

Sports Car Report #9 /07

TACCOC PUKEKOHE MAY

Hi again,

Another great meeting at Pukekohoe, well run by TACCOC. With a much smaller entry things seemed to be more relaxed and this meeting had and HESCC Taupo feel about it. 2 ten-lap races for historic in the morning and the afternoon taken up by the 2.04 Le Mans relay.

4 sports cars at this meeting and 2 of them new to the track. Steve Sharpe brought out his Lotus 7 what a lovely job he has made of rebuilding that it, goes well and seems to be reliable now that the oil surge problems have been fixed. Doug St George brought the Orchid Special, another good rebuild job and a lovely car that ran all day with no problems.

Puke was up to its usual tricks with the weather though, 8am was a hot sunny day 10am was overcast and threatening but the weather held off all day except for a couple of very light showers during the relay. Racing started with a brief meeting for all historic drivers just to remind everyone that the prize is a chocolate fish and that some racers have been a little over zealous lately. Fortunately this has been mostly the FF guys, another reminder will be on the cards at the start of next season I would bet.

The first race went well for the sports car racers with the ten laps making a big difference. Brian and I traded place lap after lap with me eventually taking the win. In the process we both managed to set our fastest ever times at this track which was very satisfying. Doug and Steve were busy doing their own thing a bit further down the field but seemed to be enjoying themselves. Race two started as a repeat of race one until the mystery miss problem plagued Brian's Mallock, which forced his early retirement for the day.

The relay was great with the HRSCC sports car team competing. We managed to complete 84 laps in the 2.04 hours to gain 9th place overall. (There were 9 teams) and the loudest cheer at the prize giving. We weren't there for the outright win though and we managed 3rd in the performance index results which was really good. Racing against other classes did worry me a bit but everyone was very gentlemanly and would wait if we all came into a corner together so there were no safety cars all day. We divided the day into 20 lap stints with Doug taking the first shift and the rolling start. A new experience for us and after much discussion about how that worked we decided the best thing to do was just follow the guy in front. The Orchid Special did the 20 laps no sweat (well Doug was sweating a little) Then Steve took the second 20, once again no problems so I had a go, 20 laps is a long time especially if you keep forgetting to breathe or swallow but it was very enjoyable. After my go Doug went out for another 10 followed by Steve who brought the Lotus home to the end just after 5pm. All in all a very enjoyable day. Next year we should try for 2 teams its great fun!

Well that's about it for this season, check out the points table, well done Bill for clinching the title this year. The prize giving will be held at the HRSCC annual dinner. I will let you all know when that is.

Hopefully next year we may have a few more regular competitors in the sports cars. There's lots of them around and with the new cars on the scene a good range of speed groups so there is no excuse for not coming out and having some fun. TACCOC have dropped their Taupo meet in October due to issues with flags etc which is a real shame So one less meeting for us to enjoy, I suspect if we don't attend meetings that are put on for us more meets may be dropped. So get your car sorted over winter and get out and use it next season.

See you at the prize giving or at the track next season.

THAT'S ALL FOLKS

Alan Service

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