



Wheelspin

August 2024



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Roll cage and authority card sign off

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Cover Image: Graham Heath - Image by William Brothwell

Committee Meetings

are held on the third Tuesday of each month
Location: 1841 Bar, Disraeli Street, Johnsonville
7:30pm, everybody welcome

Club-night

first Tuesday of each month

This month - 6th August

Location: 1841 Bar, Disraeli Street, Johnsonville

7:30 pm

All members and friends welcome

WheelSpin is the official magazine of the
Harbour Capital Car Club, C/o 13 Gray Street,
Pukerua Bay, 5026, New Zealand

The views and opinions expressed are not necessarily
those of the Club, its members or the committee.

You're welcome to share the content of this magazine,
please remember to recognise the source,
writers or photographers of the material.
Original photographs are usually available upon request.

Magazine content deadline

The **Deadline** for ***WheelSpin*** articles is the

14TH OF THE MONTH

*If you'd like to submit a story but feel you need
some editorial assistance please reach out to the Editor
as we can help.*

Sunday 18th August 2024

**SEALED AUTOCROSS
ROUND 2**

DAWN OF THE DUCKS



Entries Open Now!

El Presidente Musings

by Leon



A couple of events, and a dose of the 'Rona since we last met!

In the week leading up to Taranaki Tarmac rally, I had what I thought was a cold, but on comparing notes with a workmate who was sick with the same symptoms on the same timeframe, seems pretty inevitable that it was the 'Rona again.

As I write this, it's two weeks later, and I'm still only about 50% functional human again.

So has been a decent amount worse than last time. I caught it at a work function, so I guess I've been pretty lucky to have not copped it again earlier.

One positive though, you don't spend a lot of money if you're at home for a week flopped on the sofa!

The Corolla is still getting the engine swap, and various other maintenance items sorted out. Although as I write this, it's now only 8 days away from Levin Car Club's Wairongomai Road gravel sprint. So it's seeming less likely that I will be competing at that event, given that I'll need to have run in an engine by that day. So might be that I'm either not there, or there with a camera rather than a car.

We had another sealed autocross round up at the Masterton Motorplex, kicking off our first all-sealed trilogy, which might be the shape of things to come through the winter months.

I decided to enter the GR, albeit cautiously, since it's an all sealed series, and it makes sense to enter in the same class for all three rounds. I'm not at Graham level of dedication to be willing to chuck the GR around in our rocky paddock. I'll stick with the cheaper cars on the bouncy venue.

We had a pretty good turnout at the event, despite the rainy weather, with 33 starters, which is enough for us to cover costs and be putting some money in the bank toward future club asset purchases.

We're probably going to need to work on getting through doco and scrutineering a bit more quickly, so that we're on the track and racing a bit more quickly. This is where you could do your bit, and join Neil Roots (scrutineer, sponsor, and marshal!) to do some scrutineering or wrangling cars to be checked over. The quicker we get through the paper bits, the more runs you will be getting on the day.

Everyone who was able to stick around got five runs on the day, which is not bad, but if we can start earlier, that will mean more skids.

Also, if you're a not competitor, we could use another marshal out there on cone duties, as we're running over quite a long distance in a straight line, we're slowing things up by having the marshals cover a decent distance on foot and clamber over a wall to retrieve and replace cones.

All things that we can work on, as we streamline the running of the event.

We had our first crunch, as Pedro's Exocet decided that combining lots of power, and a wet track wasn't going to work. So the orange rocket will be undergoing some nose surgery before we see it out again.

In the four wheel jeepers class, Graham made the most of the Dunlop softs (refer: sponsor Neil's Wheels), to pull out to a clear victory. In second was John in the very hot Impreza, with myself third in the GR.

Engine not-over class was really one of the random mixed bag of vehicles that you can get autocrossing. Richard took out first in the Toyota Crown, of assorted angry V8 noises. Taio second in a Porsche 944, which I think most people would consider to be a somewhat more conventional tarmac race car. Then Adam third in the rally spec KP Starlet (now fitted with the gruntier 1300 Swift engine). Fourth, was Stephen Heise in the always unlikely decision, of an enormous six cylinder Falcon.

In the engine over driven was another fairly mixed bag! PC in the Vitz taking out first, in the low power high enthusiasm Vitz, Brian in the home built motorbike powered open wheeler "Nugget" in second, then Webster making his first series appearance in the Toyota MR-S now featuring Honda motivation. Webster and Brian both experiencing the full outside experience in their cars which are either entirely open to the elements, or merely without any side windows. Seems likely Webster will now be making some plans for fitting windows, because Wellington isn't known for delightfully tropical climates.

We again had a good field of juniors, with 9 entrants aged 18 and younger. Always good where we're running almost 1/3 of the field being the next generations coming through. Now we just need to convert some of them into taking on some official roles, so we can supplement our current crop of officials!

Vinnie Carver was the quickest of the juniors, coming home 6th in class, and 15th overall. Lucas was next at position 22, then Emmet in the BMW 24th overall.

We were missing a couple of the usual suspects, with no Herds or Masons joining us on the day. Also absent for the first time, was the gaggle of MR-S's who seem to be at all the tarmac sprints these days.

Moving over to the social side of things, we had our Matinee showing of the Kiwi movie Poppy, which wasn't terribly well attended, so we'll go back to evening showings again for the future.



