

## KING OF THE COAST

By Daniel Neville

The West Coast Speedway Association really turned it on for the 2010 King of the Coast meeting. Brilliant weather, good fields in most classes and some top racing made for a great day out at Greenstone Park.

The Production Saloons was won by Blenheim's Shaun Keen following a win in heat one and two other top five finishes. Second overall was decided by a run off between Gerry Filius and Dave Filius after the pair were locked on 41 points each. Dave Filius came up trumps to take the runner up spot when Dave's car snuffed it on the last lap. The next best performers were Daryl Martin and the husband and wife team of Lex and Violet Cummings.

A small but quality field of Super Saloons was led by Trevor Elliot of Christchurch. His two wins and a critical third in the last heat earned Elliot the King of the Coast title by one point from track mate Dennis Bolt with Nelson's Mark Carey third overall. Carey threw away his lead in heat one when he spun up all by himself and ended up a lowly fourth by the end of the race. Nigel Kerr from Westport had even worse luck when he speared into the wall early in the meeting causing major damage but made it back out for heats two and three.

It was a close affair in the Ministocks too with former NZ champion Glen Redmond taking first overall by a single point with Barry Fraser second and heat three winner Shannon Evans third. Redmond won the first two heats but was in the thick of the action in the third eventually coming home in sixth which was enough to take the honours. Sean Brown was dealt to several times in the third heat forcing him to retire while Nicole Routhan only scored her only points in heat two after riding the wall a few times and being hit while stopped by Dave Houston Snr.

Christchurch cars showed the way in the Streetstocks sweeping the first seven placings with heat two winner Colin Robinson winning overall by five points from other race winners Steve Lennon and Keith Anderson. A huge pile up in heat two claimed a few victims with James Gowans coming off worst of all having his right rear door ripped open. Pete Arnesen also suffered major damage when he stopped in front of the tower in heat two and was slammed from behind by Chris Leigh causing him to hit the wall head on which destroyed the front end.

A big field of Stockcars were split in half for two qualifying heats with the top 26 going through to a 15 lap, winner takes all final. Points from the heats counted towards grid positions for the big race. Race winners in the blue group were Gavin Vallance and Peter Ross while in the red group Jacob O'Conner and Kirk Page carried the flag. There was not a lot of contact in the qualifying heats but Nick Sideway had plans for Hadleigh Smith and put him up the wall in turn one while Wayne Martin was in stirring mode and with Jason Tasker and Ben Jacobs his main targets. It was an all Christchurch

front row for the final with Ross on pole and Colin Cameron on the outside. Ross took an early lead with Cameron moving into second while behind them the action started. Owen McFall rode the wall in turn 4 while Brian Stanton was showed the wall by Tony Stanton. Sideaway looked dangerous lurking on the pole line and made his mark when he landed a bit hit on Paul Walker. Out front Cameron and Ross were fighting for the lead but ended up tangling which allowed O'Conner through to the lead with Page also getting by to move up to second. As the laps ticked by O'Conner continued to lead and hung on to win overall from Page, Ross, Cameron with Tony Oliver completing the top five.

The Superstocks completed the programme with nine cars vying for the title. Three heats produced three different winners with Daryl Peterson, Brett Nicholls and Craig Boote all collecting the flag. It was mostly a battle of speed although Blair Cunningham mixed it up early while Mike Delany and Peterson exchanged hits later on. When the points were tallied up Peterson was third overall but there was a tie for first with Boote and Nicholls both on 24 a piece. A run off was required to sort out the winner and it featured one of the biggest hits seen at Greenstone Park for some time. Nicholls pushed Boote into the wall on the start line then took off with Boote in hot pursuit. Nicholls appeared to have the first place sorted but few were prepared for the ferocity of Boote's attack on Nicholls. He went for a do or die move on the last lap when he tried to put Nicholls into orbit and nearly came off second best. Nicholls drifted off onto the infield as Boote drove away, hitting the wall and almost putting himself over in the process. Boote managed to get his battered car across the line to sew up first place and to his credit Nicholls restarted the 48N machine and completed the final lap to a great reception from the crowd who stayed to see the run off.

A number of Youth Ministock drivers made an "orange" tribute to the Youth Mininstock driver, Samantha Mouat, killed earlier in the month. Her car was orange.

The prizegiving was held after the racing at the Union Hotel. Stock car driver Tony Oliver was awarded the Percy Whyte trophy for the best performance on the day by a local and the runner up was ministock driver Dave Houston.

#### Production Saloons

1	8 E	Shaun Keen	44 points
2	86 C	Dave Filius	41 points
3	68 C	Gerry Filius	41 points
4	14 E	Daryl Martin	36 points
5	38 C	Lex Cummings	36 points

#### Super Saloons

1	27 C	Trevor Elliot	19 points
2	6 C	Dennis Bolt	18 points

3	35 N	Mark Carey	15 points
4	64 C	Dave Walsh	14 points
5	4 C	Bruce Scott	9 points

#### Ministocks

1	17 C	Glen Redmond	40 points
2	37 C	Barry Fraser	39 points
3	36 C	Shannon Evans	38 points
4	31 C	Johnny Cox	36 points
5	44 GM	Dave Houston Snr	26 points

#### Street Stocks

1	8 C	Colin Robinson	46 points
2	18 C	Steve Lennon	41 points
3	5 C	Keith Anderson	38 points
4	19 C	Chris Leigh	38 points
5	4 C	Steve Jackson	35 points

#### Stock Cars

1	34 C	Jacob O'Connor
2	81 C	Kirk Page
3	44 C	Peter Ross
4	107 C	Colin Cameron
5	38 GM	Tony Oliver

#### Super Stocks

1	7 N	Craig Boote	24 points
2	48 N	Brett Nicholls	24 points
3	114	Daryl Patterson	22 points
4	18 N	Shane Harwood	20 points
5	74 N	Ian Clayworth	15 points