

HSRCA Sydney Classic
Sydney Motorsport Park – Gardner Circuit
12 – 13 June 2021

The HSRCA's Sydney Classic was dedicated by all to the late Ron Tauranac, featuring Brabham and Ralt cars, and the HTCA NSW was privileged to participate at this event.

This report records the efforts, experiences and loyalty returned by HTCA NSW members to our 2021 sponsors by adorning their vehicles with the appropriate Paynter Dixon and Castrol signage on their windscreens and doors.

For many, the weekend began with Friday practice. The track was shrouded in thick fog which meant a late start as vision was severely restricted. However shortly after the drivers briefing, the sun appeared and the fog soon cleared. The track remained damp for several sessions. The day was mostly without incident for Group N competitors, except Steve Shepard circulated on Friday, hoping a bicep tear would hold-up for the meeting, but withdrew from the event on Saturday morning.

A total of 24 Group N competitors - with an even split of 12 Class Nb cars, and 12 Class Nc cars - readied themselves for practice at just after 10 am on Saturday morning. John Harrison (1965 Ford Mustang) and Greg Schwenke (192 Mazda RX-2) made the journey from the Central West of NSW to be there, Michael Rose (1964 Ford Mustang) travelled from Goulburn, Vince Harmer (1972 Volvo 164E) and Ken Lee (1964 Morris Cooper S) from the ACT

Qualifying

23 competitors went to qualifying, with 12 HTCA NSW members displaying the signage for the HTCA NSW Club sponsors.

This was a Mustang lock-out of the first two rows. Brad Tilley (1966 Ford Mustang) laid down a 1:44.271 to gain pole position in qualifying. Adam Walton (1966 Ford Mustang) followed, notching up second fastest time with a 1:46.02. Ian Mewett (1969 Ford Mustang), visiting from Queensland, recorded a 1:47.49, the third fastest time. John Harrison took fourth fastest in his 1965 Ford Mustang.

Then came the first Class Nb car – Andrew Bergan in his 1963 Morris Cooper S, recording a 1:52.66 and gaining fifth place.

Pos	Car	Driver	Vehicle	Cap	CL	Laps	Fastest lap	
1	28	Brad Tilley (NSW)	Ford Mustang Nc 1966	4735	NC	4	1	1:44.2711*
2	57	Adam Walton (NSW)	Ford Mustang 1966	4860	NC	5	1	01:46.0
3	55	Ian Mewett (QLD)	Ford Mustang 1969	5631	NC	4	1	01:47.5
4	89	John Harrison (NSW)	Ford Mustang 1965	4800	NC	7	3	01:50.1
5	12	Andrew Bergan (NSW)	Morris Cooper S 1963	1293	NB	6	5	01:52.7
6	77	David Noakes (NSW)	Ford Escort RS1600 1	1600	NC	6	6	01:53.0
7	64	Gregory Schwenke (NSW)	Mazda RX-2 1972	2063	NC	6	2	01:53.2
9	35	Michael Rose (NSW)	Ford Mustang 1964	4799	NB	4	3	01:54.0
14	5	Anthony Colton (WA)	Ford MK1 Lotus Cortina	1598	NB	2	2	01:58.2
15	73	Hubert Zochling (NSW)	Holden Torana GTR XU	3310	NC	5	4	01:58.4
18	39	Christopher Dubois (NSW)	Ford Escort 1971	1300	NC	6	5	01:59.6
20	44	Vincent Harmer (ACT)	Volvo 164E 1972	2998	NC	6	4	02:01.0

Race 1.

This was the weekend's trophy race.

23 competitors started Race 1, with 12 HTCA NSW members displaying the signage for the HTCA NSW Club sponsors.

Race 1 commenced at 1.32 pm on Saturday, but not without early incident. As the field formed up to take the start, Michael Rose moved his Mustang off the track, onto the grass infield. The front brakes were binding on the Mustang. Drivers were directed to switch their cars off while a tilt tray recovered the Mustang. They then completed another formation lap, with the race distance shortened to five laps.

