

## Race Report Durban Electric Nats 2013

It's been a few years since the Electric fraternity made the trip down to the coast, but with the Pre-Nats two weeks before, giving some of the drivers a preview of what was in store, all were looking forward to a great contest and a good weekend's racing.

For those who have never been to the Durban track, it's a multi usage track in that it's used for anything from Tamiya minis, to the two speed 1/8 gas cars. By comparison to other Gas tracks, it is a lot tighter than the TRAP track for example, which is pretty much horsepower dictated. This track will punish your lap time if you miss an apex or get loose in a section, which will then cost you in the next flowing sector.

Thanks to Angie, a lot of the racing is filmed and posted on the Net, if you go to the Camperdown Model car Club on Facebook, "like" their site, You can watch most of the finals. Thanks Angie!!

The tent and Tables were set up on Wednesday so the track was available early Thursday morning for open practice. Top speeds recorded on Thursday were 88kph for the Mods and I think around the 77kph mark for the 13.5 cars. Impressive and the cars looked really spectacular as they launched onto the back straight. As said earlier, the track flows and the islands are very friendly, allowing you to put two wheels onto them without being launched. The soft mounted piping also meant that plastic breakages were at an absolute minimum.

Thursday, Fine weather and everybody shadow boxing as the initial times were set. Big expectations as Mike Gibson made his return to Nationals racing. Joining him on the comeback in the Mods was "the Wildman," Hein Kotze, while local driver Mikey Wiseman had shown his pace at the Pre- Nat, taking both the Premier classes but this was the Nat proper now and some of the Mods were already in the low 22 sec times with Anderton and Jason Hillcoat looking strong in both the mod and 13.5 classes.

Friday, another beautiful Spring day and the numbers increased dramatically, with the practice changing to 3 controlled sessions, 1 short track and 2 long track, with the cars grouped by pace which seemed to work really well and still give everyone a number of runs in the hour. Mike Gibson really picked up his pace as expected but the bun fight at the front was looking really intense with Deon Gove, Shaun Schutte, Hein and Antonio all getting into a good groove. Anyone of 7-8 drivers could qualify in the top 6 spots! Roll on Sat!!

Practice was followed up by a really relaxed and enjoyable braai and fruit salads for all those who stayed and enjoyed a warm spring evening trackside. Some unnamed drivers only leaving the venue after midnight!

### **Saturday Qualifying.**

Another super day and after some really neat Concourse entries, it was onto the serious stuff for the weekend. Would the locals be able to mix it with the regular Nationals contenders?

### **13.5 FWD**

Andre Greeff showed his liking of the track when he jumped the pre-race favourites in this class by taking all 3 heats and was the only driver to do an 18 lapper in the heats as well. The arrival of Neville Menezes from Cape Town added some extra spark to the class as well and he secured the 3<sup>rd</sup> spot behind pre-race favourite Justin Cloete.

1<sup>st</sup> Andre Greeff    Top Racing

2<sup>nd</sup> Justin Cloete    3 racing

3<sup>rd</sup> ADF Menezes    Serpent

### **13.5 Superstock**

With 27 cars starting this was going to be special. Mikey (Wiseman) fired the first shot from group 1 with a good 13 lapper but this was promptly beaten by Mike (Gibson) in group 2. Anderton came out in group 3 and smashed them all with a fine 14 lapper with Jason Hillcoat running a 13 lapper in 5min 0 sec to take provisional 2<sup>nd</sup> spot. Shaun Schutte 4<sup>th</sup>, a split sec behind Mike Gibson. Deon Gove also in with a 5.03. Nothing in it for the placing's.

Round 2 saw Mike G. go 14 as well but Anderton covered this run with the fastest single heat of the day in this class as he banged in a 14 lapper in 5.19.95. A super run and solid at the top of the board!

Round 3 and all to go for and it were the big names in this class who pulled out their final runs. Jason Hillcoat backup up his performance at the last National with a super run to snatch 2<sup>nd</sup> overall behind Anderton, with Mike G. taking the 3<sup>rd</sup> and Mike W the 4<sup>th</sup>. Seconds covered the two best runs combined of the top 4 drivers. 5<sup>th</sup> was Deon, 6<sup>th</sup> was Shaun, and Alex Ribiero a fine 7<sup>th</sup>. Antonio held 8<sup>th</sup> with Hein Herholdt and Andre Greeff giving the Kimberley boys a good look in. How good were the mains going to be?

