



Newsletter - January 26th 2012

BBQ Sell Out - More than three hundred people attended a sell out BBQ at Hampton Downs last Saturday to listen to tales about Jim Richards and hear stories from some of the BMW drivers who have competed in New Zealand over the years. A Don Packwood painting of Richards in the Sidchrome Mustang also went for more than \$5000 with profits going to the Bruce McLaren Trust - amazing!

Don't forget to check out the trade stands - The festival always gets lots of support from the traders in motor sport, but this year is better than ever. Take Speedfactor, they'll be there with literally dozens of aftermarket options for your racing or road BMW! You need to be there to see the products on offer though - which range from brake and suspension kits to wheels and race seats.

Group A sensations - For those of you who miss the 'good old days' of Group A then we have news for you. More than 30 cars - most with huge historical significance internationally or with the Wellington Street Race - were in action at Hampton Downs last weekend and will be tearing up the track again this coming weekend. Take your pick between BMW 635s, iconic M3s or even Sierra Cosworth RS500s. And well done to racing legend Jim Richards last weekend for a sensational win in wet conditions in his JPS 635, one of the older cars in the highly competitive field.

F5000s back to full strength - It was a challenging weekend for two of the F5000 front

First weekend a huge hit

The first weekend of the 2012 New Zealand Festival of Motor Racing Celebrating BMW proved to be a big hit, and thankfully the weather more or less behaved itself to allow a full programme of exciting racing.



One of the highlights outside of the fantastic retro Group A fields (which were dominated by iconic BMW M3s and 635s) and the Formula 5000, was Andy Booth's drive in Paul Halford's CanAm McLaren.

Fresh back from honeymoon, Booth drove carefully in the first damp race, picking his way through the field carefully. But starting from the back in the later dry race, his progress was meteoric, scything his way from the back to the front inside half of the race distance and then jousting cat and mouse style with Tony Roberts 7 litre Corvette. It was Booth's 5.3 litre car that eventually prevailed to take a superb win and set himself up for a repeat performance.

This weekend the racing resumes and demonstration runs by the fantastic BMW factory M1 Procar (See picture) and DTM specification M3 will be handled by none other than Kiwi racing legends Greg Murphy, Paul Radisich and Johnny McIntyre.

Super Historics set to add even more pace

The Super Historic field makes its first 2012 festival appearance this weekend when the single seater field that comprises free formula big open single seaters takes the green light.

The field includes Formula 3000, Formula Holden, Formula Atlantic and Formula 3 chassis as well as a variety of other single seaters. The field this year includes two ex NZ Grand Prix winning chassis - the 1988 Swift DB4 of Kenny Smith



runners - Roger Williams in his Interscope Lola and particularly Jay Esterer - the star of 2011 - in his McRae. The Canadian had flown a replacement car in to replace the one damaged in the recent Manfeild startline crash and his mechanics burned the midnight oil to ensure that it would be ready for qualifying with his number one engine fitted. The first lap didn't go well, however, with a fire breaking out in the airbox and curtailing Jay's running for the rest of the day. Some repairs were made for another shot on Sunday, but the car just wasn't running right and the mechanics rightly parked it to concentrate on getting it right for the second weekend. It wasn't all bad news for Jay though - he did get to have some fun in the FF1600 race in his Lola T642.

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.

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

and the 1992 ex-Craig Baird Reynard 92H. The cars, though mainly late eighties and nineties machinery, have many contemporary technical innovations on them that were being pioneered at the time - such as ground effect diffusers, sequential gearboxes and modern specification suspension geometry.

Lyons roars in F5000

Young gun Michael Lyons (Lola T400) won all four MSC F5000 Tasman Cup Revival Series races at the first New Zealand Festival of Motor Racing - celebrating BMW Motorsport meetings at the Hampton Downs circuit south of Auckland during the first weekend of the event but series point leader Steve Ross (McRae GM1) added the icing on the cake with a new outright track lap record.



Lyons, who with father Frank and mother Judy, has been travelling from the UK to contest rounds of the New Zealand-based MSC series for the past four years, showed an inkling of what he could do at the two New Zealand Festival of Motor Racing meetings last year and took up where he left off this, claiming pole position in the qualifying session on Friday then leading all four races including the feature 15-lap final - from start to finish.

"The weekend has gone pretty well hasn't it," the 20-year-old from Essex north of London said after his meeting clean sweep. "Last year we weren't quite as well prepared and it was all a bit last minute. Also I hadn't really driven the car much that year. This year we did most of the British championship, which we won, so we were better prepared with the car so it's great to be able to come out here and be able to do so well." After winning both races in hot, dry conditions on Saturday, the first from Steve Ross, Ken Smith (Lola T430) and Clark Proctor (March 73A) and the second - after Ross and Proctor tangled at the first corner - from Smith, Mark Dwyer (Lola T400) and Brett Willis (Lola T330), Lyons led home a fired up Smith, Proctor and Ross in the rain-delayed third race just after lunch time and 15-lap feature final later in the afternoon on Sunday.

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).