Looking ahead to social, we're going to have another go-kart evening out in Porirua. Aiming for the fourth Tuesday of August, so keep a watch on the Facebook page for a sign up there.

Straight after movie day, Emma and I headed up to Taranaki, to chase the tarmac rally with a camera.



I was still a bit jaded from the 'Rona, so while we could easily have gotten to four stages, I took it pretty easy and we only went to two stages.

Despite the fact that they were running it as a dual permit event, with a full rally option, and also a Clubman's rally option, there wasn't a huge turnout. I believe that they had 34 starters for the full rally, and only another four for the Clubmans stages.



Some really quick tarmac cars up there, putting in pretty efficient times.

The only HCCC entry that I'm aware of, was Lee Herd navigating in the Evo powered KP Starlet, who came home 11th overall, and second in class.

Some really quick roads were being run, as with the Rallysafe units in the cars, they can record top speeds in stage, and in one stage about 2/3 of the field exceeded 190k as a top speed. Which is rather rapid, and must have been pretty exciting in a car with a wheelbase as short as a KP Starlet.

Not a huge number of two wheel drive or low power cars up there running, which is a bit of a pity, as I quite enjoy the low speed battles like Mark in the Ka versus the old Baleno like we had in 2023.

Managed to get some reasonable photos on the day, and spent a bit of money up around the Naki, and then on the way home where I picked up another couple of sets of the Minilite replica wheels that I'm so fond of. I'm not actually sure how many sets that I have now, but I imagine that I'll just keep quietly accumulating any cheap sets that I can get my hands on.



Although I'll be needing a new dip-strip / powdercoat shop, as I endured well in excess of a year of battling the previous company to get one set of wheels done for the GR! Which isn't great, given that if he'd been efficient, I'd be probably getting another dozen 14" wheels done.

Looking ahead, as well as go-karts, we've also got the remaining two rounds of the sealed duck series, August 18th, and September 29th.

If you fancy some tarmac action at Manfeild, don't forget that The Surgery sprints run through winter, as do Manawatu Car Club's open day series.

That's it from me, see you somewhere with burgers, cones, or karts.
Leon



Go Kart Challenge!

Tuesday 27th August @ 7pm

See you there!

Indoor Raceway
3 Raiha Street, Elsdon, Porirua



Have you thought of racing your EV?

Then this information is for you.

MotorSport New Zealand has seen an increasing interest in competitors wanting to use their electric or hybrid vehicles at motorsport events.

In October 2021, MotorSport New Zealand gave the green light to electric & hybrid vehicles competing at their events with the launch of the electric vehicle guidelines. However, there are some things to be aware of before you enter. Please reach out to the event organiser to be aware of the requirements for your EV and to ask if EV's are permitted as not all events allow EV's to run.

As you can imagine there are some extra safety rules around running your EV at an event that you will need to prepare for. There are EV specific Safety Kits that events organisers need to use to help protect volunteer officials when dealing with electric and hybrid vehicle incidents.

You must have an electrical vehicle logbook, so ensure you arrange that before entering any event. This means you cannot "enter on the day" with an electric or hybrid vehicle due to the additional safety measures required to keep you as the competitor safe, along with your fellow competitors and volunteer officials.

If you have any questions you can reach out to Motor Sport NZ and they can talk you through what you need to know.

Editors Note

Hi everyone, I hope July treated you well.

The digital Wheelspin seems to be going down well. If you have any feedback or would like to see any additions to the magazine please let me know at chellesroberts@gmail.com.

I've not been up to any motorsport this month, however, I did have a neat little exchange in the supermarket while doing my shop. A young man of around 6 or 7 tapped me on the hip and asked me my name, he complimented me on my car hoodie and told me he 'really loves cars'. After a quick introduction I told him that I really loved cars too. With his mum standing by we chatted about car things and I asked what his favorite car is and he announced with a huge smile Toyota Supras! Apparently Toyota's are the best and he explained that is because they look and sound the best. I was also told the second best cars are race cars. I had to laugh. I showed him a few photos of my cars and also a few race cars from the HCCC Facebook page, I think we may have a car racer in the making there. I even showed the out wedding photos that featured a Surpa and the EVO, he was wide eyed!

It was one of those lovely whole exchanges that brightens your day.

Catch you next month!

Chelles



Membership Application & Renewal

Post completed form to: Harbour Capital Car Club, C/o 13 Gray Street, Pukerua Bay 5026, New Zealand

First name: _____ Surname: _____ DoB: _____

Other family members names and date of birth:

Name: _____ DoB: _____

Name: _____ DoB: _____

Name: _____ DoB: _____

Residential address: _____

Postal address (if differs): _____

Phone number: HM _____ Cell: _____

Email: _____

Occupation: _____

Make and Model of car: _____

How did you find out about us: _____

Events I'd like to compete in

	Not Many	Some	Lots
Speed Event			
Rallies			
Motorkhana			
Car Trials			
Social Events			

I'd like to volunteer: Speed \ Rallies \ Motorkhana \AutoX\ Social Events (please circle)

Annual subscriptions paid to: Harbour Capital Car Club

Per year: Single membership \$45.00 - Student \$35.00 - Family \$55 for a couple, add \$10 per additional person.

Bank details: BNZ 02-0500-0351392-02

Reference: your name

The information you provide in this form is used and held by the Harbour Capital Car Club Committee for matters relating to your membership and participation in events. Your date of birth is requested to enable us to register you with Motorsport New Zealand.