

Manawatu Car Club Inc

Club Bulletin

March 2022



RACE WITH US!

FROM THE PRESIDENTS PEN...



If you have already skipped past my bit, you will be onto the MCC Race Calendar, and you would have noted a few changes. If you haven't yet skipped my bit, you will be now eager to do so and view the calendar to see what has changed... no worries, I will wait... Yip there has been a few changes, D1NZ has moved from March to June, and because there are no Central District Field Days this year, we have added a couple of events in March, namely a Drift Practice Day on the 3km main track and another round of the GT Oil / Transpec Open Days, so the first round will now be in March. This now means that we have an event in every month of 2022, what a great 75th anniversary year! There are some date changes for a couple of other events as well, so please take note of these.

I'm back... yep I was voted back as President for my forth 2-year term at the recent MCC AGM, so thanks to those that had the faith in me to nominate me. A huge "welcome back" to most of the 2022 MCC Committee, and a "welcome aboard" to Malcolm Glen who joins the team. It is a massive year for the club, not only because it is our 75th year, but we are running more events than ever before, and we have a few large projects to tick off in the coming year. We had just over 40 people attend the AGM at the Feilding Civic Centre, which was great, so if you didn't attend, fear not as you can read not only my President's Report, but also the Financial Report on our MCC website - [Club Governance – Manawatu Car Club](#)

The highlight of the night was awarding Russell Harris with a Life Membership. Brian Davies, a Life Member himself, did the honours of stepping up to the microphone to welcome Russell into a very special club. Russell said to me afterwards that he did not know it was him that we were talking about right up until Brian said his name, he said that he thinking who else in the room could be that old... Russell, thank you my friend for your lifetime of giving to this club and to Manfeild.



As I write this, I see that our very own Justin Allen has just taken another win (his second this weekend) in the Toyota 86 Championship, way to go mate, and very well deserved. So glad Huw & Kathy could be there to see this. These wins now puts him right back into contention for the overall championship!



I would like to finish by thanking two people – firstly Nick Stewart, thank you mate for lending me a car to plant my butt in and go back out on the track and have some much-needed fun, it has been wayyyyyy to long between races. It was also good again to get the hands dirty in preparing the car for racing the night before, there is nothing like that last minute rush to get a car ready and then lining up on the grid hoping that everything we undone, is done up tight again... ha, ha.

And a massive thank you to Graham (Harley) Davidson, who came up to me after the AGM and had a great chat with me. Harley you are right, this position can be thankless sometimes, but then a lot of volunteer positions are that way, but thank you my friend for your kind words of appreciation, it meant a lot to me.

Richie

“Track & Yack”

Time: 7.00pm to 9.00pm

Date: Wednesday 9th March 2022

Place: Rose and Crown Olde English Pub, Terrace End Carpark, Palmerston North

**Why not pop on down and have a chat about what is
happening on and off of the track...**

MEET THE 2022 COMMITTEE



President: Richie Arber
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Noel Beale



Jill Hogg



Kaye Flannagan



Donna Whale



Greg Browne



Nick Stewart



Markku Braid

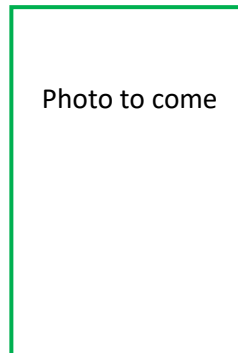


Photo to come

Troy Brown

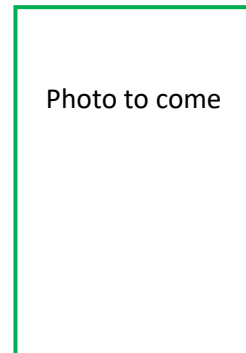


Photo to come

Malcolm Glen



Russell Harris
Club Advisor



Brian Davies
Club Advisor



MARCH

- Saturday 19th Drift Practice – 3km Track
 Sunday 20th Transpec / GT Oils Manfeild Open Day Round 1

