has raced in Levin, Bay Park and Pukehohe in 1968. Drives a Nissan Skyline, motor 420kw, he tells me he wants to run 3-4 meetings this year. He has had 18 months off from racing, he has tried all sports and motor racing is the best one!!

NO 28; Ethan Coleman NZGT : lives in Hamilton, is our youngest driver(15 years) drives a mini 1978, rotary turbo, engine is going great, and loved the Manfield track it was the 1st time racing there, and message to mum and dad thanks for giving me the opportunity to race, and thanks to Origin Windows and Doors.

NO 87 Rick Bone NZGT: lives in Auckland, drives 1972 Datsun 1200 Coupe, this race car has raced for 19 years, old shell sport car , he has raced go-karts from age 7 and has won lots of titles and championships. Has raced in mini 7's and has come from SS2000, he has run in 0-1600cc class and won that class 6 years in a row. He also has a partner and two children and they love racing as well. He says he does all his own work on the car, and his sponsor is Auckland Engineering Supplies and Monster Engineering. He's having lots of fun and enjoying himself and always drives his hardest.

NO 91; Justin Herbet GT2: lives in Tauranga, driving ex Brent Lander Mitsubishi Evo 3 with a 2 litre turbo. He is currently in development with it. He started kartsport at the age of 7 and has raced from there in super stocks, formula fords, mini challenge and ss2000 champion at the moment. He is a race car engineer and used to work in America for AJ Foyt as a mechanic.

NO 93; Mark Allan NZGT; lives in Fielding, driving Vauxall Firenza Coup Chev. Comment was this is good fun and a good bunch of guys.

NO 101: Leith Jepsen NZGT: lives in Masteron, driving Nissan skyline GTST, his mother tells me he needs a girlfriend, so girls if you're looking go and see this man. He has just put slicks on the car and has made many changes, has a new gear box as blew the other one in Manfield on the last lap on the first race. The car is in basic state at the moment, we are happy with the changes to the car; the diameter of the wheels being smaller has given us better gearing and steering response.

NO 112; Marvyn Towers NZGT: lives in Normanby, Taranaki. Driving a MGBGT V8 Rover with a super charger. Raced in classics and in the winter series has raced for 6 or 7 years, and has been building it for 1 and a half years and sorting out all the teething problems.

NO 119; Allan Montgomery GT2: lives in Palmerton North, driving a Mazda RX7 Batman Series 6. Built by Montgomery Motor sport. Has raced before and had a break for 8 years, also has raced in Oscar, Kiwi

Sport Sedan, also won the Kiwi Sport Sedan championship. This is his second meeting, car was going good but he had gearbox problems.

NO 142; Eric Budd NZGT: lives in Hamilton, driving a Toyota T series, 1800 turbo. Has been racing with SS2000. Loves racing and is enjoying the atmosphere of the class.

NO 170; Shane Whitley NZGT: lives in Auckland and drives a Ford Fairmont, this is the 3rd year at Taupo to start, had engine problems in the past so this is the 3rd attempt at Taupo. He built the car from scratch which was a road car, he says he wanted to race for years and wanted to follow the kiwi dream. The crews tell me they only bring the driver, as he has the money.

NO 616; Karen Davitski NZGT & SS2000: lives in Waitara. Karen is racing in NZGT and SS2000 on the same weekend, she had engine problems in Manfield i.e. blew an engine; this happened in the second to last lap and second to last race. But today at Taupo with a nearly brand new engine with it going well.

THEN I INTERVIEWED SOME OF OUR REGULAR DRIVERS:

NO 555; Stephen Brown- Thomas NZGT: He has got a new car this season as his other car got badly smashed up at the Hamilton 400. He is driving a Subaru STI, he tells me his new car is very exciting and it will take a while to sort out, as all new cars have teething problems, but it's enjoyable to be back in the car.

NO 60; Shaun Judd GT2: Shaun has got new sign writing this year, orange and white and driving his Mazda RX7, with a new engine 13B Turbo, built and tuned by Brent from Curran Brothers Racing, the car is going great, but only a starter motor problem in round 1 in Manfield. The car is a lot different to drive and will take a bit of time to get used to. Thanks to Ryan, Hannah and Travis Judd for the sign writing.

NO 42; Neil McCall NZGT: We haven't seen NEIL in ages so I went and had a quick catch up with him, he lives in Auckland and drives a 1973 HQ Holden, the motor is a Porsche 5 litre with the crank ground to chev specs, custom rods, dry sump, indy car pumps, basic tremec box and 9 inch diff. Autronic controller. He says quick in a straight line but refuses to turn and stop. Thinking of entering D 1.

NO 73; Greg Kilworth NZGT: lives in Tauranga, I found out it drove back to Tauranga on Saturday night and drove a sprint car at bay park, I think it was his first night, how cool is that.

CAR ISSUES;

No 161; Kerry Halligan GT: he was driving his white Evo in the practice on Friday and the accelerator cable jammed and he came off in turn 4. He says the Taupo track is well maintained (infield) no damage to car, he came in for a pit stop and cable tied the accelerator and back out again with no more problems for Friday.

