

TACCOC & MG 2.04 Hour 'LeMans' PUKEKOHE MAY 2006

The last round of the 2006 Historic race series was held at the Pukekohe circuit around 40 minutes south of Auckland Central. Pukekohe circuit is a combined horse racing and motor racing circuit, 2.82 km long running in a clock wise direction.

The race was a one day event with the Historic's scheduled to have 1 practice and 2 races prior to the 2.0 hour Le Mans race for Saloon and Sports cars beginning at around mid afternoon.

FJ had an excellent turnout with 8 entries, 3 front engine cars of; Rob Williams ELVA BMC 100, Nigel Russell's front wheel drive Emeryson ELFIN Mk1, and Roger Herrick's Taraschi and 5 rear engined, Jim Barclays Gemini M3A, John Holmes Lotus 18, Wayne Rogers in Ian Garmeys T56 Cooper BMC, Wayne Carter in the T59 F3 Cooper BMC and Alan Woolfe in the Brabham BT9.

Historic Formula Ford numbers were down from the usual strong turnout. Stan Benbrook is starting to really peddle the Spender Lynx FF and Brent Rollinson hauling the recently finished Lola T350 all the way from Nelson in the South Island for a fast first outing on the Pukekohe circuit. Mike Hunter made up the FF field in the fast Hawke DL2A.

Unfortunately the weather was variable Sunday with projections of heavy rain latter in the day. Racing was slow to start and as if on queue the rain started with the Historic's practice. With a number of major offs from the first Sports and GT cars race racing was delayed and races for all including the Historic's was reduced to one run of 12 laps. Clearing the carnage (8 cars) from the track and extracting cars from the Armco of the Sports and GT race took most of lunch.

Due to the fine weather that prevailed through lunch the Historic's race was brought forward to capitalise on this.... only for it to start pelting as soon as the Historic's entered the track. Atrocious conditions continue for twelve laps to finally clear to sunshine as the last car passed the start finish line. Despite Wayne (muddy) Carter taking to the infield from Castrol and finding the deepest muddiest puddle, Wayne managed to restart and all 24 cars that decided to start, finished.

Brian Grants Begg Daimler ran well and takes prize of the day for biggest rooster tail. The track directly behind the begg was possible the driest part of the track. Wayne Rogers T56 can attest to this as Wayne was close behind him for the entire race. The fact that the water was all in the air and he did it with out an ounce of visibility is equally impressive.

The sports racing car field saw Bill Roughan in the mogul U2 come all the way from Hawke Bay. Good to see the John Courtney Kato out again and the Ex Brian grant Humber 80 special make an appearance with its new owner along with the Dick Jones special.

The end of the day saw the Formula Junior drivers presentation. The 2.0 Le Mans race was cancelled 45 minutes into the event due to heavy rains and failing light.

Take a look at the video clip taken from the of a lap around Pukekohe on 14 May 06 in all that rain. Go to: www.dickjonesspecial.transitainer.co.nz.



Brian Grant Begg Daimler and rear of Humber 80 Special



Mike Hunter Hawke FF and Spender Lynx FF



Brian Service Mallock U2, Allan Service and the BBM Mercedes



Ken William. BBM Mercedes



Wayne Rogers and the muddied T59



What can you say



Brabham BT9 and Lotus 18



3 Emeryson Elfin Mk1 FJ, 6 Taraschi FJ, 10
Brabham BT21, 25 Gemini FJ



Brian Grant and Begg Daimler



The winners