



Historic Touring Car Association – ARDC Masterblast

9 – 10 September 2023

Sydney Motorsport Park

The 2023 ARDC Masterblast event was held at the Gardner circuit of Sydney Motorsport Park. It was a welcome sight to see all NSW organising and competing done as one Historic Touring Cars group, under the steerage of David Noakes, who had a busy time negotiating with ARDC officials.

Entry field

The entry field comprised nineteen cars in total - six Group Nb cars, and thirteen Group Nc cars. Mark Blyfield made the long trek from South Australia to compete in his Holden Torana GTR XU1, with Aldo De Paoli and Ray and Kerry Hepburn coming even further – from Perth. Vince Harmer made a welcome appearance in his immaculate Volvo 164e. Welcome sightings were also Alex D’Onofrio and Craig Stephenson.

There was no doubt that the absence of Wakefield Park in 2023 has had an effect on competitor numbers in NSW, as many NSW members travelled interstate during the season to compete. This was again the case at this event, with three NSW Minis being given dispensation to shake-down their cars on practice day at this event so that they could prepare for a race event later in the year at Tailem Bend.

Car	Driver First name	Driver last name	Competitor/Team	State	Vehicle	Cap	CL
270	John	Battersby	Batmac Constructions	(NSW)	Austin Cooper S	1296	NB
271	Paul	Battersby	Batmac Constructions	(NSW)	Morris Cooper S	1282	NB
353	Michael	Bevan	Awesome Pools and Spas	(NSW)	Holden Torana GTR XU1	3300	NC
48	Mark	Blyfield	M Blyfield	(SA)	Holden Torana GTR XU1	3310	NC
93	John	Burke	J Burke	(NSW)	Charger R/T	4300	NC
5	Alex	D’Onofrio	Gary White Racing	(NSW)	Morris Cooper S	1293	NB
96	Aldo	De Paoli	AJA Racing/NLS Fluid Solutions	(WA)	Chevrolet Camaro	5800	NC
44	Vince	Harmer	VH Racing	(ACT)	Volvo 164e	2998	NC
59	Ray	Hepburn	Ray & Kerry	(WA)	Ford Mustang	5853	NC
14	Mark	Lenstra	Allterrian Motorsport	(NSW)	Ford Escort RS1600	1600	NC
122	Loris	Mariotto	L Mariotto	(NSW)	Volvo 122s	1992	NB
6	Ross	Muller	R Muller	(NSW)	Hillman Hunter	1800	NC
27	David	Noakes	Noakes Motorsport	(NSW)	Ford Escort	1600	NC
54	Stephen	Page	Stephen Page	(NSW)	BMW 2002	2000	NC
295	Spencer	Rice	Spencer Rice	(NSW)	Alfa Romeo	2000	NC
31	Craig	Stephenson	BC Connections/Elite Manufactu	(NSW)	Holden EH	2989	NB
88	Gregory	Toepfer	G Toepfer	(NSW)	Ford Mustang	4940	NB
72	Paul	Tierney	J T Mifsud Electrical	(NSW)	Holden Torana GTR XU1	3300	NC
73	Hugh	Zochling	HG Motorsport/Hadley Green Inv	(NSW)	Holden Torana GTR XU1	3310	NC



Qualifying

Qualifying commenced on Saturday at 10:34 am.

Aldo De Paoli secured first place, with John Burke coming in second.

Attrition had already started. The Ford Escort of Mark Lenstra suffered oil pressure problems, the Paul Tierney Holden Torana GTR XU1 was seen to be looking for compression, (which was not found and the car was not seen again), and the Morris Cooper S of Alex D'Onofrio had a mystery illness. Paul Battersby's Morris Cooper S was having some fine-tuning issues following his first run with a refreshed motor. Hugh Zochling (Holden Torana GTR XU1) had gear stick issues and Craig Stephenson's holden EH blew a head gasket.

