



Newsletter

December 2021

President's Note

And just like that 2021 draws to a close! Despite the challenges of the last couple of years it is gratifying to report that our competitors, volunteers and staff have continued to 'drive' the extra mile to support our club in multiple ways. A recently released report by MotorSport New Zealand claims that our sport contributes \$1.1billion to the national economy and that we have over 24,000 competitors who rely on 12,500 volunteers to manage competition events. Those are huge numbers and should remind us that our region continues to be an important part of a much larger motor sport picture. We have always delivered a unique club-based experience to spectators and competitors at Teretonga and work is continuing to maintain and develop our facilities.

The track resealing that was completed prior to the SIERDC meeting in September was an example of community contacts supporting us to deal with an unexpected situation and our huge thanks go to Jim Bates and long-term sponsor Noel McIntyre Drainage. Thanks also go to Rodger Cunninghame and Noel Atley who are now bona fide roading experts - hit them up with any sealing questions you may have! It was fantastic to see both our September and December competitors making good use of the new section with positive results.

Work also continues on setting up for the establishment of our Loop exit viewing embankment and SouthRoads have completed their access road and we expect to see material on-site soon. Hopefully, due to ongoing ICC pest control, they and Daryn will experience a decrease in the number of machinery threatening rabbit warrens!

It has also been great to welcome Koha Kai who have been running Teretonga Tasties this season. Feedback has been very positive and we hope to be able to continue working with them in 2022.

As I close I would like to wish all our fantastic competitors, volunteers, Executive Committee and Heads of Departments all the best over the break and thank you all for your contributions during 2021. As always a special up vote goes to the SSCC staff; Norma, Daryn and Ange for the tremendous work they have done this year under often quite trying circumstances. Their flexibility and good humour has ensured that every club and public-facing interaction is positive and solution-focused.

Have a Merry Christmas and a superb New Year and I look forward to a catch up at Speedfest in February.

Ian Richardson
President





Leitch wins Championship

Massive congratulations to club member Brendon Leitch who along with his team mates has won the 2021 24h Series GT3 Pro Championship.

The title was wrapped up at Sebring despite a difficult weekend. Brendon did a fine job in his stint but unfortunately his team mate ended up in the wall at around the 14-hour mark of the 24-Hour race. However, Brendon was pleased to get good seat time including time racing in the dark for the first time.

The title is a massive achievement and the future looks bright for our fellow club member.

We caught up with Brendon just before our last newsletter but sadly just missed the deadline but we have reproduced our chat below.

CATCHING UP WITH BRENDON LEITCH.....

He is living in a small town the size of Cromwell, twenty minutes outside of Dusseldorf, and he gets around in a 1.2 litre Renault Clio. At weekends he races a Lamborghini Huracan GT3 Evo at many of the world's great motor race circuits.

That is the life of club member Brendon Leitch as he reaches great heights in his motor racing career.

Brendon's year started at the New Zealand Grand Prix where he had a car that was not that great but he was pretty happy with his performance with a sixth-place finish after starting from the back of the grid. After that it was all go, getting ready to go to Europe, arriving in Germany on the 22nd of March this year to join Leipert Motorsport. It took a couple of weeks to get acclimatised, as everything was completely different. "Due to Covid everything was closed except the supermarket and if you wanted to buy anything you had to get it off Amazon."

Brendon works as a mechanic at the workshop for half a day each day preparing cars for Leipert Motorsport who ran five cars in the Lamborghini Super Trofeo Europe Championship. Brendon also engineered a car for one of their drivers. "I ran him first up Monza, running the car with my own mechanics, all the while getting a visual knowledge and an understanding of the circuit. We went to races at Monza, Paul Ricard, Spa Francorchamps, Zandvoort and the Nurburgring."

Brendon's first taste of driving came after he had been in Europe for two months with a shakedown at Spa in the brand new GT3 car.

His racing calendar for the season was originally full of Endurance Races in the Lamborghini Huracan GT3 Evo but a lot were cancelled meaning he has done quite a lot of sprint racing instead. "I had been scheduled to do the Paul Ricard 12 hour, the Spa 24 hour, the Portimao 24 hour and Sebring 24 hour races. The campaign has been about understanding the car and learning the circuits before a full campaign next year."

