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OCTOBER 2023

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Welcome to the HRC October Newsletter



Mr Motorsport (Chris Watson) Update...

Chris and Penny have returned from a magnificent 3 months in Europe, visiting Sommieres, Montpellier, Santorini, Thessaloniki and Paris. Unfortunately Chris had a bicycle accident and even though he was thankfully wearing a helmet, as advised by his daughter, he sustained a head injury. He stepped off the plane from Paris and into surgery and after some time in intensive care is now recovering at home.

Thanks for all the well wishes and we'll keep you updated. No visitors please.

Updated Race Dates 2023/24

HAMPTON DOWNS		Season 2023/24		
Meeting Name	Venue	Date	Date	Date
		Friday	Saturday	Sunday
ACC Round 2	Hampton Downs		28-Oct-23	
TACCOC Spring Classic	Hampton Downs			5-Nov-23
HRC Introduction to Motorsport Day	Hampton Downs CLUB Circuit			19-Nov-23
HRC OKCup Challenge	Hampton Downs	RCTD - 24/11/2023	25-Nov-23	26-Nov-23
TACCOC Christmas at the Downs	Hampton Downs			10-Dec-23
ACC Round 4	Hampton Downs			18-Feb-24
HRC Legends of Speed	Hampton Downs	RCTD - 22/3/2024	23-Mar-24	24-Mar-24
HRC 100 and 500 Endurance Races	Hampton Downs	RCTD - 5/4/24	6-Apr-24	
ACC Round 5	Hampton Downs			7-Apr-24
HRC Season Finale	Hampton Downs	RCTD - TBC	18-May-24	19-May-24

TAUPO		Season 2023/24		
Meeting Name	Venue	Date	Date	Date
		Friday	Saturday	Sunday
ACC Round 3	Taupo			26-Nov-23
HRC Tasman Revival	Taupo	RCTD - 5/1/2024	6-Jan-24	7-Jan-24
Taupo Historic GP (By Invitation only)	Taupo	19-Jan-24	20-Jan-24	21-Jan-24
HRC Great Lake Taupo	Taupo	RCTD - 15/3/24	16-Mar-24	17-Mar-24
SUPERCARS TAUPO	Taupo	19-Apr-24	20-Apr-24	21-Apr-24
HRC Classic Single Seater Festival	Taupo	RCTD - 26/4/2024	27-Apr-24	28-Apr-24

Next Events



INTRODUCTION TO MOTORSPORT

DATE: Sunday 19th November 2023

VENUE: HAMPTON DOWNS MOTORSPORT PARK, CLUB CIRCUIT

TIME: 8am – 1pm

Are you entering your first season in Motorsport, or have you ever wanted to drive your road car on a circuit (or know someone who does), then this is the ideal event for you. Our Introduction to Motorsport Days are designed to help people who want to try Motorsport or attend a trackday - without the pressure of competition and have the opportunity to be coached by some of the best in the business. At the event we will have experienced race drivers and instructors to help guide you through the sessions.

We start the session with an introduction to the team, then cover safety elements (Helmet, Overalls, Flags etc). There will then be a track walk to help you understand the “Racing Line” before we open the track for you to either circulate at your own pace, take race car rides with our instructors or receive instruction in your own car. There will be a maximum of 8 cars on track at any one time and you will be divided up into groups of similar ability.

- Sign On from 8.00am
- Session starts 9.00am
- Safety Briefing / Track Walk
- Coaching Sessions / Tracktime / Hot Laps
- Finish 1.00pm

Typically we have 3 categories:

- Women in Motorsport
- First Time / Slower Drivers
- Faster Drivers

Cost for the event will be **\$225 per Driver**. Passengers are NOT Permitted at this event. Spectators FREE

This cost includes – HD H&S Levy, Marshals, Ambulance and Recovery and Instruction.

Equipment Hire is also available – you need you book in advance....

- Helmet \$15
- FHR (Donut) \$ 5
- Helmet FHR Combo \$17.50
- Overall Loan \$10

FAQ

What Safety Wear do I need?

To participate, you will need a single flameproof overall, a suitable helmet and a FHR device. We have suitable overalls and helmets available for hire – please advise if you need one when registering.

