



Newsletter - January 17th 2012

Media Day Thursday - The annual New Zealand Festival of Motor Racing media day takes place this Thursday and we are planning some very nice cars to appear for the press and also will have Paul Radisich on hand to demonstrate the Fleetwood Mustang and one of the superb BMW machines on loan from the factory for the event.

Red Checkers to rule the skies - New Zealand's internationally famous aerobatic display team, the Red Checkers, will once again be flying at the festival on Sunday 22nd January. The team will fly over from a display at Matamata to wow the crowds with some stunning displays of flying skill. All in all a display that simply cannot be missed!

Ten marques in F5000 field - No fewer than ten marques representing Formula 5000 will be on the grid for what is now accepted as the biggest annual gathering of F5000 cars on track in the world. Cars from Talon, Begg, March, Gurney, Lola, McRae, Lotus, Chevron, Surtees and McLaren are all entered and confirmed. The field itself has more than 30 entries.

BMW drivers attend en masse - Confirmed former BMW Motorsport drivers coming at some time to the Festival include Chris Amon; those who drove BMW 2002s from the 1970s such as Rodger

Booth ready to tame unique Can-Am monster

Two-time New Zealand V8 Champion Andy Booth will take a step back in time to make his Hampton Downs V8 race debut when he drives one of the country's most important historic racing cars.



Booth, who will compete in the inaugural V8 SuperTourer series that kicks off at the Hampton Downs track in February, will race the unique McLaren M1A/B Can Am car during the second race weekend of the New Zealand Festival of Motor Racing on January 27/28/29. The first weekend blasts off this Friday.

The car itself – owned by historic racing enthusiast Paul Halford - represents a unique slice of Kiwi motorsport history. It was originally a customer car built for the American owner as an M1A. When the owner saw Bruce McLaren and Chris Amon go quicker in their M1B specification cars he asked Bruce to send him a M1B body so as he could fit it to his car and have the latest specification. When his request was declined, he crafted his own – and the body on the car today is the very same handmade M1B aluminium copy that was built for the car and raced all those years ago.

Booth, who has never raced the car or any other Can Am, is a huge fan of the era and is relishing the prospect of taming the 500 horsepower monster. "I consider it a real honour to be invited to drive the M1A/B and very much see my role as one of demonstrating the car at pace to an audience of enthusiasts. It's not about seeing just how fast it can go or putting anything at risk so I'll be making sure there's always enough real estate around me. At the same time though we're not out there for a Sunday drive and people want to see and hear these things in anger. It's noise alone is spine tingling."

Can- Am was one of the pre-eminent series of the sixties and seventies in Canada and America (hence the Can-Am abbreviation) and the cars were noted at certain circuits to be considerably faster than Formula One cars of the same period. McLaren machines, designed and built in UK by Kiwi Bruce McLaren, were at the forefront of technical development and the

Anderson, Steve Millen, Paul Adams and Ken Adamson a group from the 1980s that comprises Jim Richards (1st weekend only), Neville Crichton, Kent Baigent, Wayne Wilkinson, Graeme Crosby and John Morton - who hopes to demo the very car he drove in the Wellington 500 in 2005. Also in attendance will be Phil Myhre now from Brunei, Tony Lawrence, Jim Keogh and John English from Australia.

Representing the later 1980s and 1990s will be Robbie Francevic, Paul Radisich, Ludwig Finaeur from Australia, Greg Murphy, Keith Sharp, Rod Millen, Brett Riley, Dennis Chapman. Former BMW Motorsport drivers of the era Dennis Chapman will be racing his own BMW Supertourer at the Festival and 1986 Production Saloon Champion Graeme Cameron who will be competing in a historic Formula Ford.

Don't forget the Warsteiner Beerfest! On the second weekend of the event there will be a Warsteiner-supported Beerfest complete with Oompah band that will start around 6pm on Saturday 28 January.

When there is a break in the music and singing, organisers plan to have a brief introduction for any BMW Motorsport drivers of the era not introduced at the Castrol BBQ held on the first weekend of the event. There will be two paintings to auction – one of an ex JPS BMW635CSi and the other of the BMW 3.0CSL Batmobile.

Follow us on Facebook - We have a special BMW themed festival Facebook page that will give everyone who 'Likes' it the first look at some of the star cars confirmed for the event. So if you want to be right up to the minute with the VERY latest news and pictures, then [CLICK](#)

championships for many years. They remain a huge draw card for generations of fans.

Amon back in unique Ferrari

New Zealand Festival of Motor Racing regular and motor racing legend Chris Amon will do some demonstration laps at this year's event on Saturday 21st January. And his chosen steed will be one of the stars of the festival - A Ferrari 250GTE/O.



It may not be a numbered GTO, but the car is nevertheless all Ferrari, having been built originally as a GTE but converted by the factory to a GTO in every regard. It is a stunning addition to the festival line up.

Amon's time with Ferrari as a works driver included races in both single seater and sports racing cars from 1967 through to 1969 during which time he was an integral part of the factory's World Sportscar Championship effort.

Sensational driver line up for BMW demonstration runs

The driver line up to demonstrate the unique BMW's that are on loan from the factory in Germany for the two weekends of the 2012 New Zealand Festival of Motor Racing celebrating BMW in Motorsport is nothing short of sensational.



The two cars on loan from the factory for demo runs are a Le Mans specification M1 Procar - making its New Zealand debut - and a German Touring Car Championship, or DTM (Deutsche Tourenwagen Meisterschaft) specification M3 from 1987. This was the ultimate version of the iconic car.

Drivers over the first weekend will be Mike Eady, Jim Richards and Brett Riley (M1 Procar) and Richards, Riley and Andy Booth for the DTM M3. Over the second weekend drivers for the M1 and M3 will be Andy Booth, Greg Murphy, John McIntyre and BMW series regular Kevin Underwood.

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For further information

For any further information on the event - be it general information of specific information about ticketing, hospitality or car parking, please email chris@nzfmr.co.nz

Event merchandise!

Want some very snazzy motorsport clothing and a bit of memorabilia from this historic event? Then get in quick and order a 2012 New Zealand Festival of Motor Racing Celebrating BMW Motorsport shirt. Ladies or gents polo or long sleeved cotton shirt styles are available – see imagegroup.wip.co.nz/nzfmr (cut and paste this into the address bar at the top of your internet browser, do not enter www or http beforehand).



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