"Problems meant we missed Paul Ricard and we changed the plan and went to the Hockenheim 12 Hour race. I was not sure what to expect but we got 3rd overall. The performance of the car was outstanding, we had really good speed and I exceeded my own expectations."

"Then the Portimao 24-hour race was cancelled so we replaced that outing with a run in the British GT Championship at Spa Francorchamps and a run in the ADAC GTC at Hockenheim. I crashed in free practice at Spa and damaged the car and it had to go back to the factory. I was out for the weekend and spent some scary time in hospital. You end up questioning everything but it was a turning point for me as I took it in my stride and went to the GTC round at Hockenheim where we had a different tyre compound. The change in balance of the car was incredible. I didn't have high expectations and there were a lot of top drivers, even ex F1 drivers, but I only missed qualifying on the front row when I had my best time deleted for exceeding track limits. I started fifth and scored sixth place in the sprint race and 8th in the longer race when my co-driver was penalised for also exceeding track limits. The team said they would have been happy with a top ten in a field of





16 or 17 GT3 cars so I made the target and gained a lot of learning, especially around brake bias and all the adjustments with the many switches and dials in the car. I want to win when I race but at the moment, I have to set realistic goals.”

Next up for Brendon was a round of the International GT Open at Monza and he was on the front row with 2 minutes left in qualifying only to get pipped by two others. However, he was only 2/10ths off pole once again on a completely different tyre. “I was very happy.”

“We were third into Turn 1 where it was like bumper cars but a mistake by a Ferrari in front of me meant I had to lift off at the second Lesmo on the opening lap and I was swamped and ended lap 1 in ninth. I set about the big climb back and finished fifth and was closing on fourth when my stint finished. My co-driver lost two spots and we finished 7th overall and second in Pro-am. In the second race I was handed the car in 23rd place. It was my first weekend at Monza, it was my first time in the rain and I felt my way around for the first two laps before misjudging the circuit at the fastest part of the track as I passed a Cup Car and aquaplaned off into the gravel at 213kph.”

At the time we chatted Brendon was looking forward to the Sebring race and his thoughts are below: Next up is the Sebring 24 Hour race. There is a big grid but a tyre that Brendon has experience on. “It is another new track but going to so many different tracks I am learning each one quickly.”

“Sebring will end my first season and then it is back to Europe for the winter. My 2022 campaign begins from 13-15 January and the Dubai 24 Hour Dubai. I am excited!”

Brendon’s programme in 2022 will concentrate on the GT World Challenge Endurance Series, “one of the best endurance championships in the world.”

As far as day- to-day life goes Brendon does some simulator work and plenty of fitness work, especially running. “I live a reasonably normal life much as I would in New Zealand. I’m eating similar types of food to home but some of the coffee here is average. My supermarket shopping takes longer as everything is in German although my German is getting better.”

After racing some of the world’s top up and coming drivers at home at Teretonga Park, Manfeild and Hampton Downs etc. Brendon is now racing on some of the world’s great circuits such as Monza and Spa. How does he rate them? “Monza is like Teretonga on steroids. It is fast. It is insane how much money is pumped into circuits over here. Spa is a bit like Highlands but the high-speed stuff is faster and there is no room for error. It is really dangerous.” Asked about one of the great corners of world motor racing at Spa - Eau Rouge - Brendon says the GT3 car on new tyres goes through there flat out. “It is on the limit there.”

As always Brendon is grateful to those who support his career including Deb & Martin Day of Dayle ITM, Lamborghini Auckland, the Giltrap Group and Leipert Motorsport.

Ideal Christmas Presents



Looking for that perfect Christmas present?

Tickets for the Mobil 1 Classic SpeedFest over the weekend of 19/20 February are on sale at our outlets now and would be the ideal gift for the motorsport fan in your family or circle of friends.

Get along to Auto Centre in Tweed Street, Invercargill, E Hayes & Sons, Dee Street, Invercargill or Harrison's Supplies, Mersey Street, Gore today!

