

Record field at Suzuki Production Racing round 1

The Suzuki New Zealand Production Racing category provided some of the best racing in its relatively short history at the opening round at Pukekohe Park Raceway last weekend.

As predicted at the end of last summer, the category has really taken off this season with a record field of 27 cars facing the starter for the first race and the promise of more to come.

Reflecting the ultra competitive nature of the racing, there were three different race winners over the weekend, with Simon Sceats taking out the first race in his Subaru WRX, Logan Childs winning the second in his Mitsubishi Evo and last year's champion Dale Williams crossing the line first in atrocious conditions in the third with his promising new Mazda3 MPS.

Class winners for the weekend were Sceats (Class C), Williams (Class B) and Cody McMaster (Class A and Suzuki Swift Sport Cup).

Auckland's Sceats had not intended to race this season because of business and family commitments, but must have been pleased with his decision to race.

Williams was selected by Mazda New Zealand to race their car for their first season back in motorsport competition for many years and Williams underlined his driving talent by winning first time out.

McMaster, meanwhile, is the Suzuki Swift Sport Cup Scholarship driver for the season and the scholarship selectors must have been very pleased with his form in the opening round.

Ten cars fronted for the opening round of the Suzuki Swift Sport Cup and the cars provided a spectacle for the crowd, running three wide at some parts of the circuit.

Top three points in each class after round 1. (Class A and Suzuki Swift Sport Cup): Cody McMaster 210; Kayne Barrie 202; Garry Bradburn 168. Class B – two-wheel drive): Dale Williams (Mazda MPS) 225; Steve Taylor (Honda Civic) 188; Michael Modgill (Honda Integra) 180. (Class C – four wheel drive): Simon Sceats (Subaru WRX) 209; Grant Aitken (Mitsubishi Evo 9) 178; Scott McElvie (Mitsubishi Evo 9) 174.

Next round: Powerbuilt Tools Raceway, Ruapuna Park, Christchurch. November 23-25.

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