Cars with regular lap and diagonal belts

- Helmet
- Fire retardant foam neckbrace (donut)
- Minimum single layer fire retardant race suit
- Covered in Shoes

4 point harness-modified cars

- Helmet
- FHR (forward head restraint HANS device)
- Minimum single layer fire retardant race suit
- Fire retardant gloves
- Fire retardant boots

What Car can I bring? You can bring your everyday road car (Must be of Warrantable Standard) or a race car with MSNZ Logbook.

What Licence do I need? Your NZ Driving Licence is all that is required. If you have a MSNZ Race or Clubsport Licence, these are also acceptable.

Can I take a passenger? Not at this event. The only passengers will be our Approved Instructors.

Is it safe? There will be Ambulance and Rescue facilities in attendance. Talk to your Insurance Broker to check if your cover can be extended to on Track Training activity.

Why can't we run it on the Big Circuit?

The reason for using the Club Circuit is to keep costs and speeds down. We want you to take your pride and joy home intact. The Club circuit is sufficiently challenging and you will have plenty of time on track.

ENTRY FORM

INTRODUCTION TO MOTORSPORT 19th November 2023

DRIVER DETAILS:			
*Name		Age:	
Postal Address			
City			
*Email Address			
*Telephone -		Telephone - Mobile	
*Emergency Contact:		Phone:	
*Drivers Licence Number		*Licence Expiry Date	
VEHICLE DETAILS:			
*Vehicle Make		*Vehicle Model	
Colour		REGO Number	
Capacity in cc		Helmet Req? <input type="checkbox"/>	
Group:		Overall Req? <input type="checkbox"/>	
Beginner (Slow) <input type="checkbox"/>		FHR Foam Donut Req? <input type="checkbox"/>	
Advance (Fast) <input type="checkbox"/>		Instruction Required? <input type="checkbox"/>	
Women in Motorsport <input type="checkbox"/>			

I verify that the vehicle being used is up to Warrant of Fitness Standards and / or has a MSNZ logbook

*Signature: _____

*Date: _____

Entry Payment - \$225 in advance. Purchase from

<https://www.hrcevents.co.nz/shop.php>

ONCE YOU HAVE PAID, PLEASE SEND THIS FORM TO tim@hrcevents.co.nz



Saturday 25th and Sunday 26th November 2023

HRC OKCup Challenge 2023

Hampton Downs Motorsport Park, Waikato

Race Car Test Day available Friday 24th November -

<https://www.hamptondowns.com/events/race-car-test-day/>

Our second visit to Hampton Downs this season sees the following classes racing:

- BMW E46
- BMW Open
- BMW 2 Litre
- Improved Production Cars (IPC)
- Honda Cup
- OKCup
- Classic Trial
- NZ Superkart Drivers Club

RACE Entries via Motorsport Online APP <https://www.sporty.co.nz/viewform/270395>

CLASSIC TRIAL Entries via Motorsport Online APP

<https://www.sporty.co.nz/viewform/270405>

Earlybird Tickets - <https://www.iticket.co.nz/go-to/hrc-events>

Calling ALL Holden Race Cars



This is your invitation to be part of the 7th Edition of the Taupo Historic GP – to be held over the weekend of 19th to 21st January 2024 at Taupo International Motorsport Park.

HOLDEN ALLCOMERS RACES

The Taupo Historic GP is New Zealand's Premier Historic Race Meeting and for the first time ever, it also encompasses a round of the CASTROL TOYOTA Formula Regional Oceania Championship. The event will be run by The Super Sprint Motorsport NZ Championship under a MSNZ Race Permit. Entries (when open) will be via MSNZ Online System.

The organising team of Greg Murphy, Martin Collins (Taupo Circuit), Tim Hill (Historic Racing Club / MSNZ Historic Race Commission) and Justin Lewis (Super Sprint Sporting Manager) have been hard at work designing a programme that will appeal to all generations of competitors and spectators alike. Building on the success of previous years, 2024 sees the HOLDEN marque being celebrated and as well as club displays, circuit cruises and a **Holden Allcomers Race**, there are also some very special cars and drivers being lined up for the weekend's festivities. Being part of the 2024 Taupo Historic GP is something that if you're a Holden Fan, you really don't want to miss out on.

To register your interest in the Holden ALLCOMERS Races, please contact Justin Lewis - NZMG justin@nzmg.info





With the announcement that Supercars are returning to New Zealand in 2024, all eyes have been on Taupo and the announcement of dates. The event has been locked in for April 19-21, 2024.