1<sup>st</sup> Anderton Smith X Ray

2<sup>nd</sup> Jason Hillcoat X Ray

3<sup>rd</sup> Mike Gibson Schumacher

## **21.5 Stock Touring**

The pace slowed a little after the 13.5 class, but the racing was as close as ever, the short circuit used meant precision timing on the corners and “carry speed” would make all the difference with these evenly matched speed cars.

Group 1 listed mostly the unseeded drivers but was run at blistering pace with Neville Menezes taking all 3 heats from local Driver, Shane Kok 2<sup>nd</sup> and Hennie Viljoen 3<sup>rd</sup>. After two rounds these 3 were lying 1, 2 and 3 on the overall results. Round 3 saw the group 2 driver, Jonathan Wilken fight back with the fastest single run of the day to snatch the 2<sup>nd</sup> spot overall, pushing back Shane and Hennie. Again another good brand mix in the A main as well as some newcomers to this class. In particular, the 9<sup>th</sup> spot taken by young Tristan Baxter who has only raced for just over 3 months now. Another great final expected here.

1<sup>st</sup> Neville Menezes Schumacher

2<sup>nd</sup> Jonathan Wilken X Ray

3<sup>rd</sup> Shane Kok Serpent

## **1/12 Mods**

A healthy 10 car field with 5 local drivers facing the lone Cape entrant and the 4 Inlands drivers. Shaun Schutte had been fastest on Friday in practice but from round 1, it was the local drivers in control of this one. Dave Wiseman took all 3 heats with teammate Shane Kok backing him up in second and student Joseph Schauerte securing 3<sup>rd</sup>. Shaun took 4<sup>th</sup> and Hein Herholdt in 5<sup>th</sup>. Much head scratching in this lot!

1<sup>st</sup> Dave Wiseman Serpent

2<sup>nd</sup> Shane Kok Serpent

3<sup>rd</sup> Joseph Schauerte Serpent

## **17.5 T Touring**

The first group in this class saw Hennie Viljoen taking the honours, but they were just not fast enough to shake the seeded drivers from Group 2.

Again Andre Greeff (I believe he wants to move to Durban??) showed super pace and took the first two rounds and with those runs, the TQ. Spot in this class. 2<sup>nd</sup> spot went to Ashley Hurley, just 4 seconds behind with his best two runs. 3<sup>rd</sup> was Justin Cloete, with X Ray cars domination this class.

1<sup>st</sup> Andre Greeff      X Ray

2<sup>nd</sup> Ashley Hurley    X Ray

3<sup>rd</sup> Justin Cloete     X Ray

## **Touring Mods**

This was going to be great to watch with the track layout lending itself to the Ballistic cars in this class.

Mike Wiseman fired the first round with the first sub 22 sec lap of the weekend and put a 14 lapper on the board with 14 in 5.12.8

Unfortunately in group 2 there was a computer hiccup and their race had to be rerun which cost Anderton as he had just put up the new TQ time. As this was the top group's first run, perhaps a rule allowing them to take a replacement set of new tyres would have helped them a bit as for sure they were disadvantaged by the rerun as they had lost one run on new rubber! Anderton was slightly slower in the re-run.

Round two saw Mike still leading from Anderton, Jason, Deon and Hein Kotze. Mike Gibson was only counting one run so was sitting way off the leader board at this stage. All to go for in round 3, New or used tyres? A big call as the top drivers tussled for the top grid positions.

Mike Wiseman went new and put in a back up run of 14 in 5.13 while Mike Gibson placed his best run which would give him 4<sup>th</sup> overall. The top seeded group came out for the final race of the day and Jason backed up his 14 lapper 5.14 with a 14 lapper in 5.15 This run secured him 2<sup>nd</sup> on the grid with Anderton taking the 3<sup>rd</sup>. Deon took 5<sup>th</sup> with Shaun in 6<sup>th</sup>. Tough finals ahead!

