



Chief Steward

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Hawkes Bay Offroad Racing Clubs Short Course / Enduro Nationals Finals 2019

Once again, the weather was perfect for the event with the Short Course well marked out and good for every Class. The pre-gridding was simple and effective, the ability for all classes to have a look see lap prevented any surprises and gave a feeling of confidence for those leading out the first few heats.

The Class J and M also having a fair track and offered some very equal racing between themselves and the classes.

The races for mixed classes was well thought through and relatively competitive with each other giving the crowd something to watch climaxed by the big field of Class Ones.

Saturday's short course racing presented a few break downs with quick clearance by the ample number of marshal's with only one concern being the return to pits of the competitors at the completion of each race. There was a small risk of head to head traffic which was solved by personal direction by the marshal at race completion. At no time did any car come close to causing an incident, just a little confusion until everyone got the hang of what was being asked. A second similar situation presented itself with the Class J drivers becoming lost and heading towards the oncoming tape and traffic. This was quickly solved and again, no one came near to having an incident.

One protest received in relation to the short course racing and was dealt with by the Protest Committee formed at completion of the days racing.

Generally, a good day for all with the Enduro to follow Sunday.

Sunday started with the J and M Class enduro of half an hour on the original track. In the initial stages this proved to be very competitive and it was interesting to see the more experienced drivers in the J and M class were very equally matched for overall speed and handling.

Midday saw the start of the main Enduro on a 20-kilometer track over various forms of terrain including bush tracks. The track was uniquely marked and much attention was given to this at drivers briefing. No one left the briefing with-out the knowledge of what to expect on the track. The evening previous, the track was driven by the COC and myself with the few suggestions taken up and additional tape and marking placed. On the lead lap, there was some hesitating moments for the first few cars but with no place changes caused by unsure track direction, but the track become very established quickly.

There were two injury accidents (back injuries) known to us at the time and these were dealt with per the Safety Plan. Further records to be received in due course. In both cases the cause was driver error and could not be prevented by marshals or officials. All hazards were clearly marked.

The on-site camping was well patronized, and the prize-giving and meals were also on site and went well with a few surprises as to the Champions overall.

One suggestion that has come forward, is it feasible to set the grid for the first short course based on the results or points from the previous National events of the year? Highest point scorer in the class is given pole position and then work down accordingly. Only for the first race and then seeded accordingly for the remaining starts. Gives a bit further incentive to run all three previous National events.

For a small club, and a very helpful farm Owner (thank you) a very well organized and run event including the on-site camping. The timetables were kept and everyone knew what was expected of them.

A very big privilege to have access to that specific site.

Yours sincerely,



Phil Cameron