The announcement was made at the circuit on 28th September by the New Zealand Government, that confirmed substantial funding will be going towards ensuring the event is a success for fans over the next three years.

Speaking on behalf of Economic Development Minister Barbara Edmonds, New Zealand Major Events Manager Kylie Hawker-Green said: "Ever since the first championship event here in 2001, Supercars has become one of New Zealand's largest attended annual sporting events.

"After a year's hiatus we are excited to be able to help reconnect the tens of thousands of fans from across New Zealand with their favourite teams and drivers, as well as welcome thousands of Australian visitors to Taupo and the surrounding regions.

"The Government's Major Event Fund is proud to help lock in the return of Supercars by investing \$5 million over the next three ITM Taupō SuperSprints.

"We are confident the Taupō round will add to the rich history of Supercar events in Aotearoa New Zealand."

It will be the 21st Supercars Championship round held in New Zealand, with Taupō International Motorsport Park the third North Island venue to stage points-paying racing.

Taupō International Motorsport Park joins the historic Pukekohe and the streets of Hamilton to host championship Supercars racing. Non-championship rounds were held at Pukekohe and the Wellington street circuit as part of the 1996 Mobil NZ Series.

The ITM Taupō SuperSprint will see Supercars, and various support categories utilise the 3.32km International Circuit configuration of the venue over all three days of the event.

Drivers will once again be competing for the Jason Richards Memorial Trophy, named after the late Kiwi Supercars Hall of Fame inductee who contested 113 rounds and 284 races in his decorated career.

Among the list of drivers confirmed to compete for the title in 2024 will be four New Zealand hopes including current Supercars Auckland-born duo of two time race winner Andre Heimgartner and rising star Matt Payne. Wellington's Ryan Wood will be a popular rookie in New Zealand in 2024 as well as high profile Aucklander Richie Stanaway, who returns to the grid full-time next year with Penrite Racing.

Supercars' racing format of the 2024 event will be confirmed following October's Boost Mobile Gold Coast 500 with several options currently being discussed.

Also underway is discussions with local support categories that will fill the undercard to ensure three memorable days of on track action at Taupō.

HRC Taupo Single Seater Festival – Date Change

Due to the Supercars needing time to set up, the Single Seater Festival being planned for Taupo on 13/14 April has been moved to ANZAC weekend. There will be a Race Car Test Day on Friday 26th April followed by 2 days of intense Single Seater Action – along with a few popular Saloon Car Categories to keep the fans amused.

Classes invited to the festival are:

- NZ Superkarts
- Formula First
- Formula Ford
- Formula Open NZ
- Historic Formula Ford / Formula Junior
- NZ Sportscars
- Formula 5000

Pirelli Porsche Championship, Mini/Pre65 and Central Muscle Cars will fill out the grids at what promises to be an exciting weekend of racing.



ENGINE SPECIALISTS

EST 1988

TR REGISTER/HRC/TACCOC ANNUAL XMAS BREAKFAST RUN:



When: SUNDAY 17th DECEMBER 2023.

Where: Meet at Countdown Supermarket - top end of Barry's Point Rd, Takapuna
7.30am or Convoy meets up at the bottom of The Avenue Albany on the main road at
8am.

Arrive Salty Dog Inn at Snell's Beach (242 Mahurangi East Road).

8-30am with breakfast available from 8-45am.

Full Buffet style: Cost TBA

MENU:

Starters – Cereal plus Yogurt and fruit salad.

Followed by - Bacon, Sausage, Hash browns, Eggs, Tomato & baked beans,
Toast, tea & coffee also included.

Contact Nigel Hayman 09 4255446 nigelgloria2@gmail.com

Booking not necessary but would appreciate a call.



Formula Open season underway at a wet Hampton Downs



The 2023 Genuine Vehicle Imports (GVI) Formula Open New Zealand season kicked off in style at the HRC Ice Breaker event hosted at Hampton Downs on 26th September. Despite some logistical challenges that temporarily affected car transportation and engine installations, there was a turnout of nine cars for this round.

This season the series has been split into three groups racing for individual cups. The first being the David Oxtan Cup for Formula Atlantic's/Pacific's, the second the Jim Palmer Cup for ex-TRS FT40's and the third is the Graeme Lawrence Cup for ex-TRS FT50's.

