



VICTORY FOR O'DONNELL & NEALE IN ASKO APPLIANCES SI ENDURANCE SERIES

Scott O'Donnell of Invercargill and Andy Neale of Christchurch reversed the result of the opening round when they took their Porsche GT3 RSR to victory at Round 2 of the ASKO Appliances South Island Endurance Three hour Series at Timaru International Motor Raceway at Levels near Timaru today.

The duo crossed the line four laps ahead of first round winners Matt and Dwayne Carter of Auckland in a Ford Falcon V8 Supercar to set up the ultimate showdown at the final round at Powerbuilt Tools Raceway in Christchurch on 31 October. The two teams are now equal on points after the Carter Falcon won at Teretonga from Scott O'Donnell and his co-driver on that occasion, Lindsay O'Donnell.

O'Donnell was very, very happy after the race. "The car went wonderfully well and Andy drove a wonderful second stint. We had two laps in hand when I handed over and we won by four laps. It was a nice, smooth display. The Porsche was very suited to the rain, it grips and goes and does everything right. I'm looking forward to the showdown at Ruapuna."

The win was far from straightforward however as conditions were atrocious for much of the race. Indeed O'Donnell had a spectacular spin as he came onto the front straight to complete the first lap, fortunately spinning down the straight without hitting anything. The Chev Corvette of Alexandra drivers Bruce Davidson and David Garden was not so lucky soon after when it spun at the same corner and hit the fence, necessitating a pitstop to change a bent steering rod. Even less lucky was the Angus McFarlane Toyota Altezza which spun at the same place after ten minutes, hitting the bank and retiring. McFarlane had started near the back and had made great progress through the field when the incident occurred. The conditions were also causing problems in other ways and both the Warren Good/Arron Black BMW and the Carter's Falcon stopped with demister problems in the murky conditions.

Through the confusion the John Wadsworth/Warren Croft Commodore took the lead from the Garry Cliff/Hayden Knighton Porsche and Dale and Dennis Chapman in their BMW.

Just before 1/3 distance the O'Donnell Porsche had recovered to make it through to the lead ahead of Wadsworth/Croft and Cliff and the Chapman BMW. The battle between second, third and fourth place was very close at this point.

The Carter Falcon stopped again at about that time with a broken header, continuing on but sounding very definitely off song.

The Davidson/Garden Corvette was the next casualty with a rear diff problem, losing time in the pits. At the one hour forty minute mark O'Donnell, who had built up a 2 lap lead over Chapman, pitted to hand over to Neale.

The Patrick Heagney/Scott McDermid Toyota Sprinter pitted with a flat battery at the 2 hour mark, losing several laps while the battery was changed.

Meanwhile the Carter Falcon was making solid progress through the field climbing to fifth place. With half an hour to go it was into second, albeit well behind the Porsche. The track was now drying and in the lead Neale was hunting for wet patches on the track to save his tyres.

Neale crossed the line to give himself and O'Donnell a comfortable win, covering 134 laps to win by four laps from Matt & Dwayne Carter. Cliff and Knighton of Christchurch took third, a further lap behind with Wadsworth and Croft of Blenheim in fourth, the Chapman BMW fifth and Good and Black of Dunedin sixth.

Despite the diabolical conditions only two cars failed to finish – the McFarlane car plus Pavlos Van Aaist and Dean McGuigan of Christchurch who spun at the top end of the circuit only to have the starter motor fail on their Mazda RX3.

Meanwhile Gore driver Dave McLean won the One Hour ASKO Appliances race which was run within the longer event. McLean, who drove his Honda Integra solo in the event, was elated with the win. McLean made a clever decision to make his compulsory pit stop when the safety car appeared and went on to win by one lap from Stuart Black of Dunedin in a Toyota Starlet with Southlanders Bradley and Jeremy Dawson third in their Starlet.

The ASKO Appliances SI Endurance Series now moves to what promises to be an epic finale at Powerbuilt Tools Raceway at Ruapuna on Saturday 31st October 2009. The overall 3hr series champion will be awarded the 'South Canterbury Toyota Cup', plus the Club has been donated an original watercolor painting by High Country artist Norman Sinclair valued at

approximately \$10,000-00 which will be given away as a spot prize. The overall One Hour series champion will receive the new SIERDC 1 Hour Champions trophy and the Club also gives away prizes and prizemoney throughout the five classes being McFarlane Group Developments Class 4 (0-1600cc), Burnside Contractors Class 3 (1601-2000cc), Hagley Building Products Class 2 (2001-3500cc), Southern Finance Class 1 (3501cc and over) and the new ASKO Appliances GT class.



Scott O'Donnell of Invercargill and Andy Neale of Christchurch

Photo: SportProMedia.com

CLOSE QUALIFYING BATTLE AT ROUND 2 OF ASKO APPLIANCES SI ENDURANCE SERIES

The two main protagonists from the opening round of the ASKO Appliances South Island Endurance Three Hour Series race at Teretonga Park recently continued their battle during qualifying for the second round at Timaru International Motor Raceway at Levels near Timaru today.

After the first qualifying session was held in drizzly conditions the second session in the dry saw the Porsche GT3 RSR of Scott O'Donnell and Andy Neale take pole position for tomorrow morning's race after continually trading fastest laps with opening round winners Dwayne and Matt Carter of Auckland in their BA Falcon V8 Supercar. The fastest lap for the Porsche was 1 minute 02.803 while the Falcon qualified alongside it for tomorrow's 3 Hour event with a lap of 1 minute 02.977.

Dunedin duo Warren Good and Arron Black will start from third on the grid in their BMW E46. Their best time today was 1 minute 07.928. Blenheim drivers John Wadsworth and Warren Croft were fourth fastest in their Holden Commodore ahead of the third placegetters at the opening round, Bruce Davidson and David Garden of Alexandra in a Chev C5 Corvette. Craig McDermid and Tony Head complete the top six despite the fact that Head's flight south was delayed this morning.

Also part of the event tomorrow is the first round of the ASKO Appliances One Hour Series with Dave McLean of Gore setting the fastest time of those competitors.

Stuart Black of Dunedin suffered a blown diff today but has qualified for tomorrow's race.

Twenty-two cars will line up for the race which starts at 9.30am. Competitors will observe one minutes silence for former series competitor Matt Heagney of Blenheim prior to the race. Heagney was tragically killed in Blenheim recently.

After this weekend's round, the ASKO Appliances SI Endurance Series moves to its Grand Finale at Powerbuilt Tools Raceway at Ruapuna in Christchurch on Saturday 31st October 2009. The overall 3hr series champion will be awarded the 'South Canterbury Toyota Cup', plus the Club has been donated an original watercolor painting by High Country artist Norman Sinclair valued at approximately \$10,000-00 which will be given away as a spot prize. The overall One Hour series champion will receive the new SIERDC 1 Hour Champions trophy and the Club also gives away prizes and prizemoney throughout the five classes being McFarlane Group Developments Class 4 (0-1600cc), Burnside Contractors Class 3 (1601-2000cc), Hagley Building Products Class 2 (2001-3500cc), Southern Finance Class 1 (3501cc and over) and the new ASKO Appliances GT class.

For information on the South Island Endurance Series or to be added to the SIERDC e-mailing list, please contact Series Secretary Chris Dunn via e-mail at sierdc@extra.co.nz or ph 021-107-9293. For more information on series sponsor ASKO, please visit www.ASKO.co.nz

Points to date:

ASKO Appliances Overall points

- 1st Carter/Carter – BA Supercar – 182 points
- 2nd Scott O'Donnell – Porsche GT3 RSR – 182 points
- 3rd Chapman/Chapman – BMW – 143 points
- 4th Wadsworth/Croft – Commodore – 139 points
- 5th Davidson/Garden – Chev Corvette – 136 points
- 6th Scarfe/S Black – Falcon Ute – 131 points

ASKO Appliances GT Class

- 1st Carter/Carter – BA Supercar – 182 points
- 2nd S O'Donnell/O'Donnell – Porsche RSR – 182 points
- 3rd Cliff/Knighton – Porsche 996T 4WD – 100 points

Southern Finance Ltd Class 1 (3501cc +)

- 1st= Davidson/Garden – Corvette C5 – 175 points
- 1st= Wadsworth/Croft – VY Commodore – 175 points
- 3rd Scarfe/Black – Ford XR8 Ute – 174 points

Hagley Building Products Class 2 (2001 – 3500cc)

- 1st Chapman/Chapman – BMW SuperTourer – 190 points
- 2nd Heagney/McDermid – Toyota Sprinter – 67 points
- 3rd Mann/Tinnelly – Mazda RX7 – 60 points

Burnside Contractors Class 3 (0-2000cc)

- 1st Good/Black – BMW 320i – 75 points
- 2nd Greenslade/Murphy – Datsun S2000 – 20 points

McFarlane Group Developments Class 4 (0-1600cc)

- 1st= Sinclair/Ham – 0 points
- 1st= Collinson/Ryan – 0 points

One Hour Series

ASKO Appliances Overall points

- 1st McLean – Honda Integra – 75 points
- 2nd S Black – Toyota Starlet – 67 points
- 3rd Dawson/Dawson – Toyota Starlet – 60 points
- 4th MacGibbon – Starlet S2000 – 54 points
- 5th Carter – Porsche 911 – 49 points
- 6th Sinclair – Peugeot 106 – 45 points

Southern Finance Ltd Class 1 (3501cc +)

- 1st Williams – RX7 – 0 points

Hagley Building Products Class 2 (2001 – 3500cc)

- 1st Carter – Porsche 911 – 75 points

2nd= Good/A Black – BMW – 0 points

2nd= Reid – 0 points

Burnside Contractors Class 3 (0-2000cc)

1st McLean – Honda Integra – 75 points

2nd MacGibbon – Starlet - 67 points

3rd – Russell – Renault Megane – 0 points

McFarlane Group Developments Class 4 (0-1600cc)

1st S Black – Toyota Starlet - 75 points

2nd Dawson/Dawson – Toyota Starlet - 67 points

3rd Sinclair – Peugeot – 60 points