



## Historic Touring Car Association Championship - Round Two

23-24 February 2019

Wakefield Park

The second round of the 2019 PAYNTER DIXON HTCA championship was held on the weekend of 23 & 24 February, 2019 at Wakefield Park.

The event was held in conjunction with the first round of the CAMS NSW Motor Race Championship. Other categories competing at the event included Sports Sedans, Formula Vees, Production Touring Championship, HQ Holden and Superkarts.

Friday practice was available, as well as a ten-minute session on Saturday morning before qualifying. As we know, while the weather at this circuit can be unpredictable, fine conditions were in order for the weekend.

Fourteen Group Nb and Nc cars took part in the Saturday practice session. Brad Tilley immediately showed he would be difficult to topple with a strong showing, producing the fastest lap of 1:06. Next was Bill Attard in his Mazda with a time of 1:09. Our 2018 Club Champion Alex D'Onofrio, proudly displaying number one on his Cooper S, was in sixth place.

Qualifying produced a field of thirteen cars. Missing following practice was Jerry Lenstra and his Escort. However a welcome addition was former Club Champion Michael Anderson in his familiar and immaculate XY Falcon GT. It was exciting to see Michael return to Group N, and for him to do so in familiar fashion, with his large support crew of family members of all ages. Unfortunately, on the drive from Bathurst to the circuit, in fact just before the entry gate, Michael suffered a problem in the form of a kangaroo which collided with his tow vehicle.

Brad Tilley and Bill Attard qualified first and second followed by Michael Anderson and Adam Walton in his beautifully presented Mustang. The third row would be occupied by Chris Thomas in the sole Torana with David Noakes in the first of the Escorts alongside. The first Nb car was next, Michael Rose in car 289 the 1964 Mustang. Rounding out the field were Greg Tkacz in his Studebaker Cruiser and Chris Dubois in the 1300 Escort.

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With two seven lap races scheduled for Saturday and Sunday there was considerable anticipation as the cars left the formation grid to commence their warm-up lap.

Would the V8s and Torana be able to overcome the Rotary powered Mazda on the front row? Which of the four Minis would lead their group at the end of lap seven?

As the cars sorted their positions on the first lap of race one, it was apparent the racing would be close. Brad Tilley drove well to finish in front. Chris Thomas appeared set to resume his fine form from the Tasman meeting, eventually taking the Torana to third place behind Michael Anderson, both achieving 1:08 as their fastest lap. Meanwhile, a battle between the Noakes and Lenstra Escorts was resolved in favour of Noakes by a mere two-tenths of a second.

A commendable drive by Alex D'Onofrio who finished in eighth place and first Nb car. Two cars failed to finish - Michael Rose after one lap and Greg Tkacz, retiring the Studebaker after experiencing brake issues.

Race two saw thirteen cars form up for the race start. Michael Rose returned, while the Studebaker's brake problems meant it would be a non-starter for the rest of the weekend. While the race eventually saw Brad Tilley, Michael Anderson and Chris Thomas open a gap over the rest of the field, their racing was close with plenty of passing moves, yet good clean racing.

The first six places were a repeat of race one with Adam Walton fourth followed by Bill Attard and David Noakes. Mark Lenstra did all he could to pass the similar car of Noakes, but eventually fell short, losing seventh place to D'Onofrio. Michael Rose recovered from rear of grid to take ninth place with the Minis of Nathan Goulding and Nathan Stevenson next, followed by Chris Dubois and David Gray's Mini.

Sunday morning saw another fine day greet the thirteen starters for Race three. Michael Anderson knew a commitment would only allow him to take part in the first race. When the race started it was soon apparent Chris Thomas felt he could challenge Brad Tilley for the race lead. The well-driven Torana was a match for the number 28 Mustang on the twisty parts of the track with the sound of the Windsor V8 music to the ears of spectators as the Mustang opened the gap as they came down the front straight.



Michael Anderson ultimately fell back from the first pair and finished six tenths ahead of the Adam Walton Mustang with Bill Attard's Mazda next in fifth place. After the race, we were to discover that Michael had a 'moment' when the rubber on Michael's brake pedal decided to take a walk. Mark Lenstra displaced Alex D'Onofrio, again first Nb car, to finish just behind David Noakes, albeit with a marginally faster lap time. Michael Rose again finished ninth, followed by Nathan Goulding.

The final race did not include Alex D'Onofrio, who was concerned about a potential engine issue. At the front, the Tilley and Thomas battle resumed with each car and driver showing advantages on various parts of the track. Good, clean racing was the result, with the Tilley Mustang completing a clean-sweep of qualifying and races. The winning margin was only four tenths over Chris Thomas with Bill Attard in third place. The entertaining dual between the two Escorts was won this time by Mark Lenstra, finally beating David Noakes by a mere tenth. Adam Walton was next, followed by Michael Rose as the first Nb finisher, the three Minis and Chris Dubois in his Escort.

Our first event for 2019 saw the presentation of two new awards which are in place for all championship rounds in 2019.

First up was the Bowden's Own Best Presented car, which went to the immaculately prepared and maintained #57 Mustang of Adam Walton. Adam will shortly receive a pack of the quality Bowden's Own products to keep the Mustang looking sharp.

Second, another new sponsor to the club, Anglomoil Superior Lubricants, who will be supporting the HTCA NSW in the form of a product pack which will go to the chosen Anglomoil Superior Driver of each Round.

This round, it went to the much deserving Chris Thomas who once again showed great talent and speed in the XU1 Torana.

Congratulations to the award winners - both drivers and their support crews.

The \$100 Fuel Card voucher raffle was won by Bill Attard.

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On Saturday afternoon, Chris Dubois announced and handed out the trophies to the winners of the Saturday afternoon trophy race. The respective winners were:

Group Nb	First Place	Alex D'Onofrio
	Second Place	Nathan Goulding
	Third Place	Nathan Stevenson
Group Nc	First Place	Brad Tilley
	Second Place	Michael Anderson
	Third Place	Chris Thomas

A topic of conversation was the whereabouts of Vince Macri. It was soon explained that Vince was on duty for our Club at the CAMS 2019 Appointed Officials Seminar in Melbourne.

The presentation was also the opportunity to get together and share a drink and a bit of food, thanks to Roses Café, Yass. It was a great afternoon, and gave all a chance to trade a few stories with fellow competitors, team members and families.

All in all, the event was a great success. All competitors turned out their Historic touring cars to a very high standard, the racing was tight, clean and competitive and the event was supported by a well-co-ordinated event.

Our thanks go out to the support personnel, at CAMS (Darren Barlow), Wakefield Park (Dean Chapman), and our Driving Standards Officer, Martin Macri, who had a busy, but uneventful weekend, as all our races were incident-free.

The competitors left with big smiles after a successful start to our 2019 competition year, and spectator feedback complemented the Historic Touring cars for their level of presentation and exciting racing.

Our next event is the HSRCA meeting at Wakefield Park on 30 & 31 March.