

## Castrol BMW Race Series

### Driver Newsletter 17 – December 2009

**Peter Henry:** Many of you will have had the pleasure of meeting Peter when he joined the BMW Race Series in January with his white E92 M3. It is with sadness that I have to report that his cancer returned over the last few months, and he passed away on December 4<sup>th</sup>, having raced in the Open Class as recently as September. Motorsport brought great enjoyment to Peter during his lengthy illness. Even a week before he passed away, he sent us an email to say that he was keen to try out the new Hampton Downs circuit in the New Year. Our condolences go to his mother Queenie, wife Lorna, two daughters and six grand-children.



The BMW Race Series also sends its condolences to the Blewett family. Peter Blewett, father of John Blewett (#62) and grand-father of Ash Blewett (#66) passed away on December 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Driver Swaps:** We have had a couple of recent incidents that have caused some concern to race meeting officials, and for a change it has nothing to do with driving standards but it is about driver behaviour.

The first incident took place at Round 3 on November 29<sup>th</sup>, when two drivers asked a Committee member if one of them (whose car was damaged) could drive the other's car in the final race of the meeting. They were referred to the Clerk of the Course as he has the final say on any decision of that nature. Due to the short time before the race was due to run, their request was declined. However, a few minutes later, as that race was gridding up, the car was seen on the grid with the "different driver", despite being told not to. They were reminded in no uncertain terms that they couldn't make the swap, and still managed to protest in a manner that was unacceptable to the officials and reflected poorly on the BMW Race Series.

The second incident occurred during last weekend's TACCOC meeting, which included a grid for E30's. Without asking anyone, a driver swap was made and was not noticed until the race had started. After the race, the two drivers were spoken to by meeting officials and were lucky no further action was taken.

Given that both of these incidents involved the same Clerk of the Course and the same CRO, we have been asked to make a general announcement to all our members that any further indiscretions of this type will result in a formal Motorsport NZ hearing for all parties involved. This sort of behaviour is unacceptable and all drivers in the BMW Race Series are reminded of the following:

- **No driver swaps can be made under any circumstances without the prior approval of the Clerk of the Course, or one of his appointed delegates.**
- **Decisions made by meeting officials should be accepted without dissent and obeyed in full.**

The BMW Race Series is committed to supporting those who organise our race meetings, and will consider applying its own penalties, regardless of any sanctions imposed by MNZ or meeting officials.

**Next Race Meetings:** Round 4 of the BMW Race Series is scheduled for the Tasman Revival Meeting at Hampton Downs on January 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> with Round 5 at Taupo on February 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup>. Entries for both meetings are now open at [www.motorsportentry.com](http://www.motorsportentry.com) Right now, the Hampton Downs track limit is just 30 cars, and this nearly caused problems for the Open Class field in Round 3. We should not assume that the track inspection on Jan 2<sup>nd</sup> will result in the track limit being lifted to 40 cars, so all entrants, especially those in the Open Class, are reminded to enter as early as possible to avoid disappointment.

**Movember:** Due to not having a prize-giving at Hampton Downs, there was no chance to judge Movember entrants from the BMW Race Series. However, totally unofficially, special mention should be made of the outstanding specimens provided by Pete Bromley (Open) despite being on crutches, and Craig Laing.(E30)

**TV Coverage:** Round 3 coverage has been edited and a TV schedule will be announced shortly. We are hopeful that a programming change will see a greater number of screenings for both classes, and at much better times of the day. More details to follow.

**Merry Christmas:** The Committee of the BMW Race Series wishes all of its members and their families the very best for the festive season and hopes that your Christmas stockings are filled with everything you need to make your cars go faster. (Legally, of course!) **See you all in 2010.**

If you have any queries on this newsletter or any other subject, please email: [bmwraceseries@hotmail.com](mailto:bmwraceseries@hotmail.com)