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Osborne Racing Newsletter #7 – April 7, 2009 – South Island Superstock Champs

This was the last big meeting for us down south, the South Island Superstock Championship at Nelson and it was one we were all really looking forward to.

Only four Christchurch cars made the trip up so it was really going to be a tough meeting as local Nelson guys are hard to beat, especially at their home track.

The first race we started near the back so the plan was to go hard and stay out of trouble and gather as many points as we could. We got off to a good start gaining some spots of the start but after that we seemed to attract a lot of attention from the Nelson boys! Blair Cunningham had a big swing and nearly spun us round, but luckily we managed to gather it all up and keep pushing our way through the field. That wasn't the only drama throughout the race as the car was smoking going into the corners midway through the race.

We didn't lose any speed though and managed to finish in 6th place.

It turned out the gearbox was toast so it was all hands on deck after the race to change the gearbox as well as a few other adjustments.

We were mid pack off the start for the second and had pretty much the same game plan as the first heat... just go hard and get points!!! We got another good start and pushed our way through the field. Once again some of the local guys had different ideas and we fought off some attacks from them. We fired the tank into the turn one wall just to show we weren't here to make up the numbers! Coming out of turn four we made quite heavy contact with the wall but apart from that it was a great race, and we managed to climb up and finish 5th.

Heading into the final we knew that it would be all on, as we were the top Christchurch car on points. We were off the inside on row 2. Off the start we were running a comfortable 2nd place and having a good battle with 48n Brett Nicholls until we spun him up, which unfortunately spun us as well, also getting collected by the 10p car! Time to gather our thoughts and get on with the job now! We recovered from the spin and from that point on, we were on a mission! The other Christchurch boys did a great job by holding the other cars up, and we also managed to get a few cars out of the way before it all went a bit wrong. We tangled with another car and ended up facing the wall with a broken axle and damaged steering which unfortunately put an end to our challenge. A bit disappointing considering the results we posted in the first 2 heats.

On the other hand Shane Anderton, Nigel Keats and Neil Frew did an excellent job in helping us out, without their help we wouldn't have got the results we had been hoping for. Overall though it was a great meeting and it really showed the pace of the car. Wade Henshaw has done an excellent job on the motor and it definitely has some grunt behind it!

So now we head up north for some meetings. We plan to attend the Easter meeting in Rotorua and Speedfest in Huntly as well as a couple of others which we are really looking forward to.

Thanks to all our sponsors and supporters who have helped out this season, it is always a struggle with a new car but they have stayed with us and supported our team throughout and we can't thank them enough.

Stay tuned for an update over the next couple of weeks as we will have a run down of how we go up north!

Happy Easter to you all, and safe travels over the Easter period.

**Osborne Racing
16C Superstock.**