



# Castrol BMW Race Series

## Driver Newsletter 10 – May 2009

**Annual General Meeting** – This was held last Saturday, and was well attended by more than 50 members from both classes. A detailed summary of the discussion points will be circulated to all members in due course, but in the meantime, a few important points:

We welcomed Grant Scheuber, Mark Babb & Murray Brown to the Committee, joining Mal Clark, Grant Clegg, Gerry Hodges and new President, Michael Delmont on an expanded Committee. Glenn Pelham is the new E30 Driver's Delegate, with Paul Mill continuing in the role for the Open class.

A subcommittee has been formed to review the E30 technical rules and make recommendations to the main Committee, who in turn will issue a revised set of regulations for the 2009 season. Whilst it is four months until our probable first event, the intention is to advise members of new rules within one month.

Our tentative schedule for next season has rounds at Taupo and Manfeild, with at least three rounds at the new Hampton Downs circuit. We are still working to have one or two rounds at Pukekohe, with the championship likely to have six or seven rounds across four circuits.

The majority of those present support the retention of the "drop-three" championship points system. All agreed that any disqualifications will result in zero scores that cannot be dropped as a worst-three result.

The Open class will likely allow an expanded range of cars, including those from performance tuners such as Schnitzer, Alpina and Hartge. The exact models to be allowed will be announced shortly.

Membership fees were confirmed at the same level as last year: \$125 for a full season (1/8/09 – 31/7/10), discountable to \$100 if paid by 31/7/09. The half year membership fees (1/1/10 onwards) will be \$75.

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**E30 Security Seals** – With the racing season over and final results declared, many of you will be getting into your off-season maintenance and rebuilds. Accordingly, you are now all allowed to remove any of the seals fitted last season. All we ask is that you advise the Committee of any seals removed, so that we can keep a record of all cars that might need resealing before next season, depending on new regulations.

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**Chicane Clothing** – Those who attended the prizegiving were presented a prototype of a great-looking new race suit, designed especially for the BMW Race Series. This two-layer suit, pictured, includes BMW and Castrol logos, and is also available in other colours. Ray Green, of AES & Tracer fame, is also one of the owners of Chicane and generously supplied one of the new suits as one of our lucky prizes – won by a delighted Conrad Timms. Conrad was actually the second name drawn, but one unlucky driver, who shall remain nameless, decided at short notice not to come to the dinner and missed out on a great prize. The New Zealand-made suit exceeds the FIA 86 and ISO 6940 standards is available at the special price of just \$710 incl GST or can be purchased as part of an excellent package (race suit, gear bag, gloves and boots) for \$918, including your name and country flag embroidered on the belt. As the saying goes, this offer is not available in stores – you can only get these prices by contacting Ray direct: [monza@tops.co.nz](mailto:monza@tops.co.nz) or phone (09) 580-0552. A range of "standard" sizes up to XXL is available, and for those wanting an even better fit, custom-made suits are an additional \$75 above the base prices.



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**Awards Dinner Prizes** – Lucky draws were also made for a free race entry to September's Icebreaker meeting, courtesy of HRC, and a complimentary race driver training and car set-up, courtesy of Todd Pelham at [Lap-It-Up](#). All registered drivers in attendance had their names in the hat, with the race entry going to Mark Babb and the Race training to Ernst Fischboeck. The winners of the Rookie of the Year Awards (Brent Allen E30 & Aaron Harris Open) each received a Castrol prize pack plus a copy of the [NZ Racetrack Manual](#), kindly donated by the author, Mike Eady. Mike often opens his spare practice days up to groups like ours – one such day is next Monday (May 18<sup>th</sup>) at Pukekohe, where a full-day test session is just \$100, and you won't have to compete for space with the groups that go to the public test days. If you are keen for some winter testing, contact Mike directly on 021 982-700 or [mike.eady@tracktime.co.nz](mailto:mike.eady@tracktime.co.nz)

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**TV Coverage** – A further reminder that Round 5 coverage screen on Sky this week and next - E30 15/5 6am SS1, 15/5 1pm SS2. Open class 18/5 5:30pm SS3 & 19/5 11:30pm SS2. For those who don't have Sky or missed an earlier round, we can still order multi-DVD copies of the entire season. (5 rounds) \$30 each for either E30 or Open class – please email orders to [grant.clegg@slingshot.co.nz](mailto:grant.clegg@slingshot.co.nz) by May 17<sup>th</sup>.