NO 34; Phill Jones, races with NZGT and the Porsches, spun out on the track, broke a steering tie rod and damage to the front guard, he collided with Tim James of the black boxter, so unfortunately he is out for the day, they were racing with the Porches in race 1 on Sunday when this happened.

The NZGT race meeting on Saturday was declared a wet race, there seemed to be no car injuries.

Mark Clark spun out in the warm up lap in GT2 and Greg Kilworth had a spin in the warm up lap in NZGT

Ross Honnor NZGT came in and put his fire extinguisher on his engine as there was a small fuel leak and hoped to be out for the next race. Quick moving you guys.

Rick Bone and Rodney Gimblett knocked wheels, on Sunday morning, with Rick Bone coming for a quick pit stop to change a left front tyre and pull off the front bumper, he should be happy with how fast his pit crew sprung into action, amazing to watch. But meant that Rodney was out for the rest of the races due to diff issues, but he will be up and running for Hampton Downs.

Race 2 Derrin Greenslade did not finish race2. In race 2 everyone was telling me the track was extremely slippery. The commentator said Neil McCall might have come last but he did the best burnout

Richard Grainger got black flagged for accidently turning his rain light off.

It was so good to hear Chris Coleman helped out another racer from a different club and got his car up and running, he was so wrapped that you fixed his shock.

Good sportsmanship to Leith Jepson, volunteering to move up to GT2

Race 3 NZGT ON SUNDAY

DNF MONTGOMERY DUE TO GEARBOX ISSUES

DNF SIMON BARRY DUE TO BROKEN ACCERATOR CABLE

DNF KERRY HALLIGAN DUE TO (NO SURE)

IN THE FINAL RACE THERE WERE A LOT OF EVO-STRICTION thanks Nigel Snow for that word.

SHAUN JUDD SPUN OUT IN RACE 3 FOR GT2 DUE TO REAR HOT TYRES.

NIGEL SNOW STARTED 24TH AND CREPT UPTO 4TH; HE WAS THE BIGGEST MOVER IN THE RACE 1 IN NZGT ON SATURDAY,

This is some info that I received as I had left Taupo, for NZGT, Derrin Greenslade dropped oil around the track on the warm up lap so he went to the pits, this caused a delayed start, they were given another warm up lap after waiting for so long, as they got back to grid positions, Karen D and Ross H carried on through the red flag, so they had to wait for them to do another lap and return to the front. Shane Whitley spun on turn 2 and then Neil McCall spun on turn 7 (hair pin) getting stuck in the kitty litter

(meow) yellow flags were out with only two laps to go. The race got cut to 7 laps because of the delays.
bummer

SATURDAY NIGHT;

Prize giving for Manfield

GT1; 1st Nick Chester

2nd Andy Greenslade (combined was Nick Chester, Andy Greenslade, Glen Smith)

3rd Brian Gray

GT2; 1st Glen Smith

2nd Simon Barry

3rd Russell Due

NZGT; 1st Brock Cooley

2nd Rick Bone

3rd Rodney Gimblett

There are some people I would like to thank

The food shopping done by Richard Grainger . BBQ cooked by Derin Greenslade, Richard Grainger & Eric Hennepf. Alcohol organized by Mr. Mark Brown- Thomas. Thanks also to Brock Cooleys mum for helping to set up.

Pink Helmet in Manfield went to Eric Budd for driving the wrong way down the dummy grid.

Pink Helmet in Taupo went to Richard Grainger for accidently turning off his rain light.

Draw for free entry drawn in Taupo by Kerry Halligan But won by NO129 RODNEY GIMBLETT.
CONGRATS.

GRIPE;

I noticed this weekend people weren't compliant with their fire extinguishers, please use them and have another person with you when you are filling up your car.

If you have come off the track and want to re-enter please look in your mirrors, there are too many of you not looking in your mirrors, remember, we all would like to do the whole round!!!!

If you have any issues or questions feel free to contact your class coordinator GT1/2 is Brent Dickson NO;0272957966 and NZGT Chris Coleman NO; 0274989880

If your class co coordinator can't help you, they will talk to the committee and they will get you an answer. Please remember everyone has jobs and families and can't always get back to you the same day.

I went for a walk with Yvonne and so many drivers said they didn't have their membership or pit passes. (Just remember we have had you sign for these and some did get posted; please check your letter box.)

Don't forget you can buy and sell on our website FOR FREE!!!!!!

Also thankyou to those people that give us their free time, just remember if we don't have them, what would happen. Thanks to Yvonne, Nigel Snow, Mark Brown-Thomas and Keith and anybody I have missed. We couldn't do it, without you.

DON'T FORGET BBQ ON SATURDAY NIGHT AT HAMPTON DOWNS AND IT IS ONLY A ONE DAY EVENT OF RACING WHICH IS SUNDAY 13TH NOVEMBER PS: everyone said they had a great weekend at Taupo see ya at Hampton

THANKS EVERYONE ROCHELLE CONDER