



2023 New Zealand 1/32nd Scale Nationals

16th – 18th June 2023 at Wellington Slot Car Club

RACE REPORT by Chris Dillon

The 2023 NZSCA 32nd Nationals were held on the eight lane Nabokins track in Wellington. This year saw fourteen entrants in Class Three and ten in Class One.

As usual the first race was held on Friday night and prior to this both the Graeme Mitchell Memorial constructors Trophy and the 32nd scale Concours d'Elegance were judged, with Paul Belchambers winning both.

Class Three

Class 3 Intro32 - Race 1 - Saloon

Heat B saw Adam Bidwell run away from the field to finish 3 laps ahead of Gill Andrews with a further 9 laps back to Nigel Boyce. In the A heat, Chris Parkes led from the start, and while Allan Tucker managed to get ahead for a couple of stints, Chris won by just three segments from Allan, repeating his first race win from last year's Nats. Overall, it was Chris, Allan, Adam Bidwell and Gill Andrews, with Eben Brand and Chris Dillon making up the top six.

Race 2 - Saloon – In the B, Neil Bidwell finished five laps ahead of Dion De Graf, who was to get quicker and quicker all weekend, with Nigel Boyce in third. In the A, Allan Tucker picked up the pace from Friday night and showed the form that he was to repeat most of the weekend, winning by five laps from Paul Belchambers, with Chris Dillon third. Overall they were the top three, with Neil, Gill and Eben making up the top six.

Races 3 & 4 – LMP – In race 3, Tim Fellows won the B closely followed by Dion De Graf. The A was won by Allan Tucker who dominated the race to finish three laps ahead of Paul Belchambers. Overall, it was Allan, Paul, Chris Parkes, Chris Dillon, Adam Bidwell and Tim Fellows. In Race 4 Gill dominated the B heat, finishing 11 laps ahead of Neil, while in the A, Allan Tucker saw off a challenge from Chris Dillon to win by just 1 lap and 39 segments. Overall, it was Allan, Chris Dillon, Gill from the B, Paul Belchambers, Chris Parkes and Tim Fellows.



Races 5 & 6 – GTP. In race 5, the B heat was won by Neil Bidwell with a very close race between Dion and Nigel for second and third. The A heat was won convincingly by Chris Dillon after Allan Tucker had a technical disaster on blue lane that took him from first to 10th place, with Tim and Gill taking second and third. Overall, they took the top three places with Neil, Eben and Dion making up the top six.

Race 6 saw a reduced field after Chris Dillon and Ron Thornton found they had insufficient rubber left to get through scrutineering. The B heat was another strong win for the flying Allan Tucker, with Paul Belchambers and Chris Parkes taking second and third. It looked like the A heat racers might struggle to best them, and so it was, with Tim, Gill and Dion taking the top three places in the A, but only making 3rd, 5th and 6th overall.

A dominant performance from Allan Tucker, overall Class Three winner, with great results for Paul Belchambers second overall and Chris Parkes third overall.

Most improved driver was Tim Fellows who progressed from wanting to throw his car out the window on Friday night, to podiums in races 5 and 6, giving him the overall Class 3 GTP title.

Class 3 Intro32 Overall Points and Placings

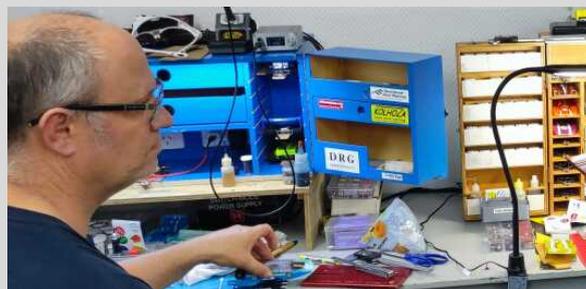
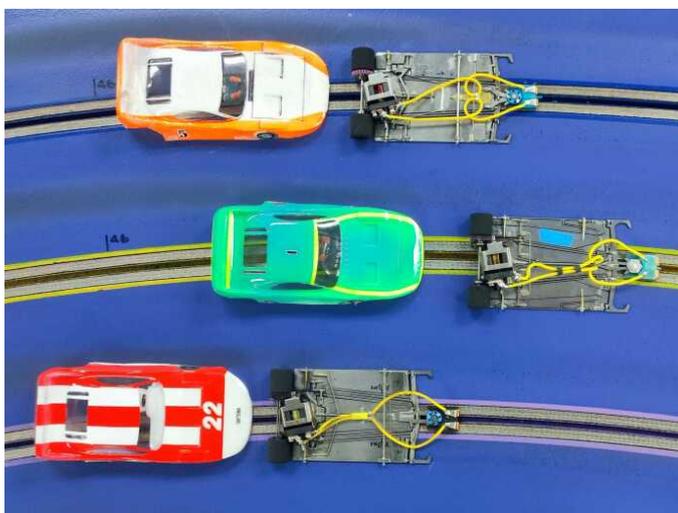
Driver	Intro32 Saloon				Intro32 LMP				Intro32 GTP				Overall Placing	
	Race 1	Race 2	Total	Placing	Race 1	Race 2	Total	Placing	Race 1	Race 2	Total	Placing	Total Points	Placing
Allan Tucker	23.5	25.0	48.5	1	25.0	25.0	50.0	1	19.0	25.0	44.0	2	142.5	1
Paul Belchambers	20.5	23.5	44.0	3	23.5	22.0	45.5	3	20.0	23.5	43.5	4	133.0	2
Chris Parkes	25.0	20.5	45.5	2	22.5	21.5	44.0	4	19.5	22.0	41.5	7	131.0	3
Gill Andrews	22.0	21.5	43.5	5	20.0	22.5	42.5	5	22.5	21.5	44.0	3	130.0	4
Eben Brand	21.5	21.0	42.5	6	19.0	19.5	38.5	8	21.5	20.5	42.0	5	123.0	5
Tim Fellows	17.0	17.0	34.0	14	21.0	21.0	42.0	7	23.5	22.5	46.0	1	122.0	6
Neil Bidwell	20.0	22.0	42.0	7	17.0	20.0	37.0	10	22.0	19.0	41.0	8	120.0	7
Dion DeGraff	18.5	20.0	38.5	10	20.5	17.5	38.0	9	21.0	21.0	42.0	6	118.5	8
Adam Bidwell	22.5	18.5	41.0	8	21.5	20.5	42.0	6	17.0	18.0	35.0	12	118.0	9
Nigel Boyce	19.5	19.5	39.0	9	18.5	18.5	37.0	11	20.5	18.5	39.0	9	115.0	10
Chris Dillon	21.0	22.5	43.5	4	22.0	23.5	45.5	2	25.0	DNS	25.0	13	114.0	11
Jonathan Webb	19.0	19.0	38.0	11	17.5	18.0	35.5	14	18.5	19.5	38.0	11	111.5	12
Graeme Saxton	17.5	17.5	35.0	13	18.0	19.0	37.0	12	18.0	20.0	38.0	10	110.0	13
Ron Thornton	18.0	18.0	36.0	12	19.5	17.0	36.5	13	17.5	DNS	17.5	14	90.0	14

Tiebreaker is the highest race placing. If placings are the same tiebreaker is a coin toss.

Class One

Group 12 Saloon

Dion De Graf took an early lead in the B heat but was reeled in by Neil Bidwell and Graeme Saxton. In the A heat Paul Belchambers led the first two stints, then Chris Dillon led the next three, but then Allan Tucker came through to take the win by just 71 segments from Chris and Paul. Adam, Eben and Neil made up the top six. Notably the ten racers finished in exactly their qualifying order...



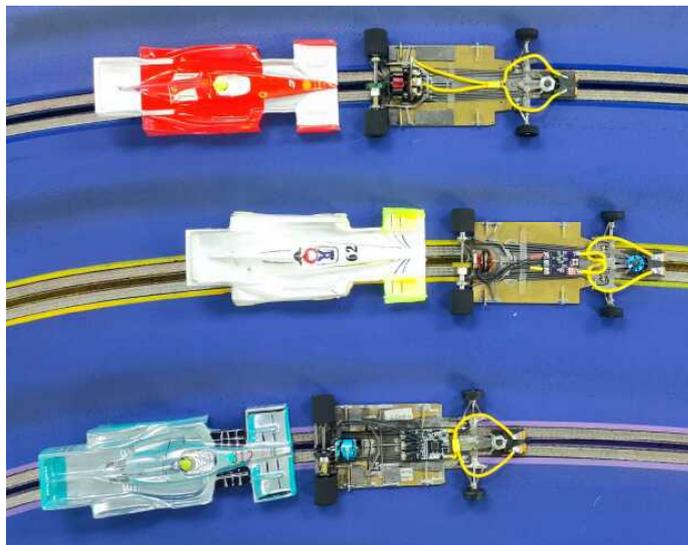
"I have clear goals every time I come to this event or with any event do more laps than last time. 6 out of 9 races I did that and 2 others were my 2nd best total laps so across the board pretty happy, also made my 1st ever A final at Wellington so pretty pleased with my weekend on a whole".

Nigel Boyce, Marlborough

Open Grand Prix

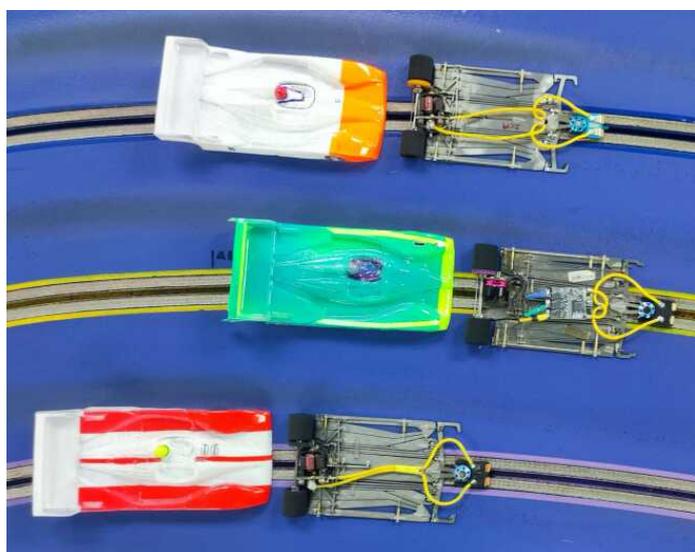
Fortunately, this class saw far less carnage than last year! Allan Tucker and Chris Dillon were running brushless GP cars and they looked pretty quick.....

Graeme Saxton won the B heat by 8 laps from Nigel Boyce, with Dion less than one lap back in third. In the A heat Paul Belchambers got away to a great start on Green, leading after the first stint, while Allan Tucker had numerous problems on White dropping to 8th overall. Once Chris Dillon got going on Green his brushless car was clearly faster around the corners, and despite some issues on orange, he pulled away from the field to hold the lead to the end. Overall, Paul was 2nd, Graeme 3rd from the B, Allan 4th, Nigel 5th and Neil 6th.



Open Sports GT

These are the fastest class we race and the speed differences across the field are considerable – as shown by the top five finishes being taken by the top five qualifiers. The B heat was won by the continually improving Dion, by 12 laps from Graeme, with Nigel a further three laps back. In the A heat Chris Dillon led the first three stints and established a four-lap lead over Allan and Paul. But then in the fourth stint Chris had repeated braid issues dropping six laps, and Allan took the lead with his Brushless car. In stint five Paul took the lead, then ran into trouble on black, leaving Allan in control. Chris chased hard closing a six-lap deficit down to just 77 segments but could not catch up in time. Overall, Allan, Chris, Paul, Eben, Neil and Dion made up the top six.



It's notable that both Open classes were won by Brushless cars, even though they are still at quite an early stage of their development. They may make up the majority of the field next year?

Class 1 Overall Points and Placings

Driver	Saloon		Grand Prix		Sports GT		Overall Placing	
	Points	Placing	Points	Placing	Points	Placing	Total Points	Placing
Allan Tucker	50	1	44	4	50	1	144	1
Chris Dillon	47	2	50	1	47	2	144	2
Paul Belchambers	45	3	47	2	45	3	137	3
Graeme Saxton	41	7	45	3	41	7	127	4
Eben Brand	43	5	40	8	44	4	127	5
Neil Bidwell	42	6	42	6	43	5	127	6
Dion Degraff	40	8	41	7	42	6	123	7
Nigel Boyce	39	9	43	5	40	8	122	8
Jonathan Webb	38	10	39	9	39	9	116	9
Adam Bidwell	44	4	38	10	0	DNS	82	10

Tiebreaker is the highest race placing. If placings are the same tiebreaker is a coin toss.



Class 3 & Class 1 Champion – Allan Tucker



Class 3 Rookie Champion – Dion DeGraaf



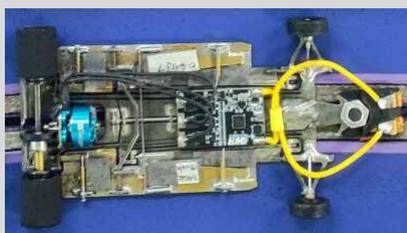
Most Improved – Tim Fellows

Special thanks to Ivan Bailey and Steve Murch



Many thanks to Ivan Bailey and Westrock Racing Machines for donating eight of their brushless motor ESC's as prizes for placegetters in the two open classes. Appropriately both Open GP and Open Sports/GT were won by brushless cars. The remaining two ESC's went to the Rookie Champion and Most Improved.

Thanks also to Steve Murch for providing six cars, including some excellent brushless 'test' cars, which really filled out the Class 1 races on Sunday. Most notable was Graeme Saxton's 3rd place in Open GP with Steve's brushless F1, pictured.



"I was looking forward to the weekend as I had great time last year. Doing Class 3 only. Saloon couldn't have gone worse, 2 last places. Going to throw the wee car out the window. Took a breath. Next class, new body, 6th twice. Things were looking up. GTP 2nd and 3rd. The car came good. 1st in GTP, what a way to finish the day. Was amazing to race at that level and be on the same page. As always, it's the guys that make these meetings great."



Tim Fellows, Whanganui

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

Next Event

**New Zealand Slot Car Association
2023 1/24th Scale Nationals**

**Wellington Slot Car Club
Lydney Place, Porirua**

Thursday 7th to Sunday 10th September 2023

&

2023 NZSCA Annual General Meeting

**Wellington Slot Car Club
Lydney Place, Porirua**

8.00pm Thursday 7th September 2023