



Racetech RALLY WAIRARAPA



28-29 May 2011

Classic Challenge Trophy Hotly Contested.

After the thrills and (unfortunately) spills of the Otago Rally, the points for the first round of the Classic Challenge Trophy are in.

Contested over two rounds, between the Drive South Otago Rally and the Malcolm Stewart Classic Rally, this mini series provides an opportunity for classic competitors to challenge themselves without contesting the Historic Challenge Trophy in a full national championship campaign. The Classic Challenge Trophy also allows more freedom in the rules, which means a greater variety of cars are able to entertain the crowds.

Inaugurated last year, the trophy proved to be a highly sought after prize and was hotly contested between Derek Ayson in his Nissan powered Ford Escort, and Regan Ross in his BDA Escort. The tight battle between these two was a talking point of last year's Malcolm Stewart Classic Rally, and it provided huge entertainment for the spectators.

This year, the Otago Rally proved to be no less exciting with four different leaders of the classic event in two days of competition. An initial charge by Shane Murland lasted only three stages before he succumbed to the dark and left the road. That left Stewart Reid to establish a 17 second lead over Ari Vatanen for the next four stages, until he suffered gearbox problems.

While many thought that the result was a foregone conclusion, with the rally god enjoying over a minute lead by the start of day two, it was Ayson and Jeff Judd who were fighting hard for the lower podium places. That is until Juddy also left the road in a big hurry, leaving Ayson in no man's land, well ahead of Jeff David in his Porsche 911, and not able to catch Vatanen in front.

However rallying is full of twists and turns, and although Ayson had started to catch Vatanen it was a small mistake by the former rally champion that turned the classic event on it's head. Sliding wide on a tightening right downhill bend, Vatanen caught a gate post with the tail of the car, and in the process destroyed the suspension and wheel rim, forcing him to retire.

Ayson was gifted the win and finds himself leading the Classic Challenge Trophy once again.

And so it is onto the Malcolm Stewart Classic Rally, being run in conjunction with the Trusthouse Racetech Rally Wairarapa. With 284km of competition over two days, the second leg of the trophy series will be just as challenging as the first.

Using county roads – and with the Classic cars seeded right behind the national championship classes – means that the Wairarapa event is more of a driver's challenge than a mechanical challenge.





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Certainly, with the high quality field entered for the national championship Historic Challenge Trophy also being eligible for the Classic Challenge Trophy, the competition will be excellent and fun to watch. A gaggle of Escorts in the hands of Jeff Judd, Gary Smith, Ron Davey, Carl Rabbidge, and Shand Murland, have been joined by the return of some favourites like Rob Wylie in his Nissan 240RS, and Euan Fuge in his Mazda RX3. Adding to the excitement will be Marcus Van Klink in his Group B replica Mazda RX7 and Ray Wilson in his Audi Quattro.

For the Audi Quattro it will be a fitting addition to the Malcolm Stewart Classic Rally. Inspired by Malcolm's ex-works Quattro displayed at the event last year, Ray's car was put together with help from Sue Stewart and parts that Malcolm had accumulated.

Once again, the Malcolm Stewart Classic Rally and the Trusthouse Racetech Rally Wairarapa will be providing inspiration and excellent competition.



Shane Murland in the 2010 Malcolm Stewart Classic Rally
Photo Credit, Jody Seabright





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Classic Challenge Trophy Points after Round 1 – Otago Rally

Driver	Co-Driver	Car	Points	Pos
Derek Ayson	Greg Scott	Escort	32	1
Jeff David	Grant Geelan	Porsche	27	2
Andy Ruddenklau	Maree McFarlane	Escort	23	3
Rob Wylie	Stuart Jenkinson	240RS	20	4
Gary Smith	Troy Smith	Escort	18	5
Mark Laughton	Michael Cooper	Avenger	16	6
Deborah Kibble	Heather Johnston	Lancer	14	7
Marcus Van Klink	Dave Neill	RX7	13	8
Roger Townsend	Tony Gosling	Escort	12	9
Ron Davey	Ross Gordon	Escort	11	10
Lee Stringer	Chris Davison	Lancer	10	11
Willie Rutherford	Alistair Gilmour	Porsche	9	12
Cameron Moore	Chris Nicholas	Corolla	8	13
Ian Begg	Paul Coghill	VW Golf	7	14
Tony Johnston	Neville Whittenbury	Capri	6	15
Allan Dippie	Jeremy Begg	MGB GT	5	16
John Mather	Lance Streeter	Datsun	4	17
Ian Elliot	Hayden Currie	Datsun	3	18
Peter Fridd	Cherie Fridd	Starlet	2	19
Murray Coote	Paul Williamson	240RS	1	20
Ian Thomas	Jake Thomas	Corolla	0	21=
Eric Kyle	Tim Eddington	Viva	0	21=
Jamie Green	Chantelle Pollock	Datsun	0	21=
Duncan McCrostie	Murray Marshall	Bluebird	0	21=
Ari Vatanen	Fabrizia Pons	Escort	0	21=
Euan Fuge	Donna Elder	RX3	0	21=
James Bee	Graham McLeod	Starlet	0	21=
Joshua Lankshear	Matt Crosbie	Escort	0	21=
John Metherell	Mike Reid	Avenger	0	21=
Jeff Judd	Grant Marra	Escort	0	21=
Robert VanGisbergen	Ron Bartells	Escort	0	21=
Stewart Reid	Ian Stewart	Escort	0	21=
Ray Wilson	Mike Fletcher	Audi	0	21=
Darryn Snooks	Cameron Jay	Stanza	0	21=





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Shane Murland	John Benton	Escort	0	21=
Carl Rabbidge	Barry Vercoe	Escort	0	21=

Fast Facts

- Round 3 of NZ Rally Championship
- Round 1 of Geartech Central Region Rally Series, (points scoring based on Saturdays results only)
- Round 2 of the Classic Challenge Trophy
- 17 Special Stages, 8 on Saturday 28 May, and 9 on Sunday 29 May
- 284km of competitive Special Stages, 158km on Saturday, 126km on Sunday
- www.rallywairarapa.co.nz

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