APRIL

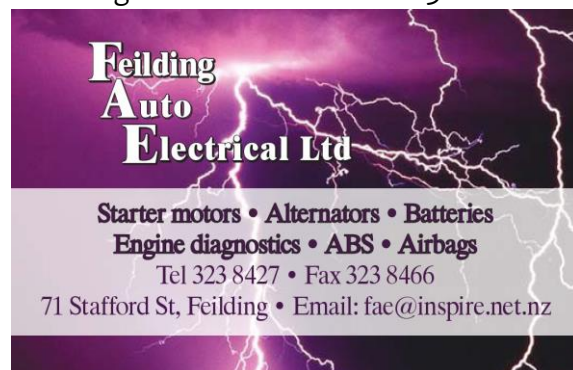
- Friday 1st Test Day – Supertrucks, Other National Championship classes.
 Saturday 2nd Race Day – Supertrucks Race Meeting Day 1
 Sunday 3rd Race Day – Supertrucks Race Meeting Day 2 plus Mitre 10 Mega Summer Race Series R3
 Saturday 9th Mitre 10 MEGA Summer Series prize giving
 Saturday 30th Drift Tutoring – Back Track – Novice & Intermediate
 Saturday 30th ALFA May Madness

MAY

- Friday 13th NIEDRS Endurance Test Day
 Saturday 14th NIEDRS Endurance Race Day – 1 Hour & 3 Hour
 Saturday 22nd Otara Road Sealed Sprint / Touge Drift Demo
 Weds 25th Club Night – Feilding Auto Electrical Winter Series Scrutineering Night

JUNE

- Saturday 4th Feilding Auto Electrical Winter Series Round 1 Test Day
 Sunday 5th Feilding Auto Electrical 75th Anniversary Winter Series Round 1 Race Day
 Saturday 11th Drift Tutoring – Back Track – Novice & Intermediate
 Friday 17th D1NZ
 Saturday 18th D1NZ
 Sunday 19th D1NZ
 Saturday 25th 75th MCC Anniversary Dinner



JULY

Saturday 2 nd	Feilding Auto Electrical Winter Series Round 2 Test Day
Sunday 3 rd	Feilding Auto Electrical 75 th Anniversary Winter Series Round 2 Race Day
Saturday 16 th	Drift Practice – 3km Track – Intermediate & Advanced
Sunday 17 th	Transpec / GT Oils Manfeild Open Day Round 2
Saturday 23 rd	National Race Meeting – Superkarts Day 1 / Mini Enduros
Sunday 24 th	National Race Meeting – Superkarts Day 2 / Mini Enduros
Saturday 30 th	Transpec / GT Oil 4.5km Bent Sprint

AUGUST

Saturday 6 th	Feilding Auto Electrical Winter Series Round 3 Test Day
Sunday 7 th	Feilding Auto Electrical 75 th Anniversary Winter Series Round 3 Race Day
Sunday 14 th	Transpec / GT Oil Back Track Autocross / Motorkhana
Saturday 20 th	Drift Tutoring – Back Track – Novice & Intermediate

SEPTEMBER

Saturday 3 rd	Feilding Auto Electrical Winter Series Round 4 Test Day
Sunday 4 th	Feilding Auto Electrical 75 th Anniversary Winter Series Round 4 Race Day
Saturday 10 th	Feilding Auto Electrical 75 th Anniversary Winter Series Prizegiving
Sunday 18 th	Transpec / GT Oils Manfeild Open Day Round 3

OCTOBER

Saturday 8 th	Drift Practice – 3km Track – Intermediate & Advanced
Friday 21 st	OctoberFAST!! Test Day
Saturday 22 nd	OctoberFAST!! Race Day
Sunday 23 rd	OctoberFAST!! Race Day

NOVEMBER

Sunday 6 th	Transpec / GT Oil Manfeild Open Day Round 4
Friday 11 th	MG Classic Day 1
Saturday 12 th	MG Classic Day 2
Sunday 13 th	MG Classic Day 3
Saturday 19 th	ShowVember Drift Comp

DECEMBER

Saturday 3 rd	Superkarts / Mitre 10 MEGA Summer Race Series Test Day
Sunday 4 th	Mitre 10 MEGA Summer Race Series Round 1
Saturday 10 th	MCC Christmas Party & BBQ



2021/22 MITRE 10 MEGA SUMMER SERIES - ROUND 2

Round 2 was held on the weekend of 26/27 February with racing on both days. Day 1 included testing sessions, volunteer training and rounds of the Hi-Q Component Formula First and New Zealand Superkart Championships, the latter attracting an entry of 35 competitors over four classes. The weather was fine and warm but under the Covid red light system there were no spectators.

