

West Coast Speedway Opening Day 24 October 2009

The biggest opening day seen for many years at Greymouth on Saturday. Twenty five years of racing at Greenstone park was celebrated by drivers from the Stock Car track at Kumara with those who race and have raced at the park.

Visitors at this meeting were the side chairs and they put on a heart stopping performance of their racing. A handful of the bikes travelled from Christchurch to put on a show but in the end there was only one pairing in it in the end. Brent Tompkins and Kody Tocher marched to three straight wins, leaving the rest to do the chasing.

Ministocks:

Chris McSherry led early in race one until a collision resulted in him losing a rear wheel guard and the car being black flagged. Steve Bellis took over from there and won ahead of Michael Knipe with Nicole Routhan third. Race two was also won by Steve Bellis while his daughter Sarah battled hard finishing second with Routhan again third. There were a few hits in race three but not enough to stop Knipe taking the win ahead of Sarah Bellis with Jemma Wilson driving well for third. Father and daughter Steve and Sarah Bellis fought out the overall first and second placings and Steve was lucky to win by one point from Sarah who was having her first race in the adult class after racing in the Youth class last season. Newcomer Nicole Routhan made a very creditable debut against the other seasoned drivers and took out third pacing.

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|---|---------------------|-----------|
| 1 | 22 GM Steve Bellis | 24 points |
| 2 | 18 GM Sarah Bellis | 23 points |
| 3 | 4 GM Nicole Routhan | 22 points |

Street Stocks

A few cars did not make it to opening day but those who did put on a good display of racing, the last race ended up being called after Nick Petch's car caught fire. Nelson's Pete Arnesen winning the first heat then resorted to stirring in the next two. Wins also went to Nick Petch with Pete Campbell recovering from a collapsed right front wheel from the previous race to win the last race.

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| 1= | 13 N Peter Arnesen | 11 points |
| 1= | 15 GM Pete Campbell | 11 points |
| 1= | 89 GM Nick Petch | 11 points |

Production Saloons

Several new drivers in this class this season and we will have a strong class once all the cars are track ready. The field was dominated by the Honda CRX duo of Brent Shearer and Ron Koole who had their front wheel drive cars hooked up on the track surface nicely. Koole took out the first race followed by Shearer the roles were reversed with Shearer leading home Koole in the next two.

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| 1 | 98 GM Brent Shearer | 17 points |
| 2 | 23 GM Ron Koole | 16 points |
| 3 | 94 GM Brendan Mumberson | 12 points |

Youth Ministock

This class is growing all the time even though many of last season's drivers are now racing adult classes and we still started the day with 14 cars. We are looking forward to some excellent racing as the season progresses.

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| 1 | 10 N Steven Soper | 39 points |
| 2 | 93 N Liam Smith | 35 points |
| 3 | 13 GM Brogan Jackson | 33 points |

Stockcars

Thirteen Coast heavyweights battled it out with plenty of contact to keep the crowd entertained. Dwayne Honey has the first say winning heat one and while the race was relatively tame there was a storm brewing for the remaining races. Jason Smith got stuck into it in the second race pounding Brian Hahn into the wall with Hahn repaying the favour a few laps later. Class rookie Mark Buckman also had a go at Hahn leaving the 94gm car with bodywork flapping. While the others sorted each other out, Jason Tasker kept it clean for the win. The action continued in the final race with points leader Tony Stanton's race ending abruptly after finding the wall on the first corner, thanks to a shove from Cleve Kookshorn who was driving Hahn's car. Out front Tasker and Tony Oliver were controlling the race until Kookshorn and Smith combined to delay the 38gm car with Oliver delivering some payback soon after. Tasker looked to have the race sewn up but went wide on the last corner, allowing Buckman to sneak through for the win.

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| 1= | 33 GM Jason Tasker | 32 points |
| 1= | 38 GM Tony Oliver | 32 points |
| 3 | 43 GM Jason Smith | 28 points |

In the last race of the day several Golden Oldies raced borrowed stock cars showing they still have what it takes.

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| 1= | Ian Smith |
| 1= | John Oliver |
| 1= | Cliff Smith |
| 1= | Alan Best |

The reunion weekend was completed with a get together on Sunday night.

Next meeting November 7.



Photos by Dale Kennedy