When the lights went out, the start between Tilley and Walton was close, however it was Tilley who led the field into turn one. Greg Schwenke in his RX-2 made a good start, passing the Mini of Bergan and Noakes Escort to move into fifth place. As the cars appeared in the run to turn four, it was Tilley, Walton, Harrison, Mewett, Bergan right on the tail of Schwenke followed by Noakes. While Tilley and Walton moved ahead of Harrison and Mewett, further back the Torana of Zochling appeared to be moving forward while Colton had passed Lenstra in their battle.

Bergan passed Schwenke into turn eight, always a good passing place for Minis. However, Noakes and Schwenke passed the Mini down the straight as the three drivers engaged in good, close racing.

At the front Tilley led Walton by almost six seconds, while Mewett overtook Harrison on the front straight and gradually opened the gap. When the Mazda, Mini and Escort next appeared out of turn three, Bergan and Noakes had passed Schwenke, the Mazda locked in fourth gear. Brad Tilley slowed on the final lap, allowing Adam Walton to finish close behind. Next were Mewett, Harrison, Noakes and Bergan the first Nb car in 6th position.

This five-lap race saw Brad Tilley take the flag, followed by Adam Walton, with Ian Mewett taking out 3rd place.

Andrew Bergan was the first Class Nb car home, and he bettered his qualifying time by recording a 1:52.49 on lap 4. Will Colton competed in his ever-reliable Mark 1 Ford Lotus Cortina and he was the second Class Nb HTCA NSW competitor home.

Pos	Car	Driver	Vehicle	Cap	CL	Laps	Race Time	Fastest Lap
1	28	Brad Tilley (NSW)	Ford Mustang Nc 1966	4735	NC	5	09:06.4	3 1:45.6072*
2	57	Adam Walton (NSW)	Ford Mustang 1966	4860	NC	5	09:06.7	2 01:47.1
3	55	Ian Mewett (QLD)	Ford Mustang 1969	5631	NC	5	09:14.6	4 01:47.6
4	89	John Harrison (NSW)	Ford Mustang 1965	4800	NC	5	09:19.4	2 01:49.4
5	77	David Noakes (NSW)	Ford Escort RS1600 1	1600	NC	5	09:33.0	5 01:51.9
6	12	Andrew Bergan (NSW)	Morris Cooper S 1963	1293	NB	5	09:33.2	4 01:52.5
7	64	Gregory Schwenke (NSW)	Mazda RX-2 1972	2063	NC	5	09:41.9	4 01:52.7
10	5	Anthony Colton (WA)	Ford MK1 Lotus Cortina	1598	NB	5	09:57.2	5 01:56.8
13	73	Hubert Zochling (NSW)	Holden Torana GTR XU	3310	NC	5	10:10.5	2 01:59.2
15	39	Christopher Dubois (NSW)	Ford Escort 1971	1300	NC	5	10:12.9	4 01:59.3
19	44	Vincent Harmer (ACT)	Volvo 164E 1972	2998	NC	5	10:43.8	4 01:58.0
DNF	35	Michael Rose (NSW)	Ford Mustang 1964	4799	NB			

Race 2.

Race 2, which was run at night under lights was great spectacle.

22 competitors started this race, with 11 HTCA NSW members displaying the HTCA NSW Club sponsors. This race was conducted over six laps.

Brad Tilley again showed a clean pair of heels to all and sundry. Ian Mewett improved his qualifying position by one, taking second place, disposing of Adam Walton.

From the start it was Brad Tilley leading from Adam Walton with Ian Mewett followed by John Harrison's Mustang. However, Walton received a five second penalty for a jumped start, relegating him to 3rd place.