Pos	Car	Driver First name	Driver last name	State	Competitor/Team	Vehicle	Cap	CL	Laps	Fastest...Lap	Gap	
1	96	Aldo	De Paoli	(WA)	AJA Racing/NLS Fluid Solutions	Chevrolet Camaro	5800	NC	5	3	1:45.9052*	
2	93	John	Burke	(NSW)	J Burke	Charger R/T	4300	NC	3	3	01:50.178	00:04.272
3	295	Spencer	Rice	(NSW)	Spencer Rice	Alfa Romeo	2000	NC	3	1	01:50.208	00:04.303
4	88	Gregory	Toepfer	(NSW)	G Toepfer	Ford Mustang	4940	NB	3	2	01:51.458	00:05.553
5	27	David	Noakes	(NSW)	Noakes Motorsport	Ford Escort	1600	NC	6	2	01:51.867	00:05.962
6	59	Ray	Hepburn	(WA)	Ray & Kerry	Ford Mustang	5853	NC	6	4	01:53.198	00:07.293
7	48	Mark	Blyfield	(SA)	M Blyfield	Holden Torana GTR XU1	3310	NC	7	2	01:53.788	00:07.883
8	14	Mark	Lenstra	(NSW)	Allterrian Motorsport	Ford Escort RS1600	1600	NC	3	3	01:54.110	00:08.205
9	353	Michael	Bevan	(NSW)	Awesome Pools and Spas	Holden Torana GTR XU1	3300	NC	6	2	01:54.779	00:08.874
10	271	Paul	Battersby	(NSW)	Batmac Constructions	Morris Cooper S	1282	NB	3	2	01:54.934	00:09.029
11	54	Stephen	Page	(NSW)	Stephen Page	BMW 2002	2000	NC	5	2	01:55.789	00:09.883
12	73	Hugh	Zochling	(NSW)	HG Motorsport/Hadley Green Inv	Holden Torana GTR XU1	3310	NC	2	2	01:58.008	00:12.103
13	31	Craig	Stephenson	(NSW)	BC Connections/Elite Manufactu	Holden EH	2989	NB	4	3	01:59.767	00:13.862
14	122	Loris	Mariotto	(NSW)	L Mariotto	Volvo 122s	1992	NB	6	6	02:02.999	00:17.094
15	270	John	Battersby	(NSW)	Batmac Constructions	Austin Cooper S	1296	NB	5	5	02:03.885	00:17.980
16	44	Vince	Harmer	(ACT)	VH Racing	Volvo 164e	2998	NC	5	5	02:06.066	00:20.161
17	6	Ross	Muller	(NSW)	R Muller	Hillman Hunter	1800	NC	5	4	02:06.223	00:20.317
	5	Ale'	D'Onofrio	(NSW)	Gary White Racing	Morris Cooper S	1293	NB				
	72	Paul	Tierney	(NSW)	J T Mifsud Electrical	Holden Torana GTR XU1	3300	NC				



Race 1

The race got underway at 12:34 pm on Saturday.

This was a start-to-finish display by Aldo De Paoli.

The battle for second place saw a good contest between John Burke (Charger R/T) and Spencer Rice (Alfa Romeo), while Ray Hepburn (Ford Mustang) sadly had a coming together with a concrete wall on the exit of turn 6 on lap 3– his car suffering significant damage which would see his race weekend come to an end.

Greg Toepfer (Ford Mustang) and David Noakes (Ford Escort RS1600) had a good duel, finishing in fourth and fifth place respectively, while Mark Blyfield came in sixth, no doubt getting used to his Nankang tyre choice.