The Formula First had an entry of 14 drivers, Saturday's race saw Dylan Grant beat Chris Symon by 2.145 seconds, the pair 20 seconds ahead of the field. Grant had bigger winning margins over the defending champion in first two races but Symon prevented a clean-sweep by the Aucklander in Race 3 by 2/10ths of a second in a grandstand finish after a four-car battle for the lead, third place was filled by Mason Potter who filled the same spot in the previous race, Zach Blincoe was third in the Saturday race. Sport Scholarship winner Jenson Bate began the weekend with a 4th, followed by an 8th and 9th.



Disappointingly only five RS Cup cars faced the starter. Connor Cleland was the fastest qualifier by 2.4 seconds over Rodney Penn, but Penn took the flag in the Scratch race by 4/10ths after a 6-lap battle. Starting from the back on the Reverse Grid the pair quickly worked their way to the front by Penn again edging out Cleland at the flag, this time by 0.38. David Penfold was first away in the Handicap with a 15 second start over Penn and 20 over Cleland, the Halcombe driver led from flag-to-flag and was 11 seconds ahead of Penn at the line.

Following a season's sabbatical Club President Richie Arber made a return to racing driving a Honda Civic courtesy of Nick Stewart, quickly adjusting to front-wheel-drive he placed third in all three races with the Honda unable to match the lap times of the two front runners.

The SF Cup field was a much healthier 16 cars and saw Ethan Donohue, Kane Anderson and David Thomsen heading the Qualifying time sheet, the entire field covered by less than five seconds. After starting from Row 6 Peter Edmond won the Scratch race, but time breakouts on five of six laps dropped him to a distant last, that left Donohue the victor by 3/10ths over Greg Browne with Thomsen third after narrowly holding off Anderson's challenge.

The drama in the Reverse Grid came on Lap 3 at the exit to Higgins when Browne's rally-prepared Honda lost its left front wheel, damage was minimal and repairs made in the pits. From the backrow Edmond and Donohue methodically progressed forward towards the front to finish first and third, the pair split by Dave Burroughs who started three grid rows ahead of them.



For the Handicap race Edmond gave Donohue a 5 second start and a group of six cars 20 seconds, the first three officials place getters came from that group. Again, Edmonds and his Volvo S40 weaved his way through the pack to take the flag but four breakout laps dropped him to last. Front rowers Spencer Morris and Glen Watson kept close throughout the race and were split by 0.526 at the line with Louis Kelly another 2/10ths back in third, the first 11 finishers covered by less than 8 seconds, outstanding handicapping.

There was a strong entry of 12 IB Cup cars with the nine fastest covered by 6.2 seconds in qualifying, Russell Chapman headed the sheet ahead of Michael Eden, Nick Stewart and Ian Thompson, all four drivers within 8/10ths. Stephen Marks missed the session but started the Scratch race from P3, he's been in very good form and the familiar red BMW crossed the line 3.8 seconds ahead of Michael Eden and Sandra Eden to complete a BMW trifecta. Despite picking up a break out time penalty Chapman claimed 4th place.

Nick Stewart finished a lap down in last place which gave him pole position for the Reverse Grid, he fully benefitted from the big advantage by beating Michael Eden to the flag by 1.04 seconds with Ian Thompson close behind in 3rd place.

In the Handicap race David Graham and Stephen Hamilton were flagged away first, Marks, Chapman and Thompson had to wait 20 seconds for the starting signal. Michael Eden nearly pulled back his 15 second handicap but was 0.63 behind Graham at the finish with Sandra Eden in P3 ahead of Chapman and Stewart. Daryl Hunter provided the drama when smoke billowed from his Ford Falcon in Lap 5, leaving a trail of oil through the esses to the hairpin, time for the cement spreaders.



The GT Cup drew an impressive 12 cars and saw Sean Browne heading the Qualifying times by 7/10ths over Jamie Potts, the pair being 2 seconds quicker than the Chev Camaro of James Broadbridge with Ian Williamson best of the rest. The expected battle didn't eventuate after Browne pitted after only two laps which allowed Potts to score a comfortable 10 second win over Williamson with Steve Hildred holding out Josh Donohue by 5/1000ths of a second in their great duel for third place. Sadly, it was a no-contest in the Reverse Grid after Potts retired after only a single lap, Browne going on to take the flag 12 seconds ahead of Williamson and Hildred, only seven of the eleven starters finished. The Handicap brought the two fastest cars together again, Chris Wall having a 45 second start over Potts who gave Browne 5 seconds. Despite suffering a smashed windscreen Potts reigned supreme, crossing the line 0.135 ahead of Donohue for a



stunning win, Hildred was third again with Browne having to settle for P4 and less than 5 seconds behind the winner.

