

GREENSTONE PARK SPEEDWAY

2017/18 Newsletter

Thanks very much for the new committee that have come on board this coming season it's great to see people putting themselves forward to help out the club and also great to see some new faces and young blood coming through. You will get to be more and more part of the club as the season goes on and learn more and see all the background work that needs to go on to make a club run and keep it running successfully, this can only happen with your help, so thanks again we all look forward to working with you.

There is a lot of work that needs to be done to our facility's and also a lot of jobs that we need to do to plan and build up to and be ready for, for the NZ Stock Car Championship in 2019/20.

***Jobs,**

All members / mates / family / work colleagues / bosses or anyone can help with, it happens to be the same hand full of staff the last few seasons on the committee busy in any spare time they have. We to come up with ideas and ask people for a hand and anything you see below. You may work with or have contacts on getting some things to help your club out.

***Working Bees,**

They are on Sundays at 10am-12pm, we need people badly! There are a huge bunch of jobs to do even before track inspection to be signed off, even for us to be eligible to open up opening meeting. A lot of people think that it just seems to happen each season by paying your membership and turning up. With the handful of helpers we just scrape through, some think it will be sweet to turn up with your car you have been working on with a new paint job and your good to go. So much more is evolved and I hope by you being a part of the club your reading this you have a different thought/aspect on the club and

help with the contacts you have to make this a very successful we club and for you to be proud of!

***Rocks/Stones,**

During the off season the weather does its thing and washes clay down the drains and brings rocks to the surface and these need digging out as some of us are working toward getting new clay laid in the next couple of weeks as we need this badly on turns 3 and 4 as its down to gravel/beach in places and if we can get this clay we hope that the surface is ready to put in down on, so if you have a trailer or a quad and a screw driver to dig the stones out please come and help on Sundays as it's not a good feeling laying new clay on top of rocks that we know are going to be pushed to the surface and thrown into the spectators.

***Fencing,**

Needs tidying up threw out the entire stadium as white baiters cut fences down, rust has taken over and people come in for free through the gaps. The club needs netting (new or old) and also a few helpers anytime anyone is free to spend some time to walk around and help us tidy these up and make spectators pay to watch our events as this costs us money.

***Speakers,**

We need to get some more speakers for our spectators and even a system for the pits as when you take a walk around the track on race day the speakers are not flash. Also there are none in the pits for results or cars to get up on the dummy grid. Its hard for people to hear the commentary and 50/50 raffle (there's another job we really struggle to find people to do). We are working towards trying to come up with some new speakers but it's not going to be cheap and maybe we can get someone to wire them in and someone to find some poles we can put them on up high and get speakers robust enough they will last being out in our conditions we are in (on the beach) that we can leave up all the time so a class doesn't have to put them out and bring them back in every meeting as we have left the odd one out and within a few days someone wants them more than us and it has happened!

***General Maintenance,**

Lawn Mowing, Weed Spraying and Weed eating etc.

The water truck and Tow vehicles are in desperate need for a water blast and basic check over and clean out, if you have a water blaster and can spare a couple of hours a wash and check would be great on the couple of vehicles we

have so opening day they don't have last season's clay on them as it's not a good look and we all rely on these to last the season out.

***Burnout Pad,**

We would really like to concrete a big pad inside the infield so it's less work for Russ on the mower and somewhere on race day to park the infield staff/crash crew as the infield gets a bit damp at times and also could be used as a promotional event and have burnout competitions run to make money for the club. But this takes people to help out, myself and Herb are trying hard to make this happen and need someone to help with a digger to get the infield dug out, a builder/someone that knows what they are doing to get it boxed up, mesh for strength and most importantly concrete.

***Grandstand,**

We need to work towards the NZ Stock Cars and a grandstand is something we will need to try and sort. We need ideas on how to make a grandstand facility work with our current layout, do we save and build concrete seating on the grass bank, do we get containers, do we buy plastic seating like Woodford Glen or do we sell areas of seating off like Nelson? Keep your thinking caps on and bring your ideas to your reps to bring to the committee meeting's. Also the Concrete seating on turns 3 and 4 has lots of rubbish and old clay on them that needs a wash if you can waterblast or have a decent broom or something to clean the off they are in need of a good clean.

***Entry to the track,**

For spectators it's easy to walk around the gate staff on a busy meeting if you can't be bothered paying (it happens and costs us money) and security is hard to find. We need a container or something that we can have sideways blocking the entrance for the walk in spectators. We can cut out a hole and have gate staff sitting in there in an area to pay and get your ticket and walk through, like Nelsons, Woodford Glens and Ruapuna, etc, The wee hut doesn't really cut it anymore and maybe we can get something semi-permanent we can have a cash register and have eftpos. Would be a good idea and a step forward.

***Corporate Boxes,**

It's something I would like to get in place sometime soon as it would be good to offer an extra for our sponsors for meetings to come and have a fenced off area they can bring some of their staff/friends with them with the free tickets they get and cook their own BBQ and have a fridge to put their beers and enjoy the meeting and hopefully have a good experience and want them to do it again and encourage others to help out and sponsor meetings also because they would feel a bit privileged. We have thought about lining containers and making a deck area etc, but being on the beach a container doesn't last long and it rusted out in a few years.

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***SNZ Rules**

Myself and Tomo went to this year's Speedway NZ AGM in Wellington and there was a lot of changes. Speedway in the South Island is getting lead towards the bigger and north island tracks and most decisions are being made for us no matter what we argue with its hard for us to come back to our small club and have to make these changes happen to still be eligible to be part of SNZ and be eligible for any National Titles.