Andrew Bergan continued where he left off in race one, again being the first Group Nb car. Andrew started in 5th place and maintained that position for every lap. He was followed by David Noakes in the Escort. David, in the beautifully prepared Ford Escort RS1600, passed another on lap one to move to 6th place, and cruised the remaining laps to take that finishing position.

Another to make progress in this race was Hugh Zochling in his Torana. Following some tips from Jamie Tilley, he progressed to finish in 11th place.

Following the disappointment of not making the start in race one, Michael Rose was on a mission, storming through the field from rear of grid to finish in 7th place. All starters made their way to the finish of this event.

Chris Dubois, starting at 14th place in his Ford Escort, eventually crossing the line in 16th.

Michael Rose, moved from 13th on lap 1 to 11th, then 9th in lap 3, 8th on lap 4 and securing 7th on lap 5 and finishing there, displacing Will Colton to 8th place in the process.

Ian Mewett's weekend ground to halt when he experienced mechanical issues.

Pos	Car	Driver	Vehicle	Cap	CL	Laps	Race Time	Fastest Lap	
1	28	Brad Tilley (NSW)	Ford Mustang Nc 1966	4735	NC	6	10:56.5	2	1:46.6850*
2	55	Ian Mewett (QLD)	Ford Mustang 1969	5631	NC	6	10:57.5	4	01:47.7
3	57	Adam Walton (NSW)	Ford Mustang 1966	4860	NC	6	11:01.7	3	01:48.0
4	89	John Harrison (NSW)	Ford Mustang 1965	4800	NC	6	11:19.6	6	01:51.3
5	12	Andrew Bergan (NSW)	Morris Cooper S 1963	1293	NB	6	11:28.3	5	01:52.5
6	77	David Noakes (NSW)	Ford Escort RS1600 1	1600	NC	6	11:41.6	3	01:54.0
7	35	Michael Rose (NSW)	Ford Mustang 1964	4799	NB	6	11:47.6	6	01:53.1
8	5	Anthony Colton (WA)	Ford MK1 Lotus Cortina	1598	NB	6	11:53.4	3	01:56.3
11	73	Hubert Zochling (NSW)	Holden Torana GTR XU	3310	NC	6	12:19.8	5	01:57.2
16	39	Christopher Dubois (NSW)	Ford Escort 1971	1300	NC	6	12:28.4	5	02:01.4
22	44	Vincent Harmer (ACT)	Volvo 164E 1972	2998	NC	6	13:06.2	4	01:59.2

Race 3.

20 competitors started this six-lap race, with 10 HTCA NSW members displaying the HTCA NSW Club sponsors.

Mustangs again dominated, taking the first three places. David Noakes continued to wave the four-cylinder flag by bringing his Ford Escort RS1600 home in 4th place – just pipping Andrew Bergan on the last lap. Then followed Andrew Bergan, who brought his Mini Cooper S home in 5th overall place – the first Class Nb car.

Will Colton, in his Lotus Cortina, started in 9th place, elevated himself to 7th on lap two and was never challenged thereafter. Chris Dubois steered his Ford Escort from a starting position of 12th to 11th on lap 2, and then back to 12th for the remaining of the race, as Michael Rose impressed, taking his Ford Mustang from 19th starting place to 15th on lap 1, 11th on lap 2, then 10th on lap 4, eventually finishing in 9th place.

Vince Harmer enjoyed his Volvo 164E, circulating in 18th, and 17th, eventually fishing in 16th place.

