



Newsletter - August 28th 2011

Read on! As we build towards the very exciting 2012 events, we will be bringing you news on confirmed cars and drivers, details about the event and special offers as we get close to the two big weekends. So keep reading and make sure you pass it on to any historic racing car owner, or BMW enthusiasts that you might know.

Back in Black - One of the superb JPS 635CSI cars (see picture below, right) that will attend the event will be travelling to New Zealand from Melbourne along with Hong Kong based owner Adrian Brady. This is typical of many of the cars and car and driver combinations that attend the festival each year - with many going to extraordinary lengths to be with their cars for the event.

And more - Still on the black and gold theme, joining the Formula 5000 ranks at the festival will be an exceptionally rare Lotus 70B Ford V8. Similar to the car driven by Chris Amon, the exact history of the car is somewhat unknown and it is possible that it was a repaired and recycled works car even though works cars carried the designation '70' and customer cars the '70B' suffix. Hugely attractive and interesting whatever it is! A bigger article and picture on this rare piece of motorsport history will appear in the next newsletter.

Jim Barclay - the man behind the event

Jim Barclay is the key organising force behind the New Zealand Festival of Motor Racing as well as being a keen racer and a budding encyclopedia of motorsport knowledge. The 2012 event represents the first departure to a manufacturer theme and we caught up with Jim to talk about the stars and the cars that will feature.



What do you think the 'must sees' will be at the 2012 Festival?

"The former Group A and other historic touring cars of the 1970s-1990 eras will be a highlight. The cars so far include two former Jim Richards Team cars - the JPS BMW 635CSI and JPS BMW M3, plus we have the ex-Brock/Richards Mobil BMW M3, the ex-Hulme B&H BMW M3, the ex-Prince/Horrigan Group A Jaguar XJS a Ford Sierra RS500 turbo and many more. From the BMW Museum collection of cars there is the ex-Chris Amon/Hans Stuck 1973 BMW 3.0CSL 'Batmobile'. This is the very car that won the 1973 Nurburgring 6 hour race, the first 'winged' car to do so. We even have a DTM car coming, which should wow the crowds all by itself!

Will it be difficult to top the 2010 and 2011 events?

"Every year the Festival has a different theme to celebrate; Bruce McLaren and his cars in 2010, Chris Amon and his cars in 2011. In 2012 we will celebrate BMW Motorsport cars. We intend to feature a marque of car every second year, alternating with a named driver theme. This will be the first of our featured marque festivals where, in addition to the cars of the era, we hope to attract many of the former drivers. With the very strong support in big grids and close racing from the current BMW race series cars and drivers coupled with cars from other Historic and Classic cars, we will have a great event that will provide a slightly different emphasis from the past two festivals. That's got to be a good thing.

Which high profile drivers are coming?

We are delighted that expat Kiwi Jim Richards will be with us from Melbourne, Australia for the first weekend of the Festival. South Islander Pete Sturgeon has generously offered Jim one of the former JPS 1984

Beauty Parade 1 - The ex-Chris Amon/ Hans Stuck CSL will stop off on Taupo in October on its national tour before the festival so that photos can be taken with Chris Amon for an exciting feature in NZ Classic Car magazine.

Beauty Parade 2 - The new G Force magazine is also planning to do a story on the ex Jim Richards Sidchrome Mustang – another car that will be appearing at the 2012 event. Current owner George Sheweiry is overhauling the car in time for the Festival and it will hopefully be ready, or almost ready, for the magazine feature in November!

Trade area expands - There will be greater opportunity for exhibitors and trades folk to show off their products at the 2012 event, with more competitive stand pricing and more availability. Anyone wishing to enquire should contact Melissa Morgan at melissa@nzfmr.co.nz for further details and pricing.

Back to the future - Bringing the 2012 festival right up to date should be the new V8 SuperTourer - which will form the basis of a brand new V8 series in 2012 that will combine sprint events and enduros. The exciting new cars will race at Hampton Downs just a couple of weekends or so after the Festival (February 18,19) and it should be a great chance to compare the engineering skills of yesteryear with the amazing build quality of a contemporary, state of the art touring car racer.

After hours - There will be plenty to do after the racing at the 2012 festival with several events and receptions being planned for the event. More details to follow so watch this space!

Earl Bird tickets - Want to get

BMW 635CSi cars to race in the Group A and Historic Touring Car challenge races over the first weekend. The BMW NZ Group are planning on bringing to New Zealand a former BMW 'works' driver for the second weekend and this could be Prince Leopold von Bayern (who drove a BMW M3 in the Nissan-Mobil 500 in Wellington in 1987), but we will need to wait for confirmation about this. We may see even more big BMW names from the past in attendance as well!

What is happening off track in terms of displays and spectator attractions?

There will be a big display of BMW cars and motorcycles – BMW Dealers will mount displays of the current models and alongside these will be a great range of cars from BMW Club NZ members. The BMW Club of New Zealand is combining with the Bimmersport Club to have a 'show-and-shine' contest for BMW cars. There will be three 'heats' held over three days and the final will be held on Sunday 29 January with support from Meguiars. At lunchtime each day of the festival there will be on-track parades of current and older models of BMW cars and bikes. Following the parades there will be a very limited number of 'hot-lap' rides on the Hampton Downs track available for members of the public. Details of the hot laps will be released soon.

There will also be an expanded trade and product display area in the Pit Paddock. And most importantly, with the friendly and open atmosphere of the festival the key philosophy, everyone can wander through the pits and paddock when the track is inactive to view close up all the cars that will be racing or on display. You'll be able to meet drivers and crews and even bring your camera for a photo alongside your favourite cars! There is an ever growing list of former BMW drivers of the 1970s/80s/90 keen to come to the festival to see their former cars, catch up with their former friends and foes and talk tales of racing from a period that included such amazing events as the Nissan-Mobil 500 at Wellington and Pukekohe.

There will also be informal functions held after racing has finished on Saturday 21st and Saturday 28th January 2012 and everyone is invited. Again, this will be a great chance to meet the drivers and their crews.

What has been the personal highlight for you in the two editions so far?

Being part of the small team organising the biggest international Classic and Historic motor racing events to be held in New Zealand, ever. With the success of the past two festivals in 2010 and 2011 and the media attention we have generated, Hampton Downs in New Zealand is now on the international map. In the years ahead we hope to attract an increasing variety of interesting and significant cars to our themed festivals.

BMW is an unusual choice for a first manufacturer theme..or is it?

BMW Motorsport was a logical choice for our first manufacturer-themed event. BMW Motorsport won the gruelling Nissan-Mobil 500 race in Wellington for five straight years in the late 1980s and early 1990s. They also won the NZ Touring Car Championship no fewer than eight times in 10 years in the 1990s. These cars set the standard in their era and it will be great to see many of them again – this time on track or on display at Hampton Downs for the NZ Festival of Motor Racing celebrating BMW Motorsport in January 2012 – see our website www.nzfmr.co.nz

Will you be driving again in 2012?

Yes, I will be driving my 1961 Gemini Mk3A Formula Junior single seater in the FJ races to be held over the first weekend of the Festival. As with

ahead of the crowds and get the best seats in the house for the 2012 event? Starting very soon, we will be running special Early bird ticket offers throughout the Winter and on sale right up until October 31st 2011. For information about these, please visit the NZFMR web site at www.nzfmr.co.nz

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

the past two years, my primary focus will again be on the festival, but assuming all will be going well I should have time to fit in a few races.



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