The day featured one qualifying session and three action-packed races, setting the stage for an exhilarating season ahead.

Qualifying was wet and saw ex Formula Ford racer Hayden Bakkerus put his Tatuus FT50 on pole position with a time of 1:09.895 heading off last season's Rookie of the Year Kaden Probst by 1.3 seconds. Then came a very impressive performance for this year's Rookie Toby Mc Cormack in a Tatuus

FT40. The two Formula Atlantics competing were struggling with a wet weather set up and saw Kaleb Ngatoa qualify the JR Russell Swift DB4 in sixth and Gary Rush also Swift DB4 mounted struggling in eighth.

Race one in dry conditions saw Ngatoa demonstrate his experience as a professional race driver by using the superior handling of the Formula Atlantic to weave his way through the field into the lead by the end of lap one.

Gary Rush, likewise, got past three cars on his first lap. Once the radials on the ex-TRS FT40/50's came on (Atlantics run on crossplys) they came back into their own with Probst hunting Ngatoa and lowering the series lap record to an impressive 1:00.622 in the process. They crossed the line with Ngatoa leading Probst by 0.461 of a second with a further 4.78 seconds back to Bakkerus.

Race two was also dry but with Kaden Probst on Pole and Kaleb Ngatoa alongside it was shaping up to be a battle of old technology versus new technology. It didn't disappoint as both drivers fought out an exciting battle for the first few laps until the older tyres on the Atlantic started to go away handing the win to the fast teenager from Hamilton East. Probst setting the second fastest lap of the meeting at 1:00.876 and coming home just over four-seconds in front of Ngatoa with Hayden Bakkerus bringing the ex-TRS FT50 home in third.

The final race of the day may as well have been raced with hydroplanes as it was bucketing down but full credit to all the drivers, they all showed up on the grid. The rolling start saw Kaden Probst leap to the front of the pack followed hard by series newcomer Alex Crosbie in another of the FT50's then Hayden Bakkerus with Kaleb Ngatoa hanging on for dear life in the evil handling Swift DB4 that did not like the wet conditions. He was being chased hard by Toby McCormack in the Simply Green Sponsored Tatuus FT40 who was making life uncomfortable for his more experienced competitor.

Probst was pulling away from the Crosbie and Bakkerus until the second lap when he got caught out by a puddle at turn two and aquaplaned off beaching himself on the outside of turn three. This brought out the safety car for two laps while they recovered the stricken Probst.

At the restart with the safety car back in Pit Lane, all hell broke loose with Bakkerus climbing all over the back of Crosbie, McCormack making life difficult for Ngatoa and Gary Rush, Jeff Harriman and Paul Couper all vying for the following positions. With two laps to go there were two brilliant passes with Bakkerus making a late dive into the Porsche Dipper catching Crosbie out and on the same lap young McCormack took the FT40 around the outside of Kaleb Ngatoa on the sweeper.

Round 1 results

David Oxtan Cup

Kaleb Ngatoa 82 Points

Gary Rush 60 Points

Jim Palmer Cup

Toby Mc Cormack 82 Points

Paul Couper 60 Points

Graeme Lawrence Cup

Hayden Bakkerus 68 Points

Kaden Probst 56 Points

Alex Crosbie 53 Points

Geoff Harriman 40 Points

Richard Crabb 13 Points

FONZ Howden Ganley Cup

Kaleb Ngatoa 82 Points

Toby McCormack 82 Points

Hayden Bakkerus 68 Points

Gary Rush 60 Points

Paul Couper 60 Points

Kaden Probst 56 Points

Alex Crosbie 53 Points

Geoff Harriman 40 Points

Richard Crabb 13 Points

Mark your calendars for the upcoming excitement, as the second round of the season is scheduled for the Manawatu Car Clubs 20-22 October Fast at the Circuit Chris Amon Manfield. With three more Formula Atlantics, three FT40's and another FT50 joining the field, get ready for more high-speed thrills and intense competition!

Follow the FONZ profile [@formula_open_nz](#) on Instagram to stay in the know about our latest updates and exciting news!

BMW RACE DRIVER SERIES

Scholarship Day Report

Fourteen scholarship applicants took to the circuit at Hampton Downs Motorsport Park at the annual Scholarship Day - with ten of these heading through to the top ten shootout in the afternoon.