The stars of Jamie Potts and Sean Browne are shining very brightly, they were so evenly matched as their fastest race laps of the day showed a difference of only 3/1000ths of a second. Unfortunately, the hoped for on-track duel didn't eventuate.

Considering all the circumstances, the 59-car entry was excellent, adding the Superkarts boosted that number to 94. Unfortunately, there was a computer malfunction on Sunday afternoon that resulted in a long delay and the eventual need to revert to manual lap scoring, special thanks to the Formula First officials for accepting the problem and allowing the meeting to proceed.

The third and final round of the Mitre 10 Mega Summer Series is scheduled on the weekend of 2nd and 3rd of April, with the return of the Super Trucks an addition to the programme. It's to be hoped that restrictions will have eased allowing spectators to attend.

RH

CLUB RACE TALK

There's been a particularly good start to the new-year for club members.

Justin Allen finished 10th overall in the 2020/2021 Best Bars Toyota 86 but a major form reversal brought a dramatic improvement to hold 2nd on the points table at the conclusion of the two South Island rounds in what is the strongest field in the series nine-year history. Mid-January's Round 1 at Highlands Motorsport Park saw the International Motorsport prepared NAPA backed car qualify second fastest before scoring 2nd, 9th and 3rd places in the three races. A week later at Ruapuna Park Justin qualified 3rd quickest less than 2/10ths off the pole time, the three races produced 4th, 3rd and 2nd placings, his 344 points putting him 61 points behind Simon Evans and eleven ahead of defending champion Rowan Shepherd.

Justin continued his good form in Round 3 at Hampton Downs where he scored four top 10 finishes despite the often-difficult track conditions The NAPA car was 5th on the qualifying sheet in the 20-car field but only 2/10ths off the fastest time, his results card for the four races showed 6th, 7th, 7th (Reverse Top 10) and 2nd, those results saw Jhim drop from second the third on the points table behind Evans and Shepherd, 87 points separate the trio. Round 4 is scheduled for Pukekohe Park Raceway on 4th-6th March with the final at Taupo International Motorsport Park on March 26/27th.

Members participating in other MSNZ Championship categories were also to the fore at the South Waikato track. Chris Symon and Jenson Bate were on the grid for Round 3 of the Hi-Q Components Formula First Championship, qualifying 3rd and 11th respectively. Title defender Symon won Race 2 and had placings of 6th and two 2nds in the other three races which has him 2nd equal on the points table with Leo Scott, 31 points behind Dylan Grant. In his first full season 2021 SpeedSport Scholarship winner Bate began the weekend with an 11th place before scoring three successive 3rds, he sits 6th overall in the championship.

The GTRNZ Championship has a club member in each category. In GT1-GT2 Sean Browne and his Lexus powered Nissan Sylvia were an impressive combination, being rewarded with a 2nd, 5th and 6th before a broken power steering pump brought a DNF in the final race. Mark Allen carried the clubs colours in GT3-GT4, after qualifying in the top 10 in the 31-car field his weekend brought placings of 3rd, 17th, 24th and 7th in a mixed bag of results.

Rising star Kaleb Ngatoa has spent the summer months back home in Marton but got some valuable wheel time by returning to where his career began. In late January the former national junior karting champion took part in the two-day City of Sails Kart meeting that attracted current FIA Formula 2 drivers Liam Lawson and Marcus Armstrong back to their roots, unfortunately the trio were racing in different classes, it was Kaleb's first time in a kart for four years and the following weekend he entered the CIK Trophy of NZ at the Hamilton track. Despite his eyes being firmly fixed on IndyCar racing, Kaleb has crossed the Tasman to contest the 2022 VHT \$5000 Australian Drivers Championship, again driving for the Adelaide-based Team BRM alongside defending champion Joey Mawson and Supercar driver Tim Slade. The six-round series began in Tasmania on 11-13th February and will be followed by a three round \$5000 Tasman Series that includes the Surfers Paradise Street circuit and Mt Panorama.

