

## 2011 TDM Counties Classic Series Champions Found

Wayne Rowe (C67) is the latest winner of New Zealand's premier short course offroad racing series; the Counties Classic Series. A determined and clever performance saw the recently crowned North Island Class Champion take out the series run over three events throughout this year.

With weather conditions that could only be described as miserable, Counties Manukau Offroad Racing Club Inc. hosted the final round of the 2011 TDM Counties Classic Series this weekend (11/09/11) at the ever popular Colin Dale Park in Manukau City.

With 18 entries, fields were smaller than expected. However a good field of class 3's and challenger's provided some quality racing action.

Leading point's scorer going into the final round, Nick Hall (561) took an early exit after the first heat when his gearbox jammed in third gear. His car was parked up following race one leaving the chasing points leaders of Paul McCormack (373), Wayne Rowe (C67) and Geoff Matich (C18) in a three way battle for the overall title. However, no driver would have it easy, with strong competitors in their respective classes keeping all those in the hunt honest.

In the challenger class, Wayne Rowe and Shane Campbell (C97) traded places throughout the day with Ben Howard (C27), Robert Campbell (C76) and Geoff Matich snapping at their heels wanting for either to make a mistake. With such trying conditions, only the best prepared and bullet proof vehicles remained at the end of the day and three challengers started the feature with only Wayne Rowe and Geoff Matich finishing.

Class 3 saw six entrants competing. Notable entrants were Gary Preston (369) of Taranaki, and William Van der Wal (323) of Wellington who decided a road trip north to do some offroad racing was the weekends plan. Fortunately for us, they came to race; and race they did, putting pressure on local members Paul McCormack and Matt Koppens. Some great racing ensued, particularly in the third heat where Paul, Matt and William traded the top three spots several times whilst Gary was always in touch to capitalize on any of the front runners mistakes. At one stage, Paul and Matt were trading first and second at every corner like it was some kind of game. Of course this made for some exiting viewing and the eventual victor was the recently crowned North Island Class Champion Paul McCormack (373). In the feature, Paul, William and Gary were in a close battle early on before Gary and Paul slowed with mechanical issues; leaving Van der Wal to claim first place in the feature and overall.

Taine Carrington (730) competed solely during the day, however was praised by Wayne Rowe following the feature being one of only 4 to finish the race.

So to the results:

<b>1<sup>st</sup> Place (C67) Wayne Rowe – 198 points</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Place (C18) Geoff Matich – 165 points</b>
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Place (373) Paul McCormack – 164 points</b>	<b>4<sup>th</sup> = (561) Nick Hall – 158 points</b>
<b>5<sup>th</sup> = (730) Taine Carrington – 144 points</b>	

With yet another successful series completed, CMORC wishes to thank those who competed in this year's series. A special thank you also to TDM (Transport, Diesel & Marine) and Elf Oils for their sponsorship and support.

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