Following further driving evaluation, and panel interviews with our team, the scores have come through and they're impressive!

While driving plays a huge factor in the selection process, we also seek an individual who embodies the qualities of a strong ambassador, seeks active participation in the BMW Race Driver Series, while also aligning seamlessly with our culture.

It was a tight fight for first place, and we're pleased to announce the winner of our E46 Scholarship for the 2023-2024 season. Please join me in congratulating Emily Robb!!

Emily has come from a strong heritage of motorsport, competing in karts for a strong ten years, and dabbling in both the Super Mini Challenge class and Ssangyong Utes.

Welcome to the BMW Race Driver Series, Emily.

Second place goes to Jordyn Wallace, and third place goes to Michael Connell.

Well done to all our participants throughout the day and we hope to see you all back next year.

Lastly, a huge thank you to John Mulrennan and his team in the organisation of the day, and the volunteers who gave up their time to help the day succeed.



📷 Matt Smith

ATTENTION all racers – are you looking for a new house shed?

40 Hunter Road, Pukekawa – just 13 minutes from Hampton Downs...





MASSIVE 360m2 SHED WITH WORK & LIVING SPACE + COSY HOME

The absolutely perfect property could accommodate all manner of boys toys, hobbies or a business requiring super-space - all that as well as extended family living space, this unique 9170m2 property (2.25 acres), accommodates a 102m2 north facing home and a 360m2 two storey shed with 3 phase power, ample living space, workshop space with two 4.4m and one 2.2m automatic roller door, and a multi-use mezzanine area.

Auction at 68 King Street, Pukekohe on Thursday 16th November 2023 at 2:00pm (unless sold prior).

Scott McElhinney - 027 210 8887

s.mcelhinney@barfoot.co.nz

https://www.theluxurylifestyleteam.co.nz/current_listing/40-hunter-road/

Thanks to Scott and the Luxury Lifestyle Team for their donation to our Team Motive / Chasing What Matters Disability Race Car Team.

MY LAPS TRANSPONDERS



My Laps Transponders can be purchased from the Historic Racing Club. Order online at

The TR2 Transponder is the world-leading standard in accuracy, just like our other Transponders, but now made much easier in many ways. The TR2 Transponder is the new standard.

Racers know that practice pays off. Whether you ride motorbikes or prefer to race on four wheels, insight into your performance makes you a better racer. The TR2 is capable of showing you valuable race data and insights. All your data is available on your personal Speedhive account.

HRC has the new TR2 transponders in stock. Get the latest technology

Advantages are they can be charged in 4 hours instead of 12 hours and they will be compatible with new in car displays available soon

TR2 Rechargeable Transponder 1 Year \$250.93

TR2 Rechargeable Transponder 2 Year \$337.97

TR2 Rechargeable Transponder Lifetime licence \$945.19

TR2 Direct Power Transponder 1 Year \$320.02

TR2 Direct Power Transponder 2 Year \$391.56

TR2 Direct Power Transponder Lifetime licence \$1057.99

At the end of the license period to activate your transponder Price is AU\$100 for 1 year, 2 years AU\$181.50 and 5 years AU 368.50.

All My Laps Transponders are used at all New Zealand circuits.

MYLAPS provides personal transponders to fulfil the needs of organizations as well as the needs of participants. With the introduction of the Car/Bike X2 personal transponder, MYLAPS offers a low cost entry solution for racers.



Tired of your current race series? IPC wants you, so we've thrown out the rule book.

- NO MORE BREAKOUT TIMES!
- Race Meetings Run on one day!

- 3x 20 MINUTE RACES means lots of seat time
- Race entry is via SPORTY – that’s motorsport.org.nz for anyone not in the know
- We’ve taken out all the break-out times so no need to worry about that
- Pretty much any car that was built on a production line will be fine – so long as you have a roll cage and track experience
- Any competition tyres are fine – including slicks & wets
- Any fuel is fine
- Any series production engine is fine
- Forced induction is fine
- Your entry will be as an individual but if you have two mates, you can form a team and pool your points towards the teams championship
- The grand prize for this season’s championship winner is \$1500 cash

Feel free to get in touch if we can help with anything: alan@driveine.co.nz

*Disclaimer - we still have rules, just not as many as before...