Pos	Car	Driver	Vehicle	Cap	CL	Laps	Race Time	Fastest Lap	
1	28	Brad Tilley (NSW)	Ford Mustang Nc 1966	4735	NC	6	10:59.7	2	1:44.9273*
2	57	Adam Walton (NSW)	Ford Mustang 1966	4860	NC	6	10:59.8	2	01:47.1
3	89	John Harrison (NSW)	Ford Mustang 1965	4800	NC	6	11:13.3	4	01:50.4
4	77	David Noakes (NSW)	Ford Escort RS1600 1	1600	NC	6	11:20.7	6	01:50.9
5	12	Andrew Bergan (NSW)	Morris Cooper S 1963	1293	NB	6	11:21.0	4	01:51.8
7	5	Anthony Colton (WA)	Ford MK1 Lotus Cortina	1598	NB	6	11:44.4	5	01:54.7
9	35	Michael Rose (NSW)	Ford Mustang 1964	4799	NB	6	11:51.3	4	01:52.9
10	73	Hubert Zochling (NSW)	Holden Torana GTR XU	3310	NC	6	11:52.8	3	01:56.0
12	39	Christopher Dubois (NSW)	Ford Escort 1971	1300	NC	6	12:13.5	2	01:59.0
16	44	Vincent Harmer (ACT)	Volvo 164E 1972	2998	NC	6	12:45.2	5	02:04.2

Race 4.

17 competitors started this six-lap race, with 10 HTCA NSW members displaying the HTCA NSW Club sponsors.

Brad Tilley completed a perfect Round, again securing 1st place, after dicing with Adam Walton who had started first on the grid maintained the front until lap 3 when Brad Tilley passed him, then re-taking the lead for laps 4 and 5, when he suffered gearbox failure, handing the chequered flag to Brad. John Harrison improved to 2nd place in this race, and Andrew Began finished his weekend on a great note, again bringing his Morris Cooper S home as the first Nb car, in 3rd spot. David Noakes circulated for five laps in 5th place, eventually finishing in 4th, overtaking another on the final lap. Will Colton held 9th for the first five laps, and finishing in 8th after Adam Walton retired. Chris Dubois came home in 10th Vince Harmer in 12th and Michael Rose in 13th – Race 3 might have taken more out of Michael than he thought!!

Pos	Car	Driver	Vehicle	Cap	CL	Laps	Race Time	Fastest Lap	
1	28	Brad Tilley (NSW)	Ford Mustang Nc 1966	4735	NC	6	11:15.1	5	01:50.9
2	89	John Harrison (NSW)	Ford Mustang 1965	4800	NC	6	11:21.0	4	01:51.1
3	12	Andrew Bergan (NSW)	Morris Cooper S 1963	1293	NB	6	11:29.3	3	01:52.6
4	77	David Noakes (NSW)	Ford Escort RS1600 1	1600	NC	6	11:33.9	3	01:53.2
6	5	Anthony Colton (WA)	Ford MK1 Lotus Cortina	1598	NB	6	11:50.4	5	01:56.2
8	73	Hubert Zochling (NSW)	Holden Torana GTR XU	3310	NC	6	12:02.3	6	01:57.5
10	39	Christopher Dubois (NSW)	Ford Escort 1971	1300	NC	6	12:20.7	3	02:01.0
12	44	Vincent Harmer (ACT)	Volvo 164E 1972	2998	NC	6	12:31.8	6	02:02.1
13	35	Michael Rose (NSW)	Ford Mustang 1964	4799	NB	6	12:33.5	2	01:57.2
DNF	57	Adam Walton (NSW)	Ford Mustang 1966	4860	NC	5	09:22.3	5	1:50.8502*

Hugh Zochling was the event's hard charger - moving up the field in each race, going from 15th in Race 1, to 11th in race 2, 10th in Race 3, and 8th in Race 4.

Trophies.

Race 2 was determined as the Trophy Race for the weekend. David Noakes Jnr and Chris Dubois did the honours with the awards, which went as follows:

Group Nb First Place	Andrew Bergan
Group Nb Second Place	Michael Rose
Group Nb Third Place	Will Colton
Group Nc First Place	Brad Tilley
Group Nc Second Place	Ian Mewett
Group Nc Third Place	Adam Walton

HSRCA also provided a "Best Presented Award to David Noakes Jnr for his Ford Escort RS1600 – no surprise to anyone about that, as the car is immaculate.