

NEW ZEALAND SLOT CAR
ASSOCIATION INC.



2022 New Zealand 1/32nd Scale Nationals

17th – 19th June 2022 at Wellington Slot Car Club

RACE REPORT by Chris Dillon

The 2022 NZSCA 32nd Nationals were held on the eight lane Nabokins track in Wellington, attracting a record sixteen entrants in Class Three, and eleven in Class One.

Class 3 Intro32

"easy to build, harder to drive" (Chris Parkes)

The first race is held on the Friday evening to enable the schedule to have room for dinner on Saturday. Prior to racing Gill Andrews took out Concours for the second year in a row, and won the Graeme Mitchell constructors championship: he then proceeded to top qualify in the very tricky Saloons on high tires.



Class 3 Intro32 - Race 1 - Saloon

Heat B saw Tim Fellows lead for seven stints, only to be passed by Paul Belchambers who won with a slim 25 segment lead, with Neil Bidwell 3rd. In the A heat, Gill took the lead in the third stint, then Chris Parkes came through in stint four, and held on through purple and black lanes to win overall by just 22 segments from Chris Dillon, with Adam Bidwell 3rd Gill Andrews 4th Andrew Bidwell 5th and Paul Belchambers 6th.



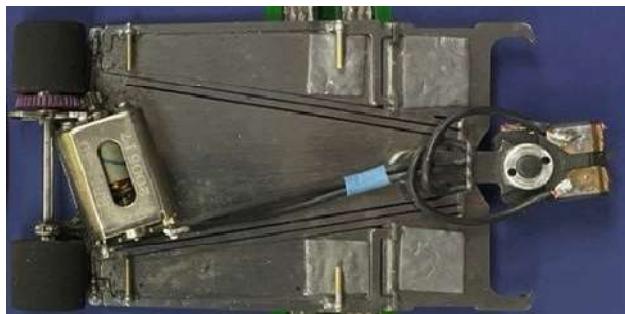
Race 2 - Saloon – Allan Tucker came back strongly from a DNF on Friday night to win from the B heat, with Chris Dillon 2nd, Adam Bidwell 3rd, Paul Belchambers 4th and Gill Andrews 5th. Racing was very close with the top five separated by only one lap and thirty segments.

Races 3 & 4 – LMP – In Race 3 Eben led the B from start to finish, and Gill got flying in the A. Overall results were Gill, Chris Dillon, and Andrew Bidwell, with Allan Tucker, Adam Bidwell and Chris Parkes making up the top six. Just 52 segments separated 3rd 4th and 5th. In Race 4, Tim won the B from Eben and Zane, and Gill took out the A with a strong run on Yellow, followed closely by Chris Dillon, Allan Tucker and Paul Belchambers.

Class 3 Intro32 podium placed racers

Races 5 & 6 – GTP – Race 5 & Eben again led the B heat, followed home by Nigel Jono and Zane, while Andrew Bidwell DNF'd after just two stints. The visitors from Blenheim were getting quicker, when their cars lasted... Gill completely dominated the A heat to win by nine laps from Chris Dillon, with Chris Parkes, Adam Bidwell, Ron Thornton and Paul Belchambers all closely behind. In race 6, Tim Fellows stole the lead of the B heat from Eben Brand in the final stint to win by just 50 segments. In the A heat Paul Belchambers looked like he had finally shaken off his run of bad luck as he took the lead on Red lane and held it for four stints, only to be caught while on Black by Gill, who won by 60 segments. Chris Dillon, Adam Bidwell, Allan Tucker and Tim Fellows made up the top six overall.

A dominant performance from Gill Andrews with four wins and he just kept getting quicker. Congratulations Gill! His second Class Three Championship in three years.



Gill Andrews' winning car – Note the rubber tell-tales on the wing tips only. Getting the ride height correct is critical with these cars.

