

Season: 2007-08

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SS2000 Club Newsletter



www.ss2000.co.nz

Race Format Changed!!

It came as no surprise that at the recent AGM, a change in the 3 race format for our series, was inevitable.

For two seasons now, reverse grid races were run as the final two races of each round. This format was originally adopted to make it easier if we had to run with another class, should we not have achieved adequate grid numbers.

Fortunately since then our grid numbers have been relatively healthy, the only exception being Round 6—Taupo in February '07.

It was also considered

that in our Reverse grid races, irrespective of how much of a delayed start the fastest competitors were held back, they still managed to get to the front at about the halfway point of such races, depending on which track was involved.

So for next season, the new race format will be Race 1-normal grid from qualifying times and Races 2 & 3 will now be handicap races.

The general consensus of those that attended the AGM, was that handicap races provided a more entertaining spectacle and



Above: Is there such a thing as a handicapped Lamborghini??

that it would make the faster drivers and their cars, work even harder for a win in two out of the three races of each round.

So who's looking forward to this season's racing now??



Total Lubricants out!!

After three seasons of being our naming rights sponsor, Total Lubricants have indicated that they will not be able to continue sponsorship of our SS2000 series for the forthcoming season.

Whilst it is unfortunate,

SS2000 would like to express our appreciation and thanks to Total Lubricants for sticking with us for so long.

The Club's Executive & Committee are confident, that with the pending enticements on the horizon, that this will help tremen-

dously towards attracting another major sponsor for this season.

However, if any Club member knows of any prospective sponsorship opportunities, please feel free to contact an Executive or Committee member.

Remits - Accepted!!

" Rule 10.3.... gives all competitors a chance of finishing Races 2 & 3 in front or near the front.... "

Rule 3.2 & 4.1—Amended to read "2000cc". Rule tidy up to reflect that 2000cc is the maximum for the class & not 2080cc which with a 4% rebore, would allow a maximum of 2163cc.

Rule 4.5—New rule: Membership year to be the same as the financial year (ie: 1st May to 31st April each year). Amended to 1st August to 31st July each year. Stops members getting more than one season from their membership & greatly assists with membership administration.

Rule 9.2—Amend: Honda Challenge to show classes 0-1600cc class & 1601-2000cc class. Rule tidy up to reflect two classes in this series.

Rule: 11.1—Amend Taupo to show 6 laps. Rule tidy up.

Rule 10.3-Race 2 & 3 to be timed handicapped grid races, with the fastest driver at the rear & the slowest driver on pole. Time handicap to be based on the number of race laps multiplied by the difference between competitors' average lap times from qualifying or Race 1 (or Race 2 when applicable), whichever is the quicker average time.

Any lap times more than 15% slower than that driver's best lap time to be excluded from the average.

All drivers who fail to register a qualifying or race time will start from the rear of the grid or in an order specified by the

Series Co-ordinator.

More interesting for spectators, gives all competitors a chance of finishing Races 2 & 3 in front or near the front and encourages more entrants as the racing will be seen as closer.

Rule 12.5- Amend rule to allow for rear & front wheel drive cars. FWD maximum rim width = 17"x8" & RWD maximum rim width = 17"x9.5". Original rule not written with RWD in mind.

Rule 7.1.5- Delete rule regarding boost adjustment to gain parity. Deemed as unfair.

Rule 7.2- Add "12A" to Rotary engines . Rule tidy up.

TV—Opportunity knocks!



Televised rounds could be a part of this season's racing.

Currently negotiations are being conducted with Malcove TV, to participate at selected televised rounds of our series, for this coming season.

Our tentative series racing calendar reflects and centers around these date options and is deemed an opportunity that should

not be overlooked. It offers an even greater exposure for our class of racing by reaching an even greater audience that we were perhaps unable to get to.

Malcove TV is involved with both Speed Week & Speed Machine programs

screened on Prime & Sky TV.

Other classes that are mooted to appear at these rounds include Super GTs, Formula 5000s, Historic & Classic classes.

More details will be published as they come to hand.

Manfeild Winter Series



Chris Turnbull is one of the many competitors running in the Manfeild Winter Series.