IPC Eligible Race / Road Car for sale:



Description

Perfect for the track day or Sunday drive this 335i E92 with DCT (the ease of an automatic with the performance of a manual) also comes well optioned for comfort.

The original options of note are:

- -Sports seats
- -Professional Navigation system (incl NZ maps)
- -Cruise Control
- -Park Distance control (PDC)
- -Sport Gearbox with twin clutch (DCT)
- -Various M options
- -Electronic/Heated seats
- -HiFi audio system

Apart from what it came with originally it has also has -Koni sport suspension fitted with sport springs. -Additional transmission and engine oil coolers. -Race brake pads added -Motorsport log book and authority card.

Comes with an additional set of wheels with slicks fitted as well as anchorage points for a 5 point harness (also included)

Selling on Behalf. For further information – please contact Tim on 021 614600 or email tim@hrcevents.co.nz

Best regards

Everyone at IPC



Rolex Monterey Motorsports Reunion Classic/Historic motor racing meeting WeatherTech Raceway Laguna Seca Northern California USA, Wed/Sat August 16-19, 2023

EVENT REPORT

28-08-23

VALUE OF COMPETING IN NZ/AUST F5000 TASMAN CUP REVIVAL SERIES DRIVEN HOME IN RESULTS AT ROLEX MOTORSPORT REUNION MEETINGS IN THE US THIS YEAR



The 19-car F5000 field which contested this year's Rolex Monterey Motorsports Reunion meeting following the Pace Car around WeatherTech Raceway Laguna Seca.

Photo credit: Fast Company/Bob Pengraph.

The value of regular competition in the New Zealand and Australia-based SAS Autoparts MSC NZ F5000 Tasman Cup Revival Series was driven home – with some gusto, it must be said - at both rounds of this year's Rolex Monterey Motorsports Reunion classic/historic motor racing meetings which concluded last Saturday week (Aug 19) at the storied WeatherTech Raceway Laguna Seca circuit situated in the hills behind the northern Californian city of Carmel-By-The-Sea on the Monterey Peninsula.

Though the F5000 category races at the 'main' Rolex Monterey Motorsports Reunion meeting were won by top local (US) driver Kirt Bennett (Lola T332) the American ace was actually out-qualified by Melbourne-domiciled Australian Paul Zazryn (Lola T332) the driver who won both the F5000 races at the first of the two Rolex-backed meetings (tagged the Pre-Reunion event) the weekend before.

Third and fourth, respectively, across the finish line in both races, meanwhile, were the first of the four SAS Autoparts MSC NZ F5000 Tasman Cup Revival Series regulars from New Zealand, Glenn Richards (Lola T400), from Auckland, and Tony Galbraith (Lola T332) from nearby Te Kauwhata.

The third member of the travelling Kiwi troupe to make the three-week long trip from his home in New Zealand's Hawke's Bay, to the famed WeatherTech Raceway, Laguna Seca, to help members of the US-based Formula 5000 Drivers' Association celebrate the 55th anniversary of the F5000 category, Alastair Chalmers (Chevron B32), again did much better in each of the (Friday 10 lap/Sat 8 lap) races than he did in the dedicated F5000 category qualifying session the Thursday before.

In that session the best lap time Chalmers could manage was a 1:31.722, good enough for P9 on the grid.

Come the first race of the weekend, on Friday Aug 18, however, and Chalmers was a changed man, earning the race Hard Charger award for quickly catching, passing and dispatching the two Aussies who had started immediately in front of him, Peter Brennan in his meticulously rebuilt ex Lella Lombardi Lola T330, and Dean Camm in his ex James Dunkel US-market 1973 customer model Chevron B24, then set his sights on the ex-David Prophet/Jim Moore McLaren M10B of US-domiciled, expat Aussie, Bruce Leeson. He got close – very close, in fact but this time Chalmers had to be happy with 7th place.

As one of the Kiwis now firmly established in the 'leading bunch,' Glenn Richards found himself in a unique position to be able to observe how both the Friday and Saturday races unfolded.

"For me, he said, "the weekend started with qualifying on Thursday. The top 3 cars were within 0.4 seconds of each other, and there was another group around the 1.32-1.34 range who ended up in a battle in both races. There was also, obviously a battle-within-a battle between the earlier-build cars of which the fourth member of our Kiwi contingent - Tony "Anthony" Roberts (as he was known by the officials because that's what his licence says) was very much involved in.

