



The 'NZ Festival of Motor Racing celebrating Chris Amon'

Newsletter Number One – June 2010

Welcome to all readers of this, the first, Newsletter for the 'NZ Festival of Motor Racing (NZFMR) celebrating Chris Amon'. The Chris Amon Festival will be held at Hampton Downs Motor Sport Park over two three-day weekends in January 2011. Hampton Downs is located just off Highway 1, 65 km south of central Auckland, New Zealand, and 60 km north of Hamilton. Check out information about Hampton Downs on website www.hamptondowns.com

Put a circle around the dates for the Chris Amon Festival in your diary right now and plan to be there to see great Classic and Historic motor racing from Friday 21st Jan to Sunday 23rd Jan, and one week later, Friday 28 Jan to Sunday 30 Jan 2011.

Keep a regular check on our website www.nzfmr.co.nz and be kept up to date as new Festival information is added.

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Introducing Chris Amon

Chris Amon is well known as one of the three most successful Kiwi Formula One drivers. Together with Bruce McLaren and Denny Hulme, Chris and the other two top drivers were often referred to as the 'Trio at the Top'. Indeed a book by Desmond Mahoney published in 1970 and a recently released Sony Music DVD both use the title 'Trio at the Top' to tell the stories of Bruce, Denny and Chris.



L to R - Bruce McLaren, Chris Amon, Denny Hulme at Laguna Seca '69 by Dave Freidman, Legends of Motorsport.

When only 12 years old, Chris saw Stirling Moss win the 1956 NZ International Grand Prix (NZIGP) at Ardmore, near Auckland, NZ, driving his own 1954 Maserati 250F chassis 2508. Chris was instantly hooked on motor racing and thereafter barely missed a race meeting at Ohakea air force base, the new Levin track, or Ardmore. When aged only 17 years, Chris entered his first ever race meeting at Levin on 15 April 1961. Chris drove his a little 1956 Cooper T41 Climax 1490cc gaining 4th place in his first race and 2nd place in his second race. In January 1962, aged 18, he entered his own 1954 Maserati 250F chassis 2509 in the NZIGP at Ardmore and had a first hand view of Stirling Moss the maestro winning the NZIGP, once again. The driving talent shown by Chris in 1962 in his venerable Maserati 250F led to an early offer to drive in international Formula One and Chris flew off to UK in 1963.

With so much natural talent, Chris should have been a Formula One World Champion – but bad luck stood in his way too often. Of all the F1 World Championship races he entered from 1963 until 1976, he surprisingly was never to win, although he came agonisingly close on so many occasions. He did win many other notable races including the 1966 Le Mans 24 Hour race driving a Ford GT40 partnered by Bruce McLaren, and the 1967 Daytona 24 Hour race driving a Ferrari 330 P4 partnered by Lorenzo Bandini.

Chris won the both 1968 and 1969 NZIGPs. He was runner up in 1968 and Tasman Champion in 1969 driving his 'works' Tasman Ferrari race cars. Like many other drivers of his era, he was a highly versatile driver and was involved in many different international race classes including F1, F2, endurance, Can-Am and F5000.

Chris retired from racing in 1976 to his farm at Scotts Ferry near the mouth of the Rangitikei River not far from Bulls. He now lives near Kinloch, not far from scenic Taupo in the North Island of New Zealand.



Chris Amon with his original Bell race helmet – at home at Kinloch, March 2010

The NZ Festival of Motor Racing to celebrate Chris Amon

In 2009 Chris kindly agreed to a request to be the named racing driver 'celebrated' at the NZ Festival of Motor Racing in January 2011. Just recently, when asked how he felt about this, Chris said, "I'm still slightly nervous about it to be honest, but it's great to be remembered this way."

Already a number of international owners of racing cars formerly driven, or like those driven by Chris have been approached to see if they would consider bringing their cars to the Festival, enjoy some Kiwi fun and summer sun, and join the celebrations of all that Chris achieved in his era as one of the very top international racing drivers.



Former Chris Amon Ferrari to feature at the Festival

Graham Adelman from Virginia, USA has already confirmed he will bring his ex Chris Amon 1968 Ferrari 246T racing car to the Festival. Chris drove this 'works' Tasman Ferrari to 1st place in the NZIGP held at Pukekohe on 6 Jan 68, 1st at the Rothmans Levin International on 13 Jan 68, 2nd at the Lady Wigram Trophy Race on 20 Jan 68 (to Jim Clark in his Lotus 49) and 4th at the Teretonga International on 28 Jan 68. The Teretonga race was won by Bruce McLaren driving a 1968 BRM P126 V12 – and Graham Adelman owns this car as well. Graham will bring the BRM to the Festival as well. Both cars will be supported by UK race specialists Hall & Hall.