A number of SS2000 members competed recently at Round 1 of the Manfeild Winter Series.

They included defending champion Chris Turnbull (Civic 2ltr), Brent Lander (EVO), Geoff Page (Corolla 1600), Daniel Gordon (Datsun 1600), Trevor

Strong (Civic R 1800), Anthony Roundtree (Civic 1600) & John Christian (Integra R 1800).

With the saloons split into 2 groups, Lander lies 3rd, Turnbull 5th, Page 7th, Gordon 11th & Strong 16th in Group 1 and in Group 2 Christian lies 2nd

and Roundtree 5th.

Roundtree also placed 2nd in the half hour endurance race at the end of the meeting.

Great to see SS competitors getting track time in the off season.

Next round: 8th July

AGM—President's Report

2006-2007, wow what a season! Thank you to all of you for helping make this happen.

SS2000 has enjoyed a great year with 40 different cars competing in our championship over 7 race meetings, spanning 6 months. We averaged 21 cars at each round, with numbers peaking as high as 27 at one round. Four different cars from four classes filled the top 4 championship positions—all rear wheel drive though!

Based on average numbers, I believed we ranked 6th out of 12 classes in the North Island, which is mid-ranked. However, when you take into account we have 7 rounds & most of the other classes have less, we would move to 3rd (ie: it is easier to keep numbers higher for less rounds).

What did we do to cause this? Lots of little things all adding up to one good season, rules & regulations that supply a great formula and base, clean competitive racing, social environment coupled with good organization and a great team or group of people.

Whilst change is critical to success, personally I don't think we need to change much as what we have is working but then again we do want to get better.

We invested in brand awareness with NZ Performance Car magazine, where we had coverage in seven issues and had a five page feature in one of them—Why you may ask?? Because we had to do something—Should we do it again?? Well that's the classes decision. It was expensive & it is very hard to gauge what we gained from this investment. It could be said the effects of this could be felt for years in multiple ways.

Television coverage—You may know of or have heard of "Speed Week" and "Speed Machine". Our last round at Taupo was filmed and will shortly air on both Sky Sport & Prime TV, 2nd August for Speed Week and 4th August for Speed Machine. We are actively working very hard and are taking this racing formula to the next level. Taking the SS2000 Register to the next level will mean

extra costs in all areas for us. Obviously we will seek funds to cover these costs which are yet to be finalized. However, we will ensure this will be unequalled value for money.

Speaking of money, Total Lubricants have confirmed that they will not be assisting us next season, so we are on the hunt for a new naming rights sponsor that will be attracted to and can finance national TV.

The Club's Executive & Committee are currently negotiating for on-going television coverage for future seasons. We are currently working with the owners of Speed Week & Speed Machine as these programs are regularly showing on Sky & Prime. However as they are privately owned, they may not stay with these respective channels.

Thanks again for a great and enjoyable season. I've had a ball and I hope you have too!!

Brent Thompson
President
SS2000 Register



There was plenty of racing action in the last round at Taupo amongst the large field of competitors

2006-07 Season's Prize Winners

SS2000 Series Championship: 1st: Tony Goldsmith; 2nd: Brian Gray; 3rd: Terry O'Brien.

1601-2000cc Class: 1st: Tony Goldsmith; 2nd: Rocky Fiske; 3rd: Chris Turnbull.

1301-1600cc Class: 1st: Rick Bone; 2nd: Nathan Strachan; 3rd: Geoff Page.

Open Class: 1st: Terry O'Brien; 2nd: Kevin Hyde; 3rd: Brent Ingram.

Rotary Class: 1st Brian Gray

Honda Challenge Series Championship: 1st: Nathan Strachan; 2nd: Rocky Fiske; 3rd: Brent Thompson.

1601-2000cc Class: 1st: Rocky Fiske; 2nd: Chris Turnbull; 3rd: Glen Archer.

1301-1600cc Class: 1st: Nathan Strachan; 2nd: Brent Thompson; 3rd: Philip Noblett.