“In that first race, the top American guy, Kirt Bennett (Lola T332) passed poleman Paul Zazryn after three laps then pretty much ran away and hid, setting the fastest race lap of the weekend - a 1:22.945 – on his way to what - despite Paul Zazryn’s best intentions - was a quite emphatic and largely untroubled race win.

The newly resurfaced track had really rubbered up by this stage in proceedings and - as leading Kiwi, Glenn Richards (Lola T400), was happy to confirm - was ‘fast, very fast.’

So fast, in fact, that the previous F5000 lap record – a 1:27-something – was pretty much obliterated over the main race ‘weekend’ with the top three cars circulating below the previous record for the entire weekend.

Glenn Richards takes up the story;

“I had another lonely race to start and finish in third place, but I am very pleased to say that one of our other Kiwis, Tony Galbraith (Lola T332) took 4th after a lot of early pressure from Bruce Leeson and Todd Gerstenberger (Chevron B24).

“Alastair Chalmers also again worked his way up from an underwhelming qualifying to come in 7th, while behind him Aussies Peter Brennan (Lola T330) and Dean Camm (Chevron B24) had a race-long battle with Camm coming out on top.

“Finally, Bill Hemming (Elfin MR8) pulled off a great pass into turn 2 to momentarily split the two ‘high-wing’ cars of Tony Roberts and Paul Kuhl, however Kuhl managed to get back in front before the chequered flag was waved.

To the second (and final) race of the event on Saturday, and this time Paul Zazryn really took the battle to Kirt Bennett, enjoying a good scrap for the race and overall round victory, with the Aussie ace making up a lot of ground going through traffic to be right on the gearbox of Bennett’s Lola T332 when... the chequered flag was produced after just 8 laps of the promised 10!

“It would definitely have been interesting, at the very least, to see what the result ‘up front’ would have been,” said Richards.” had the race been allowed to run for the full 10 laps. But time was getting on and the organizers of the event were slowly but surely slipping behind schedule, so something had to give!

“Not that I would have affected my own race.because though I was able to stay close enough to the battling T332s for a couple of laps I gradually lost contact and played it safe for the rest of the race. I wasn’t under any pressure and spent the last half of the race thinking about how very lucky I was to be driving a fast car on such a famous circuit on a sunny day in front of a big crowd. Life just doesn’t get much better than that!

“I may not get another opportunity to compete at Laguna Seca and so I soaked up the atmosphere during those last few laps.

“Tony Galbraith found himself in a similar situation in 4th place but used his time and track position wisely, setting his quickest lap time of the meeting – a 1:29.024 – on the 8th (and last!) lap.”

Meanwhile, as his confidence – both in himself and his car - rose, expat Englishman and adopted Kiwi, Alastair Chalmers went even quicker, finally getting past local track ace Bruce Leeson’s fast and smartly driven McLaren M10B by setting a scintillating lap time of 1:28.455 on the 8th and final lap of the second (and final weekend) race.

At this late stage of the race there was nothing he could practically do about making inroads into the 8 seconds plus change buffer the other driver he had been chasing down all race, top US series regular Todd Gerstenberger (Chevron B24), had built, but you got the distinct impression from a steely-eyed Chalmers that had the race been any longer it would indeed have been a case of ‘game on.’

“Back behind Bruce Leeson’s McLaren M10B, the nosecone of Peter Brennan’s Lola T330 was once again seemingly glued to the gearbox of the Chevron B24 of fellow Aussie sparring partner Dean Camm.

“This time though it was a beaming Brennan who reached the finish line in front, having broken the tow from the Camm Chevron on the last lap then – after getting a better, cleaner run off the 90-degree final corner – simply blasting past a surprised Camm as the pair accelerated up the start/finish straight for the final time.

“Kiwi Tony (aka Anthony) Roberts was actually catching that pair until on the final lap he ran off the track and into the sand as he negotiated the WeatherTech Raceway Laguna Seca circuit’s infamous Corkscrew complex, dropping a couple of places and letting the other ‘high-wing’ car through.”

Though this time around he did get to start the final race of the two-weekend tour (as opposed to the last time he made the trip when he crashed out of the morning race at the final round, damaging his then only recently-acquired McLaren M10A too badly to contemplate repairing it in time to run it in the final race that year) Roberts’ latest trip to the US didn’t go quite to plan, either.

