

# **RICHARDS TEAM** *MOTORSPORT*

## **Bristow Brilliant at Taupo**

Immediately it is apparent that the competition is much closer for this season of the BNT V8s Championship. Along with the household names, McIntyre, Scott, Fogg, Booth, Pedersen and Manuell that have competed for a number of seasons are new faces coupled with drivers that have lifted their game.

Paul Radisich is back along with David Besnard from Australian and throw into the mix Porsche GT3 champion Craig Baird. This season Baird will drive in both the V8s and the Battery Town Porsche GT3 Cup Challenge.

Also new is current Toyota Racing Series champion Andy Knight from Christchurch who has the support of the Stone Brothers Racing V8 Supercar team. Dale Williams fresh from winning his class two years in a row in the production series will also be a serious contender.

TexOnsite driver Michael Bristow also comes to the series with an important championship under his belt. Winner of the 2007/08 V8 Development Series, Bristow also competed with the Richards Team Motorsport for the three rounds of the NZV8s last season. He clearly has the pedigree but this season will fight it out with some great competition.

### **Fujitsu 200 – Taupo Motorsport Park 3-5 October 2008**

#### **Qualifying**

A good grid position is paramount for racing with talented competitors. The format is for the cars to go out on track for 20 minutes (Qualifying session 1) in which the top twenty times decide who will go out for another fifteen minutes (Qualifying session 2) to decide the top ten to compete for another fifteen minutes (Qualifying session 3) for the top ten starting positions..

The Richards Team Motorsport passed the first session getting the car into the top twenty but that is where it stopped with Bristow setting the fourteenth fastest time. However this proved to be the lowest point for the weekend as the racing and results only got better.

John McIntyre set the fastest time ahead of Kayne Scott, Angus Fogg, Paul Radisich and Andy Anderson.

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## **Race 1**

It is always a great sight watching nearly thirty cars roll down the front straight in line with each other towards the starter's flag. Having got away first time round there was immediate disorder and panel damage as several front runners tapped each other. McIntyre was first to go, spinning and dropping back to thirteenth. Paul Pedersen (Ford) suffered significant damage to the passenger side doors, Tim Edgell (Ford) went off onto the grass along with others. Who hit who continues to be debated.

Where was the TexOnsite Ford in all this and did it come out without a scratch? While the team had been used to seeing the car sustain damage in this type of incident it came through relatively unscathed with Bristow making up a number of places to be tenth after the first lap.

"I did receive some slight damage to the front bumper when I touched Tim Edgell who was already flying off the track" commented Michael.

Kayne Scott went on to win from Radisich and Booth while Bristow achieved a top ten finish, ninth and great points for the championship. Last years champion McIntyre managed to claw his way back to finish fifth

## **Results Race 1 – Top 10 (12 laps) Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> Oct 08**

Weather: dry, warm

- 1, Kayne Scott , Hamilton , Ford Falcon, 75
- 2, Paul Radisich , Melbourne , Ford Falcon, 67
- 3, Andy Booth , Auckland , Holden Commodore, 60
- 4, Andrew Anderson , Auckland , Holden Commodore, 54
- 5, John McIntyre, Nelson, Ford Falcon, 49
- 6, Andrew Porter , Auckland , Ford Falcon, 45
- 7, Craig Baird, Gold Coast, Ford Falcon, 42
- 8, David Besnard , Gold Coast, Ford Falcon, 39
- 9, Michael Bristow, Pukekohe, Ford Falcon, 36**
- 10, Eddie Bell , Christchurch , Holden Commodore, 33

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## **Race 2**

Starting ninth Bristow did well to move up the field and even get past Kayne Scott on lap six in the wet only to have his tyres go off. “They went off on about lap 10 and there is nothing that you can do about it. The track developed a dry line and with pushing too hard we smoked the tyres.”

Radisich had taken the lead from lap one, a lead he didn't relinquish. The fight went on behind him between Booth, McIntyre and Besnard.

It was noticeable that a number of drivers suffered the same dilemma. Finishing seventh Bristow commented, “Everyone was pushing because the pace was pretty hot, and we didn't back off enough to save the tyres. When the rain came it was four laps too late but all in all I'm thrilled with the result for the team.”

## **Results Race 2 – Top 10 (16 laps) Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> Oct 08**

Weather: Wet, cool

- 1, Paul Radisich , Melbourne , Ford Falcon, 75
- 2, John McIntyre, Nelson, Ford Falcon, 67
- 3, Andy Booth , Auckland , Holden Commodore, 60
- 4, Craig Baird, Gold Coast, Ford Falcon, 54
- 5, Kayne Scott , Hamilton , Ford Falcon, 49
- 6, Dale Williams, Auckland , Ford Falcon, 45
- 7, Michael Bristow, Pukekohe, Ford Falcon, 42**
- 8, Angus Fogg , Auckland , Ford Falcon, 39
- 9, Andrew Anderson , Auckland , Holden Commodore, 36
- 10, Andrew Porter , Auckland , Ford Falcon, 33

## **Race 3**

The track was dry but rain was threatening for the reverse grid race. This format sees the fastest drivers start at the back while the slowest start from the front. It was Nick Ross who led the pack away holding the lead until the fifth lap when Knight's Milwaukee Ford got passed him. Knight also held the lead for five laps until a gearbox seal let go as a result of a driveshaft breaking in Saturday's race.

Fogg had climbed his way into the lead after starting twelve, a lead that he didn't relinquish until the chequered flag fell. Bristow had to start from the rear of the field (19<sup>th</sup>) along with the other fast runners. As a pack they picked off the slower competitors while also fighting amongst themselves for position. As each lap rolled by the team saw their car edge further up the field eventually finishing in ninth, behind round winner Paul Radisich.

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Three top ten finishes means valuable points for Bristow and the team which sees their car sixth overall in the championship standings. A great performance and start to the season for driver, team, sponsors, family and supporters

All teams now have a months break before they fight it out at Pukekohe Raceway on the weekend of the 7-9<sup>th</sup> November.

## **Results Race 3 – Top 10 (20 laps) Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> Oct 08**

Weather: Dry track, cool, rain threatening

1. Angus Fogg Ford Falcon
2. Paul Pedersen Ford Falcon
3. Eddie Bell Ford Falcon
4. Kayne Scott Ford Falcon
5. David Besnard Ford Falcon
6. John McIntyre Ford Falcon
7. Andy Booth Holden Commodore
8. Paul Radisich Ford Falcon
- 9. Michael Bristow Ford Falcon**
- 10.. NicK Ross Holden Commodore

## **Championship Points after Round 1**

- 1, Paul Radisich , Ford Falcon, 181
- 2, Kayne Scott , Ford Falcon, 178
- 3, Andy Booth , Holden Commodore, 162
- 4, John McIntyre, Ford Falcon, 161
- 5, Angus Fogg , Ford Falcon, 122
- 6, Michael Bristow, Ford Falcon, 114**
- 7, Paul Pedersen, Ford Falcon, 101
- 8, Craig Baird, Ford Falcon, 96
- 9, Eddie Bell , Holden Commodore, 93
- 10, Andrew Anderson , Holden Commodore, 90