



Historic Touring Car Association Championship - Round Seven

29 February 2020– 1 March 2020

Wakefield Park

CAMS Round

The first race meeting for Historic Touring Cars was held at Wakefield Park on 29 February and 1 March, 2020.

The writer acknowledges the number of competitors was below expectations. Why? Some suggested the proximity to the Phillip Island Historic meeting scheduled for the following weekend. However, I understand the number of Group N cars attending this meeting is small. Last year our first meeting attracted twenty cars.

This meeting provided a session for practice as well as qualifying. There was also Friday practice for those who wanted additional track time to hone their skills and ensure their cars were race-ready. Chris O'Brien's weekend ended on Friday when his XY Falcon experienced a mechanical issue. Seven cars started Saturday practice, with two 'new' cars present. Jerry Lenstra had his recently acquired Mk 1 Cortina GT, resplendent in black with a gold leaf stripe. The Cortina came from Queensland and was last raced in 2013. Jerry said he has been working on the suspension and ensuring items which may have deteriorated since the car last raced were attended to. The other 'new' car was a red Nb Mustang being driven by Jamie Tilley. The car was previously owned by Max Ullrich and hasn't raced since 2014. Despite extensive attention over the weekend, the car was plagued by brake issues which prevented Jamie from showing what the future potential may be. Another car and driver combination we haven't seen for some time was Jason Foley in his Falcon GT. The car experienced over-heating and didn't reappear until Sunday. There were four Nc and three Nb cars to commence the weekend.

Qualifying saw the Mustangs of David Stone and Ben Wilkinson fastest, despite the brake pedal of Wilkinson's car apparently detaching! Third was Tony Land driving the Capri. Jamie Tilley's brake problems continued, leaving him in fourth place. Jerry Lenstra's left front wheel came off during qualifying. David Gray, in the only Mini competing, rounded out the field.

The first race on Saturday afternoon was seven laps. Stone and Wilkinson had a fairly even start with Stone edging Wilkinson for the lead. Both had fastest lap times of 1:08. Land was in third place. All three were shown as being under the lap record, set by Ross Donnelley in 2000 in his Mustang.



David Gray was the first Nb finisher in fourth place with Jamie Tilley and Lenstra failing to complete the race.

Sunday morning presented a field of seven for the first race of the day, again scheduled for seven laps. This was the Trophy Race. The race saw the return of Jason Foley, Jamie Tilley and Jerry Lenstra. With Stone on pole position beside Wilkinson's Mustang, it was expected these two would contest the first corners. However, when the flag dropped, Stone's Mustang didn't launch as he expected and he was soon back to sixth place. This meant Wilkinson led, followed by Land. As Jamie Tilley showed good progression, he was up to fifth place before the completion of the first lap. However, Stone was up to second place as the second lap began. The Lenstra Cortina stopped, safely off the circuit, when the car suffered a front suspension failure. The second lap saw Foley in fourth place and Stone was challenging Wilkinson for the race lead. It was clear Foley wanted third place as he drew closer to the Land Capri. Gray drove consistently behind this pair in his Mini. Despite Foley's best efforts, albeit in a car that was still over-heating, he couldn't pass Land. Stone and Wilkinson continued their battle at the front with Wilkinson leading and appearing to have better corner speed coming onto the front straight. Despite spending a considerable time attempting to solve the brake issues, as Jamie Tilley braked at the end of the back straight, one brake locked on and the car wouldn't move, despite Jamie attempting to drive off the circuit. The Safety Car was deployed for two laps, leaving the track in time for one flying lap. The positions remained the same.

The second race of the day was fourteen laps. Wilkinson and Stone were on the front row, although this time it was Wilkinson on pole position. Foley decided his over-heating wouldn't get better and his weekend was finished. Tilley started at the rear of the grid behind Gray's Mini. As the race started, Stone made amends for his previous start by making a good initial start, however he was passed by Wilkinson, while Tilley passed Gray. Land was in third place. On lap two, Tilley was close to the Capri but Land showed good corner exit speed, particularly as they headed up the hill. Stone and Wilkinson both set their fastest laps, 1:08. As they started lap three, Stone had moved close to the rear of Wilkinson's Mustang and Jamie Tilley had lost some ground to Land. On lap five Stone passed Wilkinson on the front straight. On the following lap it was apparent Wilkinson was slowing as Land and Tilley caught the Mustang, which retired at the end of the lap. This placed Land in second and Tilley third. Stone was gradually opening the gap at the front. As the laps continued, Tilley slipped back from Land by a few seconds. However, this didn't continue as Tilley made up ground with a lap time of 1:10 on lap 12. It appeared he was set to challenge for second position. As the race finished, Stone was well in front with Land second and Tilley third. Gray drove a consistent race to finish in fourth place.



The final event was five laps. Due to their mechanical woes, Wilkinson and Tilley didn't start this race, leaving a field of Stone, Land and Gray. From position two, Land made a good start and momentarily led until Stone took over. On the first lap Stone maintained a conservative pace, then set his fastest lap of this race. Stone slowly opened the gap to Land while Gray continued in third place. At race end, Stone finished in front, followed by Land who set his fastest lap on the final lap, with Gray in third place. However, the result sheet shows Stone was issued a five second penalty, reason unknown to the writer, elevating Land to the race win.

Trophies

Trophies were handed out by Committee member Ken Ballantyne.

Group Nc, [results](#) were:

- First place – Ben Wilkinson (Ford Mustang).
- Second place – David Stone (Ford Mustang).
- Third place – Tony Land – (Ford Capri).

Group Nb, [results](#) were:

- First place – David Gray (Morris Mini Cooper S).

Awards

Awards were managed by Committee members Candice Travica and Ken Ballantyne.

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

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

The Best Presented Car went to Ben Wilkinson, who delivered an immaculate Ford Mustang.

Full race results are available at <http://racing.natsoft.com.au/results/#2>.

The photo gallery for the HTCA NSW 2020 Round 1 is available at <https://htcansw.org.au/round-1-february-2020/>.