

Wet, Wet, Wet

Which pretty much wraps up the last 3 meetings of the Trofeo Series 2005/2006



Puke: 2 April: Rising Damp



Puke: 14 May: Spinning Alfas

Pukekohe 2 April (TACCOC) A very wet morning and a very small Trofeo turn out. Solid rain through practice saw the Nord brigade tip-toeing through allowing a very happy David Frith to share front row of the grid with Don Bradley. Simon Mills & Tony Olisoff tucked right in behind. A very careful 6 laps followed. GTA placings to Don (1), Ollie (2); Veloce places to Keith x 2 - Elliott (1) & Howie (2); the biggest class of the day Trofeo was enthusiastically contested with places to Simon Mills (1), David Frith (2), Ken Garlick (3), and Chris Browne (4). Despite the rain easing temporarily at mid-day rising damp and standing water at the Puke circuit (didn't they fix that last year?) saw the meeting called off by officials before the second race of the day. (Oh well - Back to home base for beers & GP on TV)

Pukehohe 14 May A replacement TACCOC meeting for our much lamented May Madness saw Ken Garlick and others make the trek north again in an attempt to get more than 1 race in (good plan lads), however approaching the Bombays again seemed to anger the weather gods. Although holding off in the morning the storm clouds gathered. Race 1 for Trofeo saw a (hopefully) rare attack of synchronised spinning between the hairpin and the hill. Not for the faint hearted spectators! Chris Browne was the unlucky participant sustaining significant front end damage, although Chris himself escaped harm. This seemed to set the scene for the following races with mass carnage in the next race causing the shortening of the race meeting and cancellation of the second scratch Trofeo race. The afternoon endurance race got underway with 2 Trofeo teams entered – sadly this race was also declared after just 32 laps as the weather gods again vented their rage making the track too dangerous to continue. Never mind (GRRRRRR) Ken enthusiastically emailed me to assure me that Taupo (27th) would not meet the same fate being on the right side of the Bombays. (His geographical and as it turned out meteorological error was that Puke & Taupo are pretty much on the **same** side of the Bombays)

Taupo 27 May AGM meeting. Great anticipation 'Trofeo goes to the **'full new track (yehh haa)'** was the quote from Eddie B. Rain was forecast to pass through overnight ... fingers crossed. Saturday dawned (well we assume so – it was a bit too wet to tell!) but worse news at the track ... **flooding**. (Hey, isn't that a Puke thing?) The new infield curve adjacent to the start/finish line was about 400 mm underwater creating a mini Lake Taupo about 250 m long. They brought in the digger and the man with a spade. They tried driving 4WD's through it but to no avail. Finally defeat was acknowledged and the fire brigade called to pump out the lake in preparation for the feature race of the day Taupo Car Club's endurance race. Sadly, the Trofeo support races were cancelled without most cars even coming off their trailers. (BUGGER). The only wet thing we got to enjoy was the AGM bar.

For the record, the **2005/2006 season** included 5 wet meetings and 2 cancelled meetings. Despite this the season saw the usual mix of hard racing and good fun. Some impressive new(ish) comers emerged, Simon Mills, Vishu Singh and Max van Maanen featuring in year end standings. Also featuring in the year end honours the return of Willy Oxley and some familiar names, Keith Elliot, Ken Garlick, Paul Weatherly, Ian Birkill, Arthur Vowles & Don Bradley. In reverse grid Willy Oxley triumphed followed by Arthur Vowles and Ted Hunkin. Don picked up the prestigious Most Points Trophy.

Finishing out of the final placings, but entertaining us with good keen racing the Terrible Threesome

(Tony Olisoff, Mark Rantin, and Murray Johnston); Mike Moran who keeps getting faster & faster; the Hunkin family (particularly with their various spins at Puke), Computer Assisted Driver Andy Drummond and wet weather wizz David Frith. Recent newcomers to the track to watch out for in 2006/2007 I predict will include Kelvin Houten and Tony Ramlose. We also look forward to the much anticipated (and promised) returns of Eddie Beresford, Brian Todd, Ant Gray, Ron Dijkmans and OE kid Ben Thomson. The new season could be very, very interesting! Now we just need to work on a new weather theme song - "Here comes the Sun" would be a good start.

The 2006/2007 begins on 16th & 17th September at Pukekohe. We propose an **AROC Spring Family Picnic** on the Sunday to kick off the New Season in true Alfisti Style – Picnic brollies only please.



Taupo 27 May 'Lake' Taupo diversion scheme