Class 3 Intro32 Overall Points and Placings

Driver	Intro32 Saloon				Intro32 LMP				Intro32 GTP				Overall Placing	
	Race 1	Race 2	Total	Placing	Race 1	Race 2	Total	Placing	Race 1	Race 2	Total	Placing	Total Points	Placing
Gill Andrews	22.0	21.5	43.5	3	25.0	25.0	50.0	1	25.0	25.0	50.0	1	143.5	1
Chris Dillon	23.5	23.5	47.0	1	23.5	23.5	47.0	2	23.5	22.5	46.0	2	140.0	2
Adam Bidwell	22.5	22.5	45.0	2	21.5	20.5	42.0	6=	22.0	22.0	44.0	4	131.0	3
Paul Belchambers	21.0	22.0	43.0	4	20.0	22.0	42.0	6=	21.0	23.5	44.5	3	129.5	4
Allan Tucker	16.0	25.0	41.0	7	22.0	22.5	44.5	3	20.0	21.5	41.5	6	127.0	5
Chris Parkes	25.0	16.5	41.5	5=	21.0	21.5	42.5	5	22.5	20.0	42.5	5	126.5	6
Tim Fellows	20.5	21.0	41.5	5=	16.0	20.0	36.0	10=	17.5	21.0	38.5	9=	116.0	7=
Eben Brand	18.5	19.0	37.5	11=	19.5	19.0	38.5	9	19.5	20.5	40.0	7=	116.0	7=
Andrew Bidwell	21.5	16.0	37.5	11=	22.5	21.0	43.5	4	16.0	18.5	34.5	13=	115.5	9
Alex Johnston	20.0	19.5	39.5	8=	20.5	19.5	40.0	8	17.0	17.5	34.5	13=	114.0	10
Neil Bidwell	19.5	20.0	39.5	8=	16.5	17.5	34.0	15	20.5	19.5	40.0	7=	113.5	11
Jonathan Webb	19.0	20.5	39.5	8=	18.0	18.0	36.0	10=	18.5	19.0	37.5	11	113.0	12
Ron Thornton	18.0	18.0	36.0	13	18.5	16.5	35.0	14	21.5	17.0	38.5	9=	109.5	13
Nigel Boyce	17.0	18.5	35.5	14	19.0	17.0	36.0	10=	19.0	18.0	37.0	12	108.5	14
Zane Shave	16.5	17.5	34.0	16	17.5	18.5	36.0	10=	18.0	16.5	34.5	13=	104.5	15
Chris Wong	17.5	17.0	34.5	15	17.0	16.0	33.0	16	16.5	16.0	32.5	16	100.0	16

Class One

"Avoid the carnage, and don't run out of rubber" (anon)



Class 1 – Sunday Drivers

Group 12 Saloon - After struggling in qualification with the car that Chris Dillon had used to win Saloons last year, Allan Tucker got off to a strong start, winning the B heat by 24 laps and setting a tough target to beat. Could the A heat drivers get even closer? Dillon led the A from the start after Paul Belchambers found his car was not quite right after a crash in the first corner. Adam Bidwell who had TQ'd closed to within four laps of Paul. But right at the end Chris passed Allan's lap total to win by 31 segments. Very tight. Eben Brand and Steve Meadows made up the top six overall.

Open Grand Prix – There was a lot of carnage with the open wheelers, particularly from de-slotted onto the main straight and the resulting high speed impacts. A big crash in practice saw Allan Tucker have to make a last minute switch of GP cars – but he then proceeded to TQ!

Neil Bidwell won the B heat from Eben (who had led the first four stints) and Jono.

In the A heat, Paul Belchambers' bad luck struck again after only eight laps with a main straight smash terminally damaging his GP car. Chris Dillon got away cleanly to lead the A from the first stint, was lucky enough to stay out of trouble, and was never headed, although he slowed considerably in the last two stints as his rubber wore too low. Allan, Andrew, Adam, Neil and Eben made up the top six overall.

Open Sports GT – TQ was Paul Belchambers with a car that looked super smooth. Was this going to be his chance for a podium? The B heat belonged to Andrew Bidwell who finished 15 laps ahead of Neil who was 20 laps ahead of Jono. In the A heat, Chris Dillon got off to a flyer on white, Allan Tucker took the lead in stint 2, then Paul Belchambers had a strong run on Blue and was a lap ahead of Allan. But in the 4th stint Paul ran into traffic on the main straight, sucked his body into the gears and it was race over. Allan proceeded to run away from the rest of the field, while Chris ran out of rubber way too early and had to nurse his car home, finishing only 2 laps ahead of Eben. Andrew, Steve Meadows, and Adam made up the top six.



Chris Dillon Class 1 Champion

With two wins and a second Chris took out the overall Class One championship, with Allan and Adam second and third. Fast, nerve wracking, crash heavy racing.

