

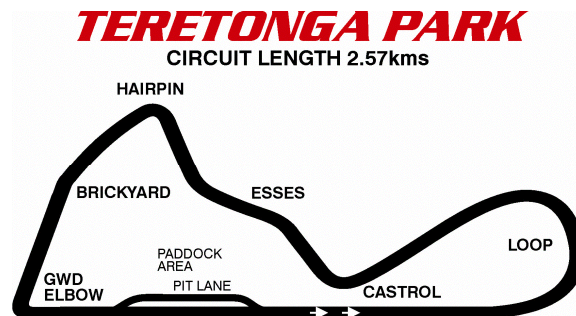
RICHARDS TEAM *MOTORSPORT*

Teretonga a favourite with Bristow and V8 drivers

"Unique" and "love" are not necessarily words that are referred to in motorsport. However they are used by many drivers to describe Teretonga Park, Invercargill. It is a truly historic and unique circuit in New Zealand that is much loved by all those that either race or make the journey to, come rain or shine.

This week the Southern 200 takes place at the 2.57km circuit with all classes (V8, TRS, GT3, Formula Ford, Production and MINI) competing in three races over the weekend. Unique to the round is the late start on Saturday with qualifying in the afternoon (12:05pm start) and the last race, a Porsche GT3 twilight 30-lap 'enduro' starting at 7:40pm.

Heading to Invercargill BNT V8s TEX Onsite Ford driver Michael Bristow describes a lap around Teretonga Park and explains why it is a much loved circuit amongst the drivers.



"First it is a very fast circuit, with one of the longest straights in NZ. Although we don't get to the speeds that we can down the back of Pukekohe we spend quite a large part of the lap going in a straight line.

"Second it is quite a wide track so that there is good room for passing compared with Timaru where we were racing last weekend."

Heading down the main straight the TEX Onsite Ford will get up to around 220 to 230kph going into the loop. Bristow says that it is quite a fast corner taken at about 160 kph. " We accelerate out of the corner into top gear before braking heavily for Castrol which is one of the slowest corners of the track taken in second gear."

"Next are the Esses which are reasonably quick with sweeping corners. It is very important to get the car dialled in (set up correctly) to these corners otherwise you can quickly get over steer."

Onto the hairpin which is a second gear left-hander. Taken quite slowly it is then flat out through the kink (Brickyard) down to the GWD elbow, a sharp left hander onto the main straight.

Bristow says that this particular corner can be the key to a fast lap. "It is important to get a good run out of the Elbow as this sets you up for the long straight. Either you need to keep ahead of those chasing or you need enough speed to chase down those in front."

The top speed down the straight isn't as fast as Pukekohe as the exit speed from the Elbow is quite slow onto the track.

Bristow says that the track offers some good passing opportunities. "Certainly at the end of the main straight going into the loop is the first. Then there is often an opportunity at Castrola and then at the Esses. Then there is a great chance braking and turning at the Elbow."

The BNT V8s championship is now past the halfway mark competing in its fifth round of the season. Bristow is currently tenth with two rounds left after Invercargill as the championship moves back north to compete at Manfeild Park (Fielding) and Pukekohe (Auckland) plus the non championship round held at the Hamilton 400 V8 Supercar race in April.

Media: Benjamin Carrell; Map Teretonga Park; 15th January 09