Pos	Car	Driver First name	Driver last name	Competitor/Team	State	Vehicle	Cap	CL	Laps	Race Time	Fastest...Lap	
1	96	Aldo	De Paoli	AJA Racing/NLS Fluid Solutions	(WA)	Chevrolet Camaro	5800	NC	8	14:57.063	3	1:45.7830*
2	93	John	Burke	J Burke	(NSW)	Charger R/T	4300	NC	8	14:58.566	4	01:51.024
3	295	Spencer	Rice	Spencer Rice	(NSW)	Alfa Romeo	2000	NC	8	14:59.203	7	01:51.005
4	88	Gregory	Toepfer	G Toepfer	(NSW)	Ford Mustang	4940	NB	8	15:08.615	4	01:51.535
5	27	David	Noakes	Noakes Motorsport	(NSW)	Ford Escort	1600	NC	8	15:09.868	2	01:51.759
6	48	Mark	Blyfield	M Blyfield	(SA)	Holden Torana GTR XU1	3310	NC	8	15:41.431	2	01:55.072
7	353	Michael	Bevan	Awesome Pools and Spas	(NSW)	Holden Torana GTR XU1	3300	NC	8	15:42.825	4	01:54.742
8	54	Stephen	Page	Stephen Page	(NSW)	BMW 2002	2000	NC	8	15:48.551	2	01:55.476
9	73	Hugh	Zochling	HG Motorsport/Hadley Green Inv	(NSW)	Holden Torana GTR XU1	3310	NC	8	16:02.741	8	01:57.526
10	270	John	Battersby	Batmac Constructions	(NSW)	Austin Cooper S	1296	NB	8	16:27.687	3	02:00.635
11	122	Loris	Mariotto	L Mariotto	(NSW)	Volvo 122s	1992	NB	8	16:29.647	7	02:01.688
12	6	Ross	Muller	R Muller	(NSW)	Hillman Hunter	1800	NC	7	15:01.364	2	02:06.341
DNF	59	Ray	Hepburn	Ray & Kerry	(WA)	Ford Mustang	5853	NC	3	06:07.959	3	01:53.200



Race 2

Race 2 (4:01pm on Saturday) went for eight laps. Aldo De Paoli again led from flag to flag. Spencer Rice (Alfa Romeo) and John Burke (Charger R/T) had a good tussle, with Spencer Rice (Alfa Romeo) managing to pass John Burke (Charger R/T) on lap 4 to secure second place. Hugh Zochling (Holden Torana GTR XU1) started in ninth position and came home in seventh place, behind Stephen Page (BMW 2002), who secured sixth place. Mark Blyfield (Holden Torana GTR XU1) came fifth.

Attrition continued to be high – Michael Bevan (Holden Torana GTR XU1), incurring a 5 second penalty for a jump start, suffered a manifold gasket issue, David Noakes (Ford Escort RS1600) managing to get around the outside of the Toepfer Mustang at turn 2 lap 1 and forge a large enough gap to hold out the Greg Toepfer Mustang, which unfortunately 3 laps found his gearstick had departed from its intended place, . Blyfield home in 5th place but starting to question the Nankangs suitability to the beautifully presented XU1. Ross Muller in the Hillman Hunter rounded out the top 10.

Pos	Car	Driver First name	Driver last name	Competitor/Team	State	Vehicle	Cap	CL	Laps	Race Time	Fastest...Lap	
1	96	Aldo	De Paoli	AJA Racing/NLS Fluid Solutions	(WA)	Chevrolet Camaro	5800	NC	8	14:22.015	5	1:45.6254*
2	295	Spencer	Rice	Spencer Rice	(NSW)	Alfa Romeo	2000	NC	8	15:00.023	7	01:50.911
3	93	John	Burke	J Burke	(NSW)	Charger R/T	4300	NC	8	15:00.909	8	01:50.016
4	27	David	Noakes	Noakes Motorsport	(NSW)	Ford Escort RS1600	1600	NC	8	15:15.482	2	01:52.137
5	48	Mark	Blyfield	M Blyfield	(SA)	Holden Torana GTR XU1	3310	NC	8	15:47.674	6	01:56.186
6	54	Stephen	Page	Stephen Page	(NSW)	BMW 2002	2000	NC	8	15:49.948	5	01:56.768
7	73	Hugh	Zochling	HG Motorsport/Hadley Green Inv	(NSW)	Holden Torana GTR XU1	3310	NC	8	16:19.966	3	02:00.524
8	44	Vince	Harmer	VH Racing	(ACT)	Volvo 164E	2998	NC	7	14:35.444	6	02:00.228
9	122	Loris	Mariotto	L Mariotto	(NSW)	Volvo 122S	1992	NB	7	14:42.120	7	02:03.501
10	6	Ross	Muller	R Muller	(NSW)	Hillman Hunter	1800	NC	7	15:25.544	2	02:09.414
DNF	353	Michael	Bevan	Awesome Pools and Spas	(NSW)	Holden Torana GTR XU1	3300	NC	6	11:58.399	2	01:56.502
DNF	88	Gregory	Toepfer	G Toepfer	(NSW)	Ford Mustang	4940	NB	2	03:54.207	2	01:52.766
DNF	270	John	Battersby	Batmac Constructions Pty Ltd	(NSW)	Austin Cooper S	1296	NB	1	02:13.924	1	02:13.924
DNF	271	Paul	Battersby	Batmac Constructions Pty Ltd	(NSW)	Morris Cooper S	1282	NB				



Race 3

The third race for Group N, held at 12:34pm on Sunday was the trophy race. Twelve competitors lined up, with ten completing the race, which was six laps in duration.