Class 1 Overall Points and Placings

Driver	Saloon		Grand Prix		Sports GT		Overall Placing	
	Points	Placing	Points	Placing	Points	Placing	Total Points	Placing
Chris Dillon	50	1	50	1	47	2	147	1
Allan Tucker	47	2	47	2	50	1	144	2
Adam Bidwell	41	7	45	3	44	4	130	3=
Eben Brand	43	5	42	6	45	3	130	3=
Andrew Bidwell	44	4	44	4	42	6	130	3=
Steve Meadows	42	6	41	7	43	5	126	6
Neil Bidwell	39	9	43	5	41	7	123	7
Paul Belchambers	45	3	39	9	37	11	121	8
Nigel Boyce	37	11	40	8	39	9	116	9
Jonathan Webb	40	8			40	8	80	10
Zane Shave	38	10			38	10	76	11



*Concours d'Elegance – Gill Andrews
with a very similar paint job to last years winner*



*Class 3 Rookie Champion –
Zane Shave*



*Graeme Mitchell Memorial
Constructor's Trophy – Gill Andrews*

Congratulations to all! A highly enjoyable race meeting – good to see the 1/32nd Nationals well supported and securely on the race calendar again.

Driver's Notes



"The 32nd Nats for me could be called "life tied to the tyre truer" - having completed 3 sets of tyres, 2 cars failed scrutineering due to my 2 new Genesis Chassis having a higher axle height than the norm. 2 new sets were replaced and off I went again. I was still trueing tyres at midnight Friday in preparation for Saturday's racing! During the Saturday Andrew smashed a set of wheels and then myself later, so 2 more replacement sets to true! Before the event I had decided the boys would get the best cars being quicker than me now and this showed during the event. Best moment was chasing down Eben in the Open F1's, pulling back a lap and then increasing my lead in the B heat." **Neil Bidwell**

"My car was quick and handled well as it has since it was built. Started in the best possible way by winning my first saloon race, however I had to push hard to hold off a fast finishing Chris Dillon which wore my tyres more than I had anticipated. I started the second saloon race on high rubber trying to make up for losing a set, which backfired sensationally with multiple crashes resulting in a broken lead wire. The rest of the day went smoothly until my last race which resulted in more tyre issues as I ran out of rubber with two heats remaining, so dropped spots by doing a quickish tyre change between heats. Great day, awesome catching up with fellow racers, can't wait till next year!" **Chris Parkes**

"A game of two half's for me. Seemed to fight the car with tall tyres. Had good results with the car when tyres were lower. One broken lead wire causing last place. Great weekend as always." **Tim Fellows**

"Increased my total laps from last year in most heats, interior decided to visit the gear in saloon heat 1 other than that a trouble free run managing to miss a few deslotted missiles from time to time. Class 1: Not a good performance but still fun, learnt a few things to bring back for next year." **Nigel Boyce**



Great to meet newcomer Zane Shave and to see Chris Wong back racing after a few years absence. I clearly didn't learn much as, like last year I was only competitive in the last Intro32 race. Need to figure out how to drive a saloon on tall rubber. Sunday's Class 1 racing didn't go well. Having obviously offended the slot racing gods, I ran into trouble on the main straight in all three races only managing to finish the Saloon race. Oh well better luck next year. It's great that the 1/32nd scale Nationals are alive and well again and supported by such a friendly group of dedicated slot racers." **Paul Belchambers**.

"Learnings... I can get away with running Intro tyres lower, could very nearly do another legal race with the tyres after Saloon and LMP. Didn't check GTP, but could do with less there also. These cars don't like tall tyres. The handout tyres were varying in quality - hardness, width (some were down to 14.5mm). I need much more practice with the Baby Euro, my car was very fast (4.57s when I drove it a bit on Thursday) but I don't have enough experience to drive them more aggressively in the race -used a LOT of choke in the race." **Eben Brand**



"Having not raced metal chassis cars for many years, and having never mastered them, these 1/32nd Nationals marked a paradigm shift in slot car racing for me. I turned up and drove a car kindly built for me by Paul Belchambers! He even kindly pitted for me, even when it was a lost cause! While the driving and results were terrible, it was very enjoyable to see everyone again. If the classes do not change, I will freshen the car up and return." **Chris Wong**

"Racing against the "Guns" and beating some of them with my Class 3 car in the first GTP race was the highlight of the weekend for me. Once I realised that thinner braid and lower rubber were the ideal match, I had fun." **Ron Thornton**



"For a suggestion maybe have the handout tyres given at an earlier time so we can get them all trued and ready to go? I liked the way the race and qualifying were run; simple and effective as well as simple class rotations. I like the idea of going over next time and running 32nd on the club night as it gives us more track time and tuning/testing, as well as get the hang of G12 more the following day. The whole event was a great success. I almost felt competitive by the end of the weekend, I had learned so much more track knowledge, and that may have been more useful in the intro class due to the older equipment we have for the other classes." **Adam Bidwell**