

Nationals Round 1

After a disastrous 2011 final round in Nelson where I killed 2 engines without completing a single lap I was looking forward to the new season and confident the engine problems were sorted. Seeing the entry list and helping to scrutineer the cars on Saturday I was impressed with the preparation of the cars and trucks and the quality of entries and prospects of some good close racing.

Arriving at the track on Sunday it was good to see that dust was not going to be a problem and things looked good that by the first challenger race a bit of excess water would have been removed.

Unfortunately once the races started things didn't go my way, a spin in the 1st lap of race 1 had me trying to catch up from the rear of the field but I seemed to be missing a few Horse power so struggled to 4th. Race 2 started OK still struggling to find any power out of the corners but keeping close to Geoff Matich in C18 and ahead of Glen Goosen in C14 until late in the race when I punctured both rear tyres and again finishing 4th. Race 3 was tough going on a set of rally tyres but the track was getting quite dry and the feature race would suit them better. Didn't see much of Nick Leahy apart from on the start line he was too far ahead or upside down.

Got off to a good start in the feature and seemed to have found a bit more power passing some class 5s quickly and staying closer behind Nick for a few laps, got pretty pissed off when the race was stopped when there didn't seem to be any real danger but got a good restart again and was feeling good until I heard and felt something break in my gearbox so just circulated to try to get a finish.

So not the best start to my season not looking forward to another gearbox repair bill but after stripping the gearbox on Monday night was pleased to find only minor damage and now looking forward to the 2nd round

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