

19th April 2006



The most competitive Championship yet, Round 1 TEKA 06'!

There air was electric (and cold)! Drivers, Pit Crews and all others involved were pumped; this was Round 1 of the Australian Endurance Championship.

Saturday morning was cool to say the least; there was a little cloud cover, although the weather reports indicated little chance of rain. After the wet (very wet) start to the 12 HR, competitors were keen for a dry fast race.

Qualifying would be via a single 10 minute session for each division. Congratulations to the perfectly groomed and prepared PCP, I mean PCR team and Michael Bourke for pole position with a 44.71. Lusty Enforcer always quick in qualifying were only 1/100th second behind to share the front row. Full Noise have taken about three years to come on but I tell ya what since mid last year with some major chassis tuning, they're flyin' and drove to 3rd in their F1 chassis (44.82). No surprise BRM 2 (44.88) and Triple 1 (45.01) were fast filling the next 2 spots.

The surprise of the day and 1st in B grade was Daniel Wheeler from Steamline matching the time of Triple 1 with equal 5th outright. Horsepower Racing (45.64) continuing where they left off at the 12hr, still fast and equal 2nd in B with Dynamite 3rd (dark horses for the series) followed by Havacrac and TDF Racing.

The start of Race 1 was clean although there was no shortage of sketchy moments, particularly approaching the hairpin, Triple 1, SMS, Full Noise, M- Sport and Lusty Enforcer set the pace early with Enforcer and Triple 1 out in front swapping the lead regularly. Not far behind the lead bunch BRM 2, Lusty Racing (well done to Ryan in a new BRM for the fastest lap of the race) and Kinetic were also on the pace. Sticking with the large lead group in a smart and skilful drive was Daniel from Streamline Motorsport leading the B graders.

Dynamite in their brightly coloured Benson continued in the same fashion they finished the 12 hour (drivin' it like they stole it) and weren't going to allow the leaders to pull away. Just behind Havacrac, Horsepower and Ghetto were pulling fast consistent times and settling in for a solid 3 hour sprint. Buildline as usual would get faster as the day went on (go figure!). JBM, TDF, Toynton and Elite also in the B grade mix early. A big welcome to Colmac, Team Power and Kartland also looked good in the early stages.

A grade's Anthony Simes with a new co driver had the Energy flying. Back a little further EKA were setting themselves up for a good finish after starting the day with questionable breaks and the lack of one of TEKA's more attractive Team Manager's, the lovely Trish.

The fast track provided great racing that remained perfectly clean throughout. A small number of teams fell victim to the mechanical demons and dropped a number of laps and their competitive positions, included were Dynamite, Lusty Racing 2, SCW Racing 1, Elite, EKA and Kinetic. The finish was one of the most exciting. Triple 1 with a faultless race take the win. Full Noise coming from nearly a lap down catches SMS and BRM 2. With 3 corners to go they've thrown the nose in on a *courteous* Steve Limbrick (BRM 2) to take 3rd place only a kart length behind SMS in 2nd.

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An awesome result for Havacrac coming in 5th and 1st in B, followed by Lusty Enforcer (A), Lusty 6 (A), Buildline (B), Horse Power (B), Streamline (B) and XLR8 (A).

Great race, the exciting thing though is that only 45% of the event had been completed. Bring on Sunday's 4 HR!!

Kinetic, EKA, Lusty Racing 2 and Dynamite would be starting toward the back of the grid after problems on Day 1. Other than that the usual suspects filled the front couple of rows.

An early pace car allowed drive throughs and driver changes. The field bunched up and the race was on again, Triple 1's BRM again had the pace along with Lusty Enforcer, Kinetic and Lusty 2 were making huge ground from the rear with EKA in tow. The Omega of Horse Power Racing showed fast times all day and would be a force to be reckoned with in the B Championship. Ghetto were not allowing themselves to lose sight of the leaders and without problems Dynamite and Streamline would have been with them. Buildline's chassis lost a little speed but they remained consistent. XLR8 and SMS were in amongst it showing why they deserve every bit of A grade.

Colmac and Team Power showing great turn of speed on the Sunday being 2 of only 4 karts bettering their previous day's lap times (on older rubber). Triple 1 Motorsport again showed good enough speed to lead most of the day and take out race two. Lusty Enforcer held their kart together (just) to cross the line in 2nd, and Full Noise again consistent in 3rd. Team BRM 2 with new recruit (Pipe Smoker) managed a great result in 4th followed by Kinetic coming from 22nd to 5th.

B grade was won by Horsepower Racing who raced perfectly all weekend, followed by Ghetto and Buildline.

I say again (and have heard it elsewhere) this is some of the hardest, closest and cleanest racing around, and so hard to back up a consecutive great result, see you at the best drivers track in the country 'Newcastle'!!

Justin Sydenham