Left – Graham Adelman 1968 BRM P126 V12 Chassis 126/01 2493 cc

Right – Rob Hall 1968 Ferrari 246T V6 Chassis 004 2417cc

Photo by Jim Barclay - HSRCA Tasman Revival Eastern Creek, Sydney, November 2008

Race Classes for the Festival

As at June 2010 the 10 anticipated race classes for the Festival are as follows:

1. F5000 & F1
2. Tasman Cars – Tasman Formula and Invited Sports Racing cars
3. Super Historics – Can-Am/Formula Atlantic & Pacific/F2/Formula Holden/other invited cars
4. Formula Junior
5. Invited 1960s Saloons & GTs
6. Invited 1970s Saloons & GTs
7. Invited 1980s Saloons & GTs
8. Early Historics – 1930s/40s/50s Racing & Sports Racing cars
9. Formula Ford – 40th anniversary of Formula Ford in NZ
- 10a. Classic Bikes – pre 1963 250/350/500cc racing bikes (first weekend only)
- 10b. Muscle Cars - to be confirmed (second weekend only)

Registrations of Interest

Owners/drivers wishing to enter their cars in the Festival are first requested to register their interest by contacting Jim Barclay, Festival Chairman, by email jim@nzfmr.co.nz

Information needed with a registration of interest, (with examples of info required), is as follows-

- Preferred Race number - 25
- Name of driver - Jim Barclay
- Year of car - 1961
- Type/mark of car – Gemini MK3A FJ
- Chassis number (if applicable) - 09
- cc rating of engine – 1040cc
- Colour of car - Red
- Photo of car – for reproduction reasons a photo with minimum of 300dpi is required

Once the Festival race classes have been confirmed, cars that meet respective class criteria will be invited to submit an entry form. Invited entries will not be accepted until entry fees and other associated charges have been paid in full.

Watch for Early Bird Festival ticket sales

Ticket sales for the Chris Amon Festival will soon be on sale online on www.nzfmr.co.nz, so watch for the 'Early Bird' special offer of low priced tickets. This offer will be for a limited period only.

Hospitality offers

The Festival has been fortunate to secure a very limited number of the 80 residential apartments at Hampton Downs. These apartments offer stunning trackside viewing for up to 20 people per apartment per day. If you would like to secure one of these apartments for the whole or part of the Festival, or you know of someone or a company who may be interested, go ahead and email Matt Taylor right way matt@nzfmr.co.nz. Matt will provide all the information needed about cost, availability and bookings.

Sponsorship opportunities

If you or your company would like to be involved in a sponsorship arrangement with the Festival, email Matt Taylor to find out about the options. A very popular option will be to secure sponsorship for one of the 10 race classes and these are expected to sell out quickly. Go ahead – email Matt now!

Festival Newsletter - Comments & Enquiries

If you have any comments, questions or suggestions about this Newsletter, contact the Newsletter Editor Jim Barclay jim@nzfmr.co.nz

Festival Contact information

Festival Chairman	Jim Barclay	jim@nzfmr.co.nz	0064 (0) 21 75 25 14
Festival Director & Marketing	Matt Taylor	matt@nzfmr.co.nz	0064 (0) 21 628 891
Festival Director	Chris Watson	chris@hamptondowns.com	0064 (0) 274 827 542
Festival Director	Tony Roberts	tony@hamptondowns.com	0064 (0) 21 1332 895



WWW.NZFMR.CO.NZ

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**DON'T MISS THE NZ FESTIVAL
OF MOTOR RACING IN THE
SUMMER OF 2011**

**NZ FESTIVAL OF MOTOR RACING
CELEBRATING CHRIS AMON**

See great cars in classes similar to those seen at the Festival in 2010, plus a 1990s Group A and a Group N type saloon class, and the golden era of motor bikes — Manx Norton, AJS 7R, Matchless and more.

This event to follow-on from the HSRCA Tasman Revival event at Eastern Creek Sydney to be held 28-29 November 2010.

www.hsrca.org.au/

**ENQUIRIES TO JIM BARCLAY
JIM@NZFMR.CO.NZ or +64 (0) 21 75 25 14**