

The Muddy Talker's Bit

TDM Counties Classic Series Round 1

Meremere Sunday 6th May 2012

With very good weather and a reasonable entry, the series kicked off in style. The most competitive field proved to be Challenger, with some great racing between Wayne Rowe, Geoff Matich and Driver of the Day from Mangawhai, Ben Howard. These three swapped the podium spots between them. Geoff used his power steering to good advantage in the 15 lap feature, finishing well in front of the class opposition. Both Wayne and Ben had little spins, the latter not being able to hold off Whangarei's Joshua Kennedy, who took the third place. Ben reckons he's just got to fit power steering soon. Michael McLeish didn't have too happy a day, a faulty throttle linkage holding him up. Good to see Lou Carlyle out for a skid, although he never threatened the front three.

Greg Mullins started off well in Class 3, easily taking out the first heat from Craig Patching, and with a bad misfire to boot. The misfire became worse, to the point that Greg missed the rest of the day's racing. So Craig had it all pretty much to himself from Heat 2. Jarrod Marwood tried hard, and the luckless Phil Johnston was on the trailer after the first heat. Second generation driver, Arin Riwhi was having his first race in father, Paul's car and didn't disgrace himself, getting more and more confident as the day wore on. However, Arin got the biggest fright of the day when Mike Hughes rolled the big Class 8 Ford right in front of him in heat 1.

Max Byrnes had a field day in Class 10, getting the better of David Johnston all day, David failing to finish the third heat and not starting the Feature. Phil Finlay, after a year out of the cockpit, just had too much pace for Dennis Raynel in Class 5, going on to win the Feature outright. Calvin McOnie had his new Class 4 out for a play, teething troubles seeing him fail to start the first heat or the Feature. As mentioned, Mike was there in his Ford, disappointing spectators by cruising all day; he did give it a bit of wellie over the jump a time or two, just to keep everyone awake. He was a bit embarrassed about the roll, and quite concerned that he might have given Arin a nudge, but fortunately, there was no contact. Much to Paul's relief, I might add! The ever cheerful Mike Small had his Polaris out, and did very well for himself, finishing runner up to Phil in the Feature.

With two rounds of the series still to come later in the year, Craig leads the series, Geoff is very close, then Wayne and a bunch of drivers all breathing down their necks. I, for one, am very much looking forward to the rest of the series. The big question is, can Geoff win another Counties Classic Series? Only time will tell.

See you at the motor races

Dink.