For a start, his original Napier-Auckland flight was cancelled, meaning he missed his connecting flight to San Francisco and could not get another to drop him there before the Friday before the first Rolex Monterey Motorsports Pre-Reunion meeting was due to start. Then just three laps into his first practise session in his distinctive ‘high-wing’ McLaren M10A, the bolts holding the car’s crown wheel and pinion together sheared.

Fortunately, with some help, that was repaired in time, so no further racing time was lost over the weekend.

However, on top of everything else, Roberts developed a viral throat infection and really wasn't in his usual peak physical condition, eventually losing his voice completely for a couple of days.

"This week has been a real endurance test, though it hasn't been all doom and gloom, "the man himself admitted as he was preparing to return home. "What, with a fuzzy head and losing out on third place in Class A in the last race when I went off the side of the Corkscrew, that wasn't so good. However, I did manage to do a magnificent drift in the gravel right in front of the crowd before getting back on the track. And at least I finished all four races over the two weekends this time!"

The four-driver Kiwi group at the WeatherTech-Laguna Seca Raceway in Northern California consisted of Glenn Richards (Lola T400) Tony Galbraith (Lola T332), Tony Roberts ('high-wing' McLaren M10A) and Alastair Chalmers (Chevron B32).

Joining them on the grid after sharing the NZ group's heavily subsidised (thanks to long time Tasman Cup Revival Series co-sponsor, international shipping line MSC) transport deal, were five Australian owner/drivers, Bill Hemming (Elfin MR8), Dean Camm (Chevron B24), Charlie Talbot (Lola T332), Peter Brennan (Lola T330) and Paul Zazryn (Lola T332).

The five, in turn, were joined by a sixth, Philip Lewis from Cessnock in the Hunter Valley, who leased a Lola T332 to compete at the main Rolex Monterey Motorsports Reunion meeting when it became obvious that delays getting parts would mean that his own Match A50 would not be ready in time to meet the early June shipping deadline ex New Zealand.

The trip was made possible by the support of a number of companies and individuals who work with MSC, starting with the series' Auckland-based freight forwarder, Alex Pilyay, and including MSC, Kiwi Container Lifting (US) and their agents in the US - RS Express and in Australia – Clarke Global Logistics and Mainstream Global.

The four Kiwis and six Australians joined 9 of the best drivers from the US series on the grid for F5000 races at the Rolex Monterey Reunion meeting which started on Wednesday August 16 and continued until Saturday, August 19.

The SAS Autoparts MSC NZ F5000 Tasman Cup Revival Series is organised and run with the support of sponsors SAS Autoparts, MSC, NZ Express Transport, Bonney's Specialised Bulk Transport, Mobil Lubricants, Pacifica, Avon Tyres, Webdesign and Exide Batteries. You can follow the series on Facebook at F5000 New Zealand or via the official website www.f5000.co.nz.

Ends



Team Motive call for assistance

Do you have any race gear which is no longer required (perhaps race suits that no longer fit) which could be donated to Team Motive for use at clubsport events (ride passengers, driver coaching and sprints).

Team Motive, supported by the Chasing What Matters Trust, aims to remove barriers preventing people living with disability from entering and participating fully in all aspects of motorsport. The aim is to assist with getting those with disabilities, but interest, into motorsport, whether as drivers, support crew or volunteers. Assistance is given with licence tutorials and exams.

More information, including links to documentaries, can be found at teammotive.co.nz and below. The Team has one car and is planning to acquire a second to help ease people into the sport.

A disability Access Event is planned for 19 November 2023. If you can assist with gear (or are otherwise keen to help), please contact them on info@teammotive.co.nz.

Team Motive videos can be seen at:

[Lee Warn from Wheelchair to Race Car Part 1](#)

[Lee Warn from Wheelchair to Race Car Part 2](#)

[Kurt's Ironman Journey - Man of Speed](#)

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At the office here at 44 Stoddard Rd, we can do licence tests and authority cards Monday to Friday 10am to 7pm. Just email chris@hrcevents.co.nz with a time and date and he will confirm by email. My Laps transponders always available on www.hrcevents.co.nz and the courier is part of the price or they can be picked at the office.

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