



2023 New Zealand 1/24th Scale National Championships

Wellington Slot Car Club

7th – 10th September 2023

Nineteen entrants attended the 2023 1/24th Nats in Wellington on the eight lane Nabokins track.

Concours d'Elegance

Concours was won by Nigel Boyce, with Alex Johnson and Ivan Bailey tied for the remaining podium positions.

FK F1

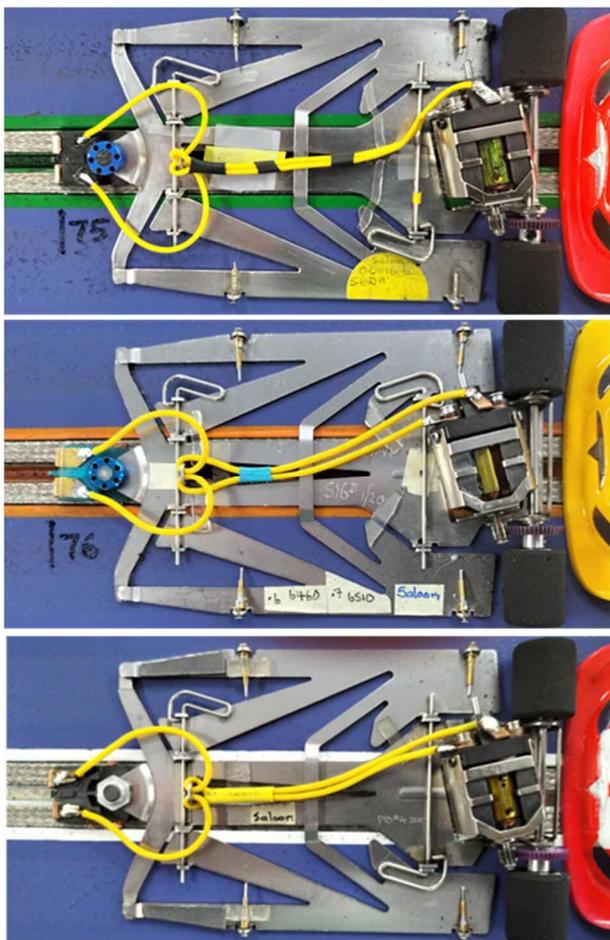
Heat C was dominated by Chris Parkes who led from the start, and finished 18 laps ahead of Pete Darrell, followed by Charles Le Breton.

Heat B saw Ivan Bailey lead with a strong first stint on green, only to be overtaken by Andrew Bidwell, who won narrowly from Ivan and Alex Johnson.

In the A heat Allan Tucker led the first two stints after Chris Dillon dropped it twice on red, then Chris came through to lead until the end, ahead of Paul Belchambers and Allan. Overall, Eben Brand was 4th, Andrew Bidwell 5th and Ivan Bailey 6th.



S16D Saloon



Tim Fellows found himself in the C heat after a bad qualifying and proceeded to thrash the field winning by 21 laps, which proved to be good for 7th overall.

Nigel Boyce won the B heat ahead of Ron Thornton and Dave Young.

In the A, Paul Belchambers led after the first stint, then Chris Dillon led the next three and looked in control of the race before throwing it all away on black. Allan Tucker and Paul battled for the lead and then in the last stint just when it looked like Chris was going to catch Allan, he ran into Paul, gifting the win to Allan. Eben Brand was 4th, Andrew Bidwell 5th and Nigel Boyce 6th from the B heat.



FK LMP

Heat C was won by Ron Thornton, from a rapidly improving Pete Darrell, followed by Charles Le Breton.

In the B heat Adam Bidwell led home Tim Fellows and Dave Young, with Adam's distance of 255 laps being enough to secure third place overall.

In the A heat, Chris Dillon led the first two stints, then gifted the lead to Allan Tucker after some unforced errors on purple. Allan looked like he had the race under control, leading the next four stints, but then had problems on black, letting Paul Belchambers come through to win by three laps, with Chris second and Allan fourth overall having been pipped by Adam Bidwell. Tim Fellows was 5th, again from the B, and Andrew Bidwell 6th.



S16D GTP



After struggling in qualifying, Andrew Bidwell found himself the fastest qualifier in the C and proceeded to drive away from the rest of the field with a strong run of 263 laps which would secure him 5th place overall.

The B was won by Ivan Bailey with Ron Thornton 2nd and Nigel Boyce 3rd.

In the A, Chris Dillon got away from the rest of the field with an opening run on white but was then overtaken by Paul Belchambers. Those two ran almost neck and neck for much of the race, until Paul pulled ahead in the final stints to win by just over a lap. Eben Brand was 3rd overall, Allan Tucker 4th, Andrew Bidwell 5th and Adam Bidwell 6th. This was Paul's second win of the day, and it secured him the Production Championship - the first time he has won it.



Paul Belchambers – 2023 Production Champion

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NEW ZEALAND SLOT CAR ASSOCIATION INC.



