

## Close racing in Suzuki New Zealand Production Racing Series

The Suzuki New Zealand Production Racing category produced some of the best racing of the season at Manfeild this weekend as the contestants in the three classes battled to improve their points positions before heading south to Timaru and Teretonga.

There were no run away winners, and there were new round winners in Class C – Logan Childs, and Class A – Paul Hinton.

Childs, who won the scratch race with his Mitsubishi Lancer Evo 9, was delighted to take his first round win, in only his second full season in car racing.

Brady Kennett, who has a wealth of racing experience, quickly proved that he will be a threat by finishing second in Class C in the opening race, but the C class series leader Simon Sceats bounced back by finishing first in the reverse top 10 grid race with his Subaru, while Scott McKelvie, who continues to improve as the season wears on, took second. The reverse grid race provided some fantastic close racing and yet another different race winner for Class C in Zane Coppins, last season's Class B winner taking his first win in the four wheel drive section ahead of Childs.

Class B was also closely fought, with Dale Williams (Mazda 3 MPS) underlining his ability winning the scratch race from Mike Modgill (Honda Integra) and Steve Taylor (Honda Civic). Modgill took a win away from Williams in the second race, and appeared to win the third race – the reverse grid - but a technical infringement handed the win to Williams – who also took out the class honours for the weekend.

As the A Class leader, McMaster took a 50kg weight penalty to Manfeild, but still won the Class A Suzuki Swift Sport Cup scratch race from Paul Hinton. Encouraged by his podium in the first race, Hinton fought hard with McMaster in race two before winning by the narrowest of margins. Hinton then took third place in Class A in the full reverse grid race and enough points to win the class for the day.

Despite there being nearly 30 cars on the grid, the racing was decidedly clean and already 25 drivers have entered for the next round at Timaru.

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