The opening round was at the Symmons Plain Raceway in Tasmania, a track where Kaleb hadn't previously raced and it proved to be a tough weekend that began in qualifying, issues with the car hampered progress and he posted the 8th quickest time in the field of nine cars. He continued to struggle to get on the pace in the first three races that brought placings of 9th, 7th and 7th, in the last race he was able to match the lap times of the front runners and finished 4th, 3/10ths off the podium. Round 2 is at Phillip Island in mid-March followed by Sandown Raceway where Kaleb scored the first of his two victories last year.

Across the Tasman Chris Pither is back in main game, the 36-year-old having been signed to drive for the new PremiAir Racing team after national champion top fuel drag racer Peter Xibberas purchased the Team Sydney Racing Entitlement Contracts. Starting with a clean sheet of paper, Xibberas immediately sent the two ZB Holden Commodore's to Triple Eight Engineering for upgrading. Pither's signing came at the expense of former club member Fabian Coulthard, the signing sees also sees Chris's Coca Cola sponsorship switching to his new team with his car carrying his '22' race number. The opening round of the 2021 Repco Supercar Championship is set for Sydney Motorsport Park on 4th/5th March.

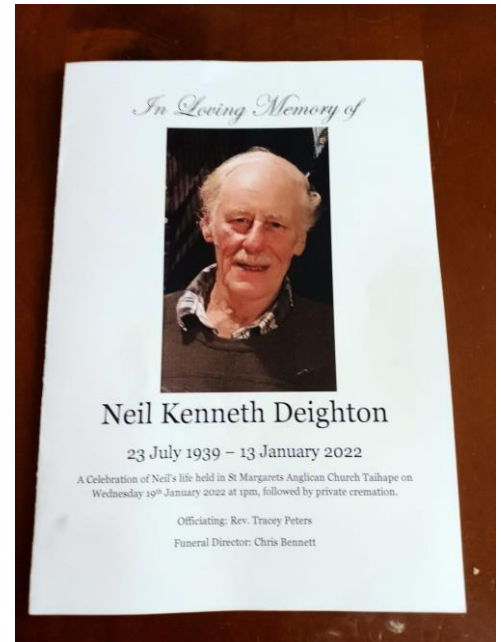
Meanwhile Brendon Hartley has to wait until 18th March for the opening round of the 2022 FIA World Endurance Championship, the 1,000 miles of Sebring, the official Prologue takes place a week earlier. This year the all-conquering Toyota Gazoo Racing GR010 hyper cars are expected to have stronger opposition in the second year of the LMDh category with two entries from Peugeot joining Scuderia Glickenhaus and the 'grandfathered' Alpine A480-Gibson. With the retirement of Kazuki Nakajima Brendon has a new co-driver in the # 8 car, young Japanese Toyota test driver Ryo Hirikawa. This year's championship is over six rounds ending with the 8 Hours of Bahrain on 12th November.

RH

THE CHECKER FALLS

Veteran club racer Neil Deighton passed away on 13th January at the Wanganui Hospital, he was 82 years old. The Mangaweka farmer's life was celebrated at St Margaret's Anglican Church in Taihape, attracting a large number of family, friends, people from the region and motor racing fraternity including a delegation representing the Manawatu Car Club.

No one enjoyed their racing more than Neil, in early days there an Austin A95 Westminster but the most talked about were his self-built cars. The word character is defined as "a combination of qualities distinguishing an individual", his rural background was evident, there was no time for politics and his cars were as colourful as he was. They were created in the farm's workshop with no fancy alloy wheels or carefully crafted flared guards, everything was done in-house. The 'Chavenger' was a 1970's Hillman Avenger repowered with the iconic slant six-cylinder Valiant Charger motor, while the 'Hupmorstin' was absolutely unique, the name suggests a combination of components sourced from various makes of cars - Hupmobile, Morris, Austin. It was an amazing example of home engineering and used the same Valiant Charger engine as the Chavenger, simply swapping the motor from one car to the other as required. Neil's passion for the Chrysler Valiant was evident, his tow car was a Valiant Wayfarer utility.



He was a Life Member of the Central Districts Car Club whose members transferred to the Manawatu Car Club when the organisation was dissolved. Farmer, husband, father, grandad and brother, Neil Deighton was a club racer who epitomised everything good about the sport while fully embracing the spirit of competition. Both the man and his remarkable creations leave a big gap on the Manfeild grid.

RH



"That's all Folks!"

