

Review 6th Jan

Contributed by Cindy
Monday, 08 January 2018
Last Updated Thursday, 11 January 2018

Big Fields, Big Action

By Tony Stuart

What was originally scheduled pretty much as a club meeting took on a life of its own at Supercheap Auto Oceanview Family Speedway last night. The pits were full to overflowing, a good crowd was in hand, and the contact classes especially did not disappoint.

So many Stockcars turned up for the Supercheap Stockcar Shootout that they had to be separated into two qualifying heats. The ten fastest laps over the two heats were used to pick the final field, with Dion Mooney taking the #1 position with as 17.65 second lap. 15P Luke Miers entered the contest in the second race, and in quick succession eliminated 42V Steve Read (who beat 52V Francis Potaka in the Shootout opener), 174V Brendon Learmonth, 24V Wayne Wright and 35P Matt Phippen. Miers then came up against 7V Damon Baxter in the race of the night.

On the second lap Baxter spun Miers on the back straight, but couldn't get the nose of his Tank far enough ahead to complete the pass. Meanwhile Miers engaged reverse, and the two cars hugged the wall for more than half a lap in a furious battle. Baxter finally squeezed past Miers' car in sight of the finish line, but his momentum sent him sideways across the track. Miers was a fraction quicker to recover, and took a thrilling win. Both drivers were awarded prizes in the Charlie Berntsen Clubrooms afterwards for being the most entertaining drivers.

Miers was then eliminated by young Stratford driver William Hughes (99S), who looked destined to reach the final until he was punted out of the way by 81V Trevor Greig. In the money race, Mooney made short work of Greig, whose car left the track behind a tractor.

Mooney was in fine form, taking three wins in the Elite Mechanical Stockcars. Greig however had the last laugh taking out the PAUA Print Grand Slam. His new Rees Spank is right on the pace.

Eleven Superstocks fronted, although the brand-new 22S of Brent Pascoe and the 65V car being driven by Cameron Jurgens started all three heats off the back and were just looking for track time.

9B Adam Groome took at hat-trick of wins, but it wasn't plain sailing. He won the first race from 9P Brett Hyslop and 41M Bruce Williams, leading most of the way.

Race two was a cracker, with Hyslop and 53V Morris Doyle trading the lead on several occasions. As the race counted down laps, Doyle tried to squeeze Hyslop into the pit straight wall but both cars spun, and Groome shot into the lead.

The Sharp As Superstocks feature was another cracking race. Hyslop and 62S Regan Gernhoefer fell foul of 52B Regan O'Brien who did a masterly job blocking for his club-mate Groome. The 9B car crossed the line less than half a second ahead of Gernhoefer, with Hyslop and Doyle close behind.

Grant Loveridge (7V) has been the form driver in the Brian FM Production Saloons this season, and added the Ray Purdy Memorial title to the West Coast and Bay of Plenty championships he has won already. Loveridge had an easy win in the first heat from pole position, trailed 73V John Huijs for most of H2 before a late race pass, and was content to finish the final heat in second place to 62V Jon Morrison, ahead of Huijs, his closest rival.

Big fields of Youth and Adult Ministocks were on hand, with wins to 86s Bradley Korff (2), 91S Kyle Wilson and 26S Ella Sharpe in the NZME Adults. In the Youth grade, 76S Matthew Picard took out the first two races, with 43P Kyle Rowe winning the Remax Realty Feature. 35V Flynn Wild and 9W Cyrus Crook showed consistency, each placing in the top six in every race.

The Youth Ministocks will be back in force next Saturday night for the second running of the Oceanview 5000. More than 60 cars will face the starter, in three separate age divisions. Supporting them will be Superstocks, Stockcars and the ever-popular Golden Oldies. Racing starts next Saturday at the earlier time of 6pm.

Thanks once again to all the drivers who travelled to support this meeting, and a special thank you to the track crew for their work over the Christmas break to recondition the track.