Lining up on pole was Aldo De Paoli, Aldo made a good start and lead the field into turn 1 closely followed by Rice, Burke and Noakes, with a hard charging Paul Battersby from the rear of the field making up a number of spots in the first few corners. By Turn 15 the race leader, De Paoli suffered a rare mechanical failure with the Camaro throwing a belt. Meanwhile the battle pack of Blyfield, Toepfer, Page, P Battersby, Bevan and Zochling from 5th to 10th battled for positions during a great opening lap battle.

Coming onto the straight for the first time Rice lead Burke, but not for long as the Charger stretched its legs and secured the lead for the race, a position he would remain in until the chequered flag.

Paul Battersby continued his charge, after passing Bevan and Page he set out after Blyfield and some great racing (small car v big car action) ensued, with the pair finishing just behind what was a lonely race for Toepfer in the Mustang.

Vince Harmer did not start, but resolved to line up for Race 4.

Pos	Car	Driver First name	Driver last name	Competitor/Team	State	Vehicle	Cap	CL	Laps	Race Time	Fastest...Lap	
1	93	John	Burke	J Burke	(NSW)	Charger R/T	4300	NC	6	11:19.291	2	1:51.5810*
2	295	Spencer	Rice	Spencer Rice	(NSW)	Alfa Romeo	2000	NC	6	11:19.416	5	01:51.648
3	27	David	Noakes	Noakes Motorsport	(NSW)	Ford Escort RS1600	1600	NC	6	11:20.103	2	01:51.661
4	88	Gregory	Toepfer	G Toepfer	(NSW)	Ford Mustang	4940	NB	6	11:35.353	2	01:53.776
5	48	Mark	Blyfield	M Blyfield	(SA)	Holden Torana GTR XU1	3310	NC	6	11:43.571	6	01:54.583
6	271	Paul	Battersby	Batmac Constructions Pty Ltd	(NSW)	Morris Cooper S	1282	NB	6	11:45.096	6	01:54.757
7	54	Stephen	Page	Stephen Page	(NSW)	BMW 2002	2000	NC	6	11:49.534	3	01:55.762
8	353	Michael	Bevan	Awesome Pools and Spas	(NSW)	Holden Torana GTR XU1	3300	NC	6	11:52.528	3	01:56.090
9	73	Hugh	Zochling	HG Motorsport/Hadley Green Inv	(NSW)	Holden Torana GTR XU1	3310	NC	6	11:56.899	4	01:57.205
10	122	Loris	Mariotto	L Mariotto	(NSW)	Volvo 122s	1992	NB	6	12:39.036	6	02:04.110
DNF	96	Aldo	De Paoli	AJA Racing/NLS Fluid Solutions	(WA)	Chev/Camaro	5800	NC	1	02:59.030		
DNF	270	John	Battersby	Batmac Constructions Pty Ltd	(NSW)	Austin Cooper S	1296	NB				



Race 4

Race 4 was cancelled due to a critical incident in the previous scheduled race.

Great to have the two clubs work together for this event and whilst the overall entrant numbers were lower than we would like the mix of cars and racing was of good quality. We held a joint social and trophy presentation on Sunday afternoon.

The respective winners were:

1st place – Class Nb - Outright
2nd place - Class Nb - Outright
3rd place - Class Nb - Outright

Greg Toepfer
Paul Battersby
Loris Mariotto

1st place – Class Nc - Outright
2nd place - Class Nc - Outright
3rd place - Class Nc - Outright

John Burke
Spencer Rice
David Noakes

Point scores for the HTCA NSW 2023 Competition year on the HTCA NSW website at [this link](#).

Photos are [here](#).

Comprehensive details of the race results are available in [Natsoft](#).