....and if you are reading this after Christmas, they are great Valentine’s Day gifts as well!



Race Committee

The Start Delayed board was unfortunately shown even before our season began. With the usual September South Island Endurance Series meeting postponed, we looked to start the season with a club race day in mid October which we were forced to cancel due to low entry numbers.

We then eventually started our season over Labour Weekend with the South Island Endurance Series. Although some of the cars, drivers and teams were stuck in the North Island's lockdown, we were still treated to some great racing from some awesome cars. We then fast forwarded to our December meeting for which we had a great turn out in all classes with fantastic racing from all. My thanks go to Norma and the team, who had another headache this meeting as the new Covid traffic light system came into effect on the Friday which took a lot of planning.

The meeting was cut short just after lunch on Sunday as a soaking wet track mixed with engine oil was too dangerous to race on and irreparable for our volunteers.

After a decent break now we look forward to February with the Mobil 1 Classic Speedfest, March with the Southern Thunder meeting and finishing our season off in April with a club race day.

Have a great Christmas & New Year and see you back in 2022.

Daniel Kent
Race Committee



ClubSport

The recent non-championship grass autocross topped off the 2021 year on a very, very good note.

It was an event that I was really looking forward to and, after some unfavourable weather for our events this year, it was a great day, just amazing and it was good to get the event under my belt.

With Christmas coming I just want to say that I am stoked with what this year has brought us. There has been good sportsmanship and some great camaraderie and I want to particularly thank all the helpers.

At the recent grass autocross everyone pitched in and helped, it was so good to see.

A big thank you to all our supporters too, particularly Evolution Motorsport who are behind ClubSport 100%.

A very, Merry Christmas to you and all your families and we will see you back at Teretonga Park on Sunday 30 January for Round 5 of the Evolution Motorsport ClubSport Championship.

Malcolm



Fi Innovations Assembly Area

Welcome to our new Assembly Area sponsor – Fi Innovations.

Fi Innovations are specialists in fibreglass, resin flooring, cast urethane and 3D additive manufacturing. We welcome Gareth and Melissa Dykes and the team to the Teretonga Park family of sponsors. You can check them out at fi.co.nz and as with all of our sponsors talk to them should you require anything that they can provide.



Marshalls Training Day



Our annual Marshalls Training Day took place at Teretonga Park on Saturday 9 October.

A large number of first responders and flag marshalls attended, including a number from the Southland Motorcycle Club.

Participants enjoyed theory sessions on Health & Safety, Communication and Report Writing while there was also an outdoor practical session with fire extinguishers.

Motorsport NZ CEO Elton Goonan attended the day and thanked those in attendance for turning up to the training day and for their efforts in volunteering at motorsport events.

There will be another Training Day later in the season. The Southland Sports Car Club thank all who took the time to attend the training.



Photographs: Todd Blackmun

Yunca Junior Tour Of Southland

Great to see the circuit being used for two stages of one of the province's premier cycling events – the Yunca Junior Cycle Tour Of Southland.



Photograph: Robyn Edie Southland Times.

Well done Jordan Michels

Congratulations to Jordan Michels for making the Magnificent Seven in Castrol's search for a driver to take a fully funded drive in the 67th New Zealand Grand Prix next year. From 66 original entries Jordan made the final seven and many of our club members voted for him in the public vote section of the competition.

While James Penrose gained the drive Jordan would have done the club proud both on the track and as an ambassador for Castrol at the event.

COMING UP

January 30	Evolution Motorsport ClubSport Championship Round 5
February 13	Kings Autocross (non-points)
February 18-20	Mobil 1 Classic SpeedFest
March 19-20	Southern Thunder 2022
March 26	Evolution Motorsport ClubSport Championship Round 6
April 9	Club Race Day presented by Downer
April 10	ClubSport Triathlon (non-points)

Check teretonga.org.nz for full details





DIRECTORY OF CLUB OFFICIALS

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Chief Flag Marshal	Cody Masters	0278 206 773
Chief 1 st Response	Lenard McLeod	217 7026
Chief Timekeeper	Bevan Gerrard	215 8257
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