



## Historic Touring Car Association Championship - Round Seven

30 November 2019 – 1 October 2019

Sydney Motorsport Park

HSRCA Summer Meeting

The final racing event for 2019 was held at Sydney Motorsport Park on 30 November and 1 December, 2019. This was the HSRCA Summer Meeting. The Group N field provided a significant grid of thirty seven cars, with Minis the most prevalent. With Toranas, Mazdas, Mustangs, Chargers, BMW, Escort and Jaguar amongst others, it was an impressive group. There were two races on Saturday afternoon, while Sunday was more complicated!

Qualifying produced a stunning pole position time of 1:46.7 by Chris Thomas in his Torana. Chris has had a good year! Next were the Mustangs of Ian Mewett and Adam Walton with Wayne Rogerson completing the second row in his Mazda. Wayne Cooper was the first Nb car in eighth place with Chris Collett the first Mini in thirteenth place.

In race 1, scheduled for six laps, Chris Thomas appeared to stall while Ian Mewett appeared to hesitate as he attempted a smooth start in his Mustang. Thomas stayed in touch with the two Mustangs for the duration. From the second and third rows, the Mazdas of Rogerson and Attard appeared evenly matched as they drove towards the first turn. When the first cars appeared, heading towards turn four, Walton led Mewett while Attard had passed Rogerson for third place. John Burke was initially fourth in his Charger. Chris Collett led the Mini brigade and continued to the finish in fifteenth place with David Gray the next Mini while Alex D'Onofrio retired after three laps. At the front, Walton was in the lead, compliments of his cornering and braking because the Mewett Mustang's top speed on the front straight was up to 244kmh, easily surpassing Walton's car. It took four laps before Mewett took the inside line heading to turn four and took the lead. Attard and Rogerson were close together until the yellow car eased away from Rogerson. Towards the end of the race Spencer Rice in his Alfa GTV came under some pressure from Wayne Cooper's Mustang and finished 1/100<sup>th</sup> of a second ahead! At the finish it was Mewett first, Walton second with Thomas next in his Torana. Tony Land and Ray Hepburn in his Mustang had a race-long battle, eventually finishing with Land 1/10 ahead of the Mustang.



For reasons known to the organisers, Race two for Nc was later followed by a race for Group Nb. Rather than grid positions following from Race one, they were based on qualifying times. Therefore, for Nc, Chris Thomas was on pole position with Ian Mewett in position two. With Thomas and Mewett both failing to execute the best of their start from row one, it was Thomas who initially led Walton. As the leaders came down the front straight for the first time, Walton appeared to pass Thomas easily. After two laps Thomas's race was over as the Torana was retired with mechanical issues. The contest between the two Mazdas continued with Rogerson just finishing ahead of Attard. John Burke was fifth, the Charger performing well but suffering from over-heating after several laps. Hepburn and Tony Land continued their close racing with the Mustang one second ahead of the Capri.

The six lap Race two for Nb saw Wayne Cooper's Mustang on pole position with Graeme Woolhouse in position two. Toepfer and Taite were on the second row. Collett made an excellent start from the third row, and was rounding up the leaders as the cars disappeared out of sight. Greg Toepfer drove his Mustang past Collett as they came down the front straight to complete the first lap. Alex D'Onofrio was close to Collett and overtook him, only to be re-passed on the same lap. On the next lap D'Onofrio dropped back from Collett and then retired from the event. In the end it was the three Mustangs of Woolhouse, Cooper and Toepfer followed by the Minis of Collett and Goulding.

Sunday morning's race returned to a combined Nb and Nc grid over eight laps. This saw Ian Mewett on pole position beside Adam Walton with Wayne Cooper the first Nb car in position eight. As the field approached the grid, Chris Thomas drove into pitlane. Mewett again had difficulty getting the Mustang off the line as Walton took the lead and Attard's Mazda moved into second place. The first time down the straight Mewett overtook the Mazda. Collett was enjoying the weekend and was again the first Mini but was passed by Munday's Mustang at the end of the second lap. Land had the Capri close to the back of Toepfer's Mustang. As the field commenced the third lap Cooper and Woolhouse were engaged in a close battle. David Gray attempted to drive his Mini onto the grass at turn one as his car suffered a major mechanical issue. Meanwhile, out of sight, Woolhouse had apparently collided with the rear of Cooper's Mustang. These incidents led to the deployment of the Safety Car for several laps as the Mini was removed and the track cleaned. Graeme Woolhouse retired his car while Cooper continued. With two laps to race after the Safety Car left the circuit Walton made the most of the re-start with Mewett closely following. As the leaders appeared around corporate hill, Mewett had his Mustang sideways as he attempted to catch Walton. The recovery from this move



was spectacular! He ultimately overtook Walton to take the win but had received a five second penalty which relegated him to fourth place. Second was Attard followed by Rogerson. Cooper continued, despite a shortened boot, to be the first Nb car across the finish line. Tony Land again led Hepburn and Chris Collett was the first Mini finisher in twelfth place.

The final race was a four-lap dash with Walton on pole position and Attard in second position. Wayne Cooper was the first Nb car in position five beside Greg Toepfer. Repairs had been effected to the rear of Cooper's car enabling the boot lid to be shut and the car looking much as it should. From the front of the grid Attard made an excellent start although he later succumbed to Rogerson, the engine in the yellow Mazda no longer in the best of health. Collett continued his good form, at one point very close to the rear of the Muller Chevrolet, ultimately finishing the race ahead. As Walton and Mewett came onto the front straight to begin the dash to the chequered flag, Mewett exited the final turn with exuberance, and two wheels off the track. This slowed his run to the flag and Walton completed the race in first place with Mewett second and Rogerson third. Cooper was the first Nb finisher.

### Trophies

Group Nc, [results](#) were:

- First place – Ian Mewett (Ford Mustang).
- Second place - Adam Walton (Ford Mustang).
- Third place – Chris Thomas – (Holden Torana).

Group Nb, [results](#) were:

- First place – Wayne Cooper (Ford Mustang).
- Second place – Greg Toepfer (Ford Mustang).
- Third place – Graeme Woolhouse – Ford Mustang).

### Awards

Our thanks to all the sponsors who provided awards for this event.

The Anglomoil Best Driver Award went to Bill Attard, who displayed great consistency in close racing over the whole weekend.

The **Bowdens Own** Best Presented Car went to Tony and Steve Land, who delivered an immaculate Ford Capri – yet again.