Club Awards:

Most Helpful Non-Competitor/s: Shannon & Renee Louie

Most Points for all Taupo Rounds: Brian Gray

Last Race Winner at Taupo: Tony Goldsmith

Most Improved Driver: Shane Morgan

Rookie of the Year: Rick Bone

Hard Luck Trophy: Warwick Funnell

Sports Person of the Year: Glen Archer

Best Presented Honda Challenge Car: Nathan Strachan

Sponsors Prizes:

Chicane Drivers Suit: Rick Bone

Dunlop Tyres: Tony Goldsmith & Kevin Hyde



Pit Exit—Editorial

This would seem rather strange but normally an editorial would appear at the beginning of a newsletter, but I thought I would break tradition and have the last say instead, hence the title "Pit Exit".

By now you would have read most of what has happened at the AGM. With over 30 remits to go through, it was always going to be a long session. Nevertheless it promoted good discussion and shared view points, all of which are important elements to guiding our Club's future. From all this, not much has changed though and there has been a bit of tidying up on our rules. Most of our Club's Executive have been re-elected and we now have a completely new committee.

For the forthcoming season, there are some exciting times ahead, with the prospect of some of our rounds being televised. Whether you love or hate TV, you cannot discount the fact that this is one powerful source of media that reaches a far greater audience than what we would be able to do otherwise. It's worth a shot don't you think?

As you can see I have changed the format of this newsletter somewhat. With a new season, why not a new format. Also in the very near future, newsletters will be electronically sent or downloadable from the web site, so no more "hard copies". Please make sure your current email address is on our club's records.

Until the next issue ...

I'm out of here!! ... Bob.



2007-2008 Season - Proposed Calendar

15/16 Sept '07	Pukekohe	TV- Non points warm up
20/21 Oct '07	Taupo	Labour weekend
24/25 Nov '07	Manfeild	National meeting
05/06 Jan '08	Taupo	(Alternate reserve round)
26/27 Jan '08	Pukekohe	TV—Akld anniversary
02/03 Feb '08	Taupo	TV
15/16 Mar '08	Pukekohe	TV
22/23 Mar '08	Taupo	Easter weekend
26/27 Apr '08	Manfeild	National meeting

(** Note: Our championship will still only comprise of 7 rounds. Sept 15/16 is a suggested "warm-up non points round for those that can make it. Jan 5/6 is a reserve round date to Feb 2/3 which has yet to be finalized. Final calendar was still yet to be confirmed at the time of this newsletter **)

AGM—General Business

Scales: The lack of availability of suitable scales at tracks, makes class weights hard to monitor. Cheap scales will not last through constant use. Tracks are aware of the type that is needed but are reluctant to purchase. Series Tech Officer will monitor & make use of track scales, when they are present at tracks, in the meantime.

Website: The Committee will undertake some homework on how best to manage & update the Club's website.

Club Polo Shirts: Most agreed to use up current stocks of our Club shirts then review situation. Possibly offer 2 free ones to new Club

Members.

Payments to Technical Officer, Series Co-ordinator & Newsletter Editor: All three Club positions will now be paid a higher fee for attending each round, that is more reflective of today's travel & accommodation costs.

Buying Dunlop Tyres: When purchasing Dunlop tyres for the season, please identify where they were purchased from as it helps the Club track this & contributes to how many are offered as prizes at the AGM/prizegiving.

Series sponsors stickers: As a part of lifting our series to another level & the advent

of some rounds being televised, sponsors' stickers will be required to be on cars in specifically allocated positions. The idea is to achieve consistency and a more professional presentation of our class.

Kumho Sports Saloons: Our South Island counterparts, are requesting to run with us at one of our rounds, preferably at Taupo. The general feeling was their class rules had now changed so much that there was no longer the closeness anymore. The racing would be very one-sided. If we were to grant them an invitation to run with us, then they must comply with our series rules.

Membership Fees: The current membership fees will increase for the first time in ages. It will allow for the Club to have a bit more working capital & help with some future opportunities. Full membership is now \$150 and Associate Membership will be \$50.

Accounting Package: The Club will invest in an accounting package to assist in keeping financial records legitimately, aiding in the end of financial year reports and audits.

Newsletter: Future newsletters maybe sent via email and/or downloadable from our website. A small number of hard-copies will still be sent to sponsors etc.