This season there was a big argument for scales to be part of every SNZ run track. Most clubs had them anyway, so for the small amount of clubs to say no we don't want them was hardly an option, we came away with having to have our own calibrated scales to suit every class we run, it went from weighing every car in a race to having to just have them at your club and weigh every meeting on scrutineering and 1st 2nd and 3rd. There are cheats out there but not so much in the clubs that affect us but this reflects on us, so we all have to step our game up and make sure it's up the competitor to have their car within weight, as SNZ can turn up any meeting and penalize any competitor they like even if it's out of our control. If we don't have the scales on track inspection, we are not allowed to open on open day as the facility will not be signed off. Myself, Vinny and George have managed to make a weigh bridge platform the best and as cheap as possible for the club and will be hopefully ready for track inspection. Some clubs have spent in excess of \$8000 - \$12000.

***Radio Ear Pieces,**

A lot of tracks already run this but once again bigger clubs ran the majority of this discussion, It can save a lot of fuel, spectators time and a lot less stress on the referee and clerk of the course putting people back on reds and changing people around on yellows, lap after lap after lap. Even for the likes of youth, I know it seems bad initially for youth but for example if you are racing and concentrating on the car in front and an accident occurs and you are concentrating on steering, clutch, gauges, tear offs, wet patches in the track, can't see from the sun setting, etc, and the ref puts on the red light he can call into the intercom... "Red light", then you are not relying on every single competitor to see the incident and react immediately to the lights and stop but also to hear there is a red light and have confidence the competitor behind you knows also.

Greenstone Parks decision or not, SNZ have decided to make it compulsory for all national classes (every class that has a NZ champs under SNZ) to run these. SNZ will have to check upon gear check/sign in. This will be discussed by Greenstone Park wither or not to make it a club rule that all competitors are to run them. From my conversations with other tracks almost all of them have made it a local rule that all competitors run them. This will be discussed and told by the reps at the next committee meeting.

These can be purchased from **Edge Parts and Performance for \$172.50 with ear pieces. But can get them for \$163.87 if the club buys 20 or more so please let your reps know if you want to order one and once we have an order for 20 or more we will get some.** These are compulsory from the 3rd practice onwards so hopefully everyone has had a run with them and tested them.

***Staff Roles,**

if you think you may want to help out on race day or think you may know someone that may want to help out please don't hesitate to contact your rep, Brownie or Myself as there are lots of jobs that need done throughout the week, and places where more help is needed on race day. Tow trucks, flags, security, lap scoring, 50/50 selling, bar attendant in clubrooms, helping with setting up, closing up, pit gate, and announcing, please let us know if you or anyone else is keen to help would be much appreciated.

***Sponsorship,**

This season we have a few big meetings we are in desperate need of finding a sponsor to help out or they may not happen, We have our calendar attached on the rear and more than half the meetings we are need to try and find sponsors for, doesn't have to be cash it can be vouchers, can be purchasing a new trophy and having it rotate each year, can be many different options. With yourself, work, with friends or family, with a company you think may be keen to help out on any of the meetings, please be in touch.

The small group we work with we do our best but we only have the same contacts and with your help make the wings spread a bit further to make these meetings a success.

***Cost to run a Meeting,**

To run our club, it takes aprox 40 volunteers per meeting, and as an estimate we have only 60 members, each of you have family, work collogues, mates, crew members, bosses, partners and contacts throughout that can help out I'm sure.

We have just been awarded the Trust Power Award for the Sports and Leisure giving to the community, for volunteers you would be surprised how much time effort and money it costs to run meeting. Advertising to get bums on seats watching, St Johns (as this is a SNZ criteria) all the volunteers, shop staff, gate staff, diesel, petrol, vehicle maintenance, council costs and bar staff it all only costs a little bit but it all adds up and we need all the help we can so if you can think of anything please be in touch.

***Membership/License's,**

This is all done online now and out of our control, no sign in night is needed and you apply online and pay through internet banking and choose your club

to contract to and we accept you throughout the committee meetings before the opening night. Take note our membership is extremely less than other clubs around the area, your crew/family can join the club if they want to, as the more members we have the better we look to SNZ.

***Greensheeting,**

This will be done as per normal either at your house or anywhere you decide with Vinny or Jason, but your car will not be signed off until it has been weighed. So we are all going to have to have the cars weighed on practice's or on opening day or maybe we will have a greensheeting day at the track, this is pretty hard tho for the number of cars and small numbers of green sheeters. This may seem a bit excessive but atleast EVERYONE racing knows that there car will be in spec on opening day. As no one wants a fine/30 day stand down by SNZ if they turn up opening meeting or any random time throughout the season.

***Club Sponsorship,**

If you have any contacts that would be keen to join, be part of the club and advertise we are more than happy to look into it and there are many options including... sponsoring a meeting, A class, A wall sign and areas of the track.... there are many options, if you have any ideas or know anybody keen that could spruce up an area.

That's about it from me, thanks again for being a part of this club and I'm sure you will do your best for us while you are a part of it and we hope you feel like you have made an impact to help make this club grow. We have a few meetings to look forward to this coming season and also we have a few big meetings to look forward to in the next few seasons that I would hope you stick around and build this committee to take the gory for also.

If you have any questions or think of anything that you think may help us out, please be in touch.

With your help and support let's make this season one to remember!

Let's get the dirt flying and have a great summer at Speedway at your local Greenstone Park Speedway

Thanks again,

Brandon Parkinson
Vice President/ Vice Promoter