1<sup>st</sup> Mike Wiseman    Serpent

2<sup>nd</sup> Jason Hillcoat    X Ray

3<sup>rd</sup> Anderton Smith    X Ray

Another really enjoyable relaxed braai on Saturday afternoon allowed all the drivers to mix and relax while finishing their final prep and testing for Sunday, Braai talk was interesting and exciting as all the permutations were discussed and speculated on at length. Who had anything extra in the box? Who still had new tyres for the Finals? Who would “race” the best in the finals??

## **Sunday Durban National 2013 Finals**

### **13.5 FWD touring**

As with the qualifying, both finals ran to the form book for this class with Andre Greeff dominating this leg of the Championships. The Cape challenge livened things up a bit for the regulars but Andre owned this event.

1<sup>st</sup> Andre Greeff    Top Racing

2<sup>nd</sup> Justin Cloete    3 racing

3<sup>rd</sup> ADF Menezes    Serpent

### **17.5 Touring B mains**

The B mains went to the trophy collecting Neville Menezes, as he took both finals from Local PMB driver Fred Houston Mc Millan with Tristan Baxter 3<sup>rd</sup>.

1<sup>st</sup> Neville Menezes    Serpent

2<sup>nd</sup> Fred H. Mc Millan    Associated

3<sup>rd</sup> Tristan Baxter    Serpent

### **17.5 Touring A Mains**

This class gave up a great pair of A finals to watch as Andre Greeff took the first one by less than a second from the fast charging Ashley Hurley with Justin Cloete in 3<sup>rd</sup>. The second final saw the win go to Ashley, also by less than a second, from Andre, with Gerrie in 3<sup>rd</sup>. The faster first final saw Andre take the win overall.

1<sup>st</sup> Andre Greeff X Ray

2<sup>nd</sup> Ashley Hurley X Ray

3<sup>rd</sup> Justin Cloete X Ray

### **21.5 Stock touring B Main.**

Poor qualifying was forgotten as Christo Meintjies upped his game and dominated both mains from 6<sup>th</sup> on the grid. Jean Paul V.D Westhuizen pushed him all the way though and secured 2<sup>nd</sup> overall while Fanie Viljoen Snr upped the average age of the trophy winner a bit with a fine 3<sup>rd</sup>.

1<sup>st</sup> Christo Meintjies Serpent

2<sup>nd</sup> JP Van Der Westhuizen TM.

3<sup>rd</sup> Fanie Viljoen Snr Schumacher

### **21.5 Stock touring A Main.**

Overcoming a 3<sup>rd</sup> spot on the grid, Local driver Shane Kok put in two super runs to dominate the A main at this event. Pushing him all the way, less than a second behind in the first main and only .02 sec behind in the second, was Jonathan Wilkin, who drove tight and clean to push the 2<sup>nd</sup> final up an extra lap on the first final, despite windy and slightly dusty conditions. 3<sup>rd</sup> went to the TQ man, (ADF) Neville Menezes who was only a further sec back of the leading pair. Great racing boys!

1<sup>st</sup> Shane Kok Serpent

2<sup>nd</sup> Jonathan Wilkin X Ray

3<sup>rd</sup> Neville Menezes Schumacher

### **13.5 Touring C Main**

Pretty much Johan Wilters versus the local boys and despite losing in the first main, he fought back well but couldn't match the pace of dual mains winner Peter Orchin, who was chased by his Durban teammate Duane Franklin, as they took the top 2 spots for this main. One must mention Big Ivan in 4<sup>th</sup> spot as well.

1<sup>st</sup> Peter Orchin Serpent

2<sup>nd</sup> Duane Franklin Serpent

3<sup>rd</sup> Johan Wilters Hot bodies

### **13.5 Touring B Main.**

Again some good racing as the Local Pair of Joseph Schauerte and Roberto Falconer shut out the first main with Albert Classen taking the 3<sup>rd</sup> spot.

Main no 2 saw Willie Du Plooy muscle his way up from 3<sup>rd</sup> on the grid to take the win, ahead of Joseph but on aggregate young Joseph took this main overall.

1<sup>st</sup> Joseph Schauerte      Serpent

2<sup>nd</sup> Willie du Plooy      X Ray

3<sup>rd</sup> Roