

Archive Wanderings - Speedway



A recent visit to the Trust by well known Speedway personalities, Reece Facory and Gordon Mclsaac brought many new stories to light. Whilst we remembered that Bruce had done some Cooper testing on the old banked oval at Western Springs, I was unaware that there had been appearances on track with Timmy Mayer, appearances at the speedway at the Epsom Show grounds and even earlier, Northern Sports Car Club sprint meetings with the Austin Healey at the Springs.



Above:
Gordon Mclsaac has a close look at the Monaco Cup.
Top right:
Reece Facory also with the Monaco Cup.

McLaren history with Western Springs goes way back to the late 1920's and on opening night in 1929, none other than the young Les McLaren featured, riding his motorbike through hoops of fire!! When Mother read about this on Monday morning, no wonder daughter Pat was born later that day!!!

If anyone can tell us more about the Sprint Events that the NSCC used to run at Western Springs in the 1950s, we would love to hear from you.

Right: Bruce tests the Cooper on the old banked area of the speedway track. Today the banking has gone and the cinder track has been replaced with clay.



From the Motoring History Archives

The Automobile Association was formed in 1905 and provided "Scouts" to warn motorists of hidden "police traps". A legal action in 1906 ruled that this was interference with the police. The AA got around this by instituting their rule: "If an AA Scout fails to salute you, stop and ask the reason." This gave the Scout an opportunity to say "Beg pardon Sir, didn't see you coming. Oh! By the way, if I were you Sir, I'd go a bit steady for a mile or two as the road's very bumpy".

Goodwood

2004

Anyone interested in joining a group tour to Goodwood Festival next year, drop us a note and we will send you further information.

Speedway

Museum

Gordon

Mclsaac runs

the Speedway

Museum here

in Auckland

and this

private

collection is a

tribute to

Gordon's

dedication

and enthusiasm

for

speedway

racing and

history.

For further

information

contact

Gordon on

(09) 376 2880

Kartsport - The Formula Challenge Bruce McLaren Award

Over the years, many strange and different things have happened in the flat at the Service Station but the sight of a kart coming up the stairs and into the front display room, has to take first prize.

With our decision to become involved with Formula Challenge, Kartsport and the new Zealand Schools' National Championships, first on the agenda were some publicity photos. And hence into the Trust offices, came the kart.

The inaugural event was at Auckland's Shell Helix Raceway on August 17th and it was great to be part of such an enthusiastic group of young karters. Schools from all over New Zealand were represented and we were very proud to see an entry from the Bruce McLaren Intermediate School.

Host school Rangitoto College students Brock Barrie and Royce Rollinson started as the favourites—and they didn't disappoint. Brock and Royce clinched the New Zealand Schools' Championship and for their efforts won test drives in the Formula Challenge racing car courtesy of the Bruce McLaren Award sponsor, Formula Challenge.

Claiming their prize however, saw another challenge - a condition of winning was that the boys had to do a presentation to their school on Bruce McLaren - a prize with an educational twist!!

Six weeks later, with support from Peter Burns, ex McLaren International Marketing, the Trust and very enthusiastic parents, Brock and Royce did a superb Powerpoint presentation on Bruce's life and achievements. Congratulations

Photos— James Stead representing the Bruce McLaren Intermediate School.

Bruce McLaren Formula Challenge Winners, Brock Barrie and Royce Rollinson.

The Karting Crew, the Kart and sponsors at the Trust headquarters



The Guinness Record

Well, I tempted fate in the last newsletter by mentioning the record and after all these years it finally has happened—the record for the youngest driver to win a F1 Grand Prix has been broken.

Up and coming F1 driver Fernando Alonso claimed the record by winning the Hungarian GP on the 24th August 2003 and did so at the age of 22 years and 26 days. Bruce's record was 22 years and 104 days for his win at the United States GP in 1959. Whilst their birthdays are only one month apart, the record has been convincingly claimed by two months and Alonso is to be congratulated on such a great drive in his Renault and of course, the first win for Renault in 20 years.

There was many a sad thought on the Monday morning as we received many calls and emails but as someone said, Bruce is still the youngest driver to win a F1 Grand Prix in a car of his design and name - must check that one out and get in touch with Guinness!!!!