Production Championship: Overall Placings / Points:

Place:	Driver:	FK F1		S16D Saloon		FK LMP		S16D GTP		Total Points:
		Place:	Points:	Place:	Points:	Place:	Points:	Place:	Points:	
1	Paul Belchambers	2	47	3	45	1	50	1	50	192
2	Chris Dillon	1	50	2	47	2	47	2	47	191
3	Allan Tucker	3	45	1	50	4	44	4	44	183
4	Andrew Bidwell	5	43	5	43	6	42	5	43	171
5	Adam Bidwell	10	38	10	38	3	45	6	42	163
6	Eban Brand	4	44	4	44	19	29	3	45	162
7	Tim Fellows	9	39	7	41	5	43	10	38	161
8	Ron Thornton	7	41	8	40	13	35	8	40	156
9	Ivan Bailey	6	42	15	33	8	40	7	41	156
10	Nigel Boyce	14	34	6	42	11	37	9	39	152
11	Dave Young	11	37	9	39	9	39	14	34	149
12	Paul LeBreton	13	35	11	37	10	38	13	35	145
13	Alex Johnson	8	40	12	36	12	36	19	29	141
14	Pete Darrell	15	33	13	35	14	34	12	36	138
15	Charles LeBreton	16	32	14	34	15	33	15	33	132
16	Shannon Williamson	17	31	16	32	16	32	18	30	125
17	Dave Reese	19	29	17	31	17	31	17	31	122
18	Terry Harrop	18	30	18	30	18	30	16	32	122
19	Chris Parkes	12	36	DNS	0	7	41	11	37	114

G12 Euro

With only 16 entrants, this was the first race of the Nats to be just two heats. A crowded track with some big speed differentials between cars meant the chances of significant car damage were quite high. In anticipation of trouble, Chris Dillon elected to change to a thicker race body during the two minute warm-up.

Chris Parkes led the B heat for most of the race while Adam Bidwell had a poor start on red and green, then proceeded to hunt Chris down. Going into the final stint Chris still had a one lap lead, but was on red, while Adam on white was flying and overtook Chris to win by just half a lap. In the A heat Paul Belchambers got away to a strong start on white building a useful lead over Andrew Bidwell and Allan Tucker. He dropped back on red, then regained the lead until black lane, when Chris Dillon got ahead of him by just 25 segments, then managed to stay on, finishing 1st by less than a lap. Paul was 2nd Andrew Bidwell 3rd Tim Fellows 4th, his best result of the meeting, Adam Bidwell 5th and Chris Parkes 6th, both from the B.



G12 Wing



Even faster cars – even more marshalling challenges. Despite his 4th place in G12 GTP, Tim Fellows had struggled in Wing qualifying and was loaned a much better car for the race. He led the C heat from the flag drop, finishing 37 laps ahead of Ron Thornton in 2nd with Dave Reese in 3rd. Unfortunately for Tim, the race officials determined that his result could not stand as he had not raced the car with which he had qualified. The B heat saw another run-away victory as Allan Tucker won by 26 laps from Nigel Boyce with Dave Young 3rd.

In the A heat, Andrew Bidwell got a jump on the field and led Eben Brand by a lap after the first stint. But then Paul Belchambers showed his true pace and led the rest of the race finishing 7 laps ahead of Andrew. Allan Tucker was 3rd from the B, Eben Brand 4th, Chris Dillon 5th and Ivan Bailey was promoted to 6th after Tim's result was disallowed. The bad luck award for this race went to Paul le Breton who lost almost all of his first three stints in the B with major car issues.

Open Euro

The big euros are the fastest cars and often the most fragile – who could get through undamaged?

This was the first year running the Red Fox Audi bodies on these cars and they needed more finesse than the previous very forgiving HD Caddy's. Two heats of seven drivers each was the format. Initially the B was led by Andrew Bidwell who was battling closely with Dave Young until he hit black lane and multi car smashes finished his race. So, the B was won by Dave Young, by a substantial 9 laps over Tim Fellows, with Paul le Breton 3rd.

In the A heat Adam Bidwell led the first stint, then Paul Belchambers took control while Adam was in the pits for repairs. Paul's was the fastest car on the track, and he led until reaching black, where multi car smashes put his body in the gears taking several minutes to undo. In the same stint Chris Dillon lost ten laps with body issues, and Eben Brand took the lead with a Brushless euro. Paul got going only to be run into again in the last stint, hit badly enough to break the 1.2mm pinion end of the motor shaft. Meanwhile Chris Dillon had hunted down Eben and taken the lead to win by just two laps, with Allan Tucker 3rd. Overall Ivan Bailey was 4th, Dave Young 5th and Nigel Boyce 6th.

Strap 1st, Brushless 2nd and 3rd. In ES24 the brushless cars are not yet quick enough around the corners to keep up with the best of the strap motor cars, but with another 12 months development might that change?



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Eurosport Championship: Overall Placings / Points:

Place:	Driver:	G12 Euro		G12 Wing		Open Euro		Total Points:
		Place:	Points:	Place:	Points:	Place:	Points:	
1	Chris Dillon	1	50	5	43	1	50	143
2	Paul Belchambers	2	47	1	50	9	39	136
3	Allan Tucker	9	39	3	45	3	45	129
4	Adam Bidwell	5	43	2	47	10	38	128
5	Ivan Bailey	7	41	6	42	4	44	127
6	Eben Brand	14	34	4	44	2	47	125
7	Nigel Boyce	10	38	7	41	6	42	121
8	Andrew Bidwell	3	45	8	40	14	34	119
9	Dave Young	16	32	9	39	5	43	114
10	Paul LeBreton	8	40	16	32	8	40	112
11	Ron Thornton	12	36	10	38	12	36	110
12	Pete Darrell	13	35	11	37	13	35	107
13	Shannon Williamson	15	33	13	35	11	37	105
14	Tim Fellows	4	44	DQ	0	7	41	85
15	Charles LeBreton	11	37	14	34	DNS	0	71
16	Chris Parkes	6	42	DNS	0	DNS	0	42
17	Dave Reese	DNS	0	12	36	DNS	0	36
18	Terry Harrop	DNS	0	15	33	DNS	0	33



Many thanks to Chris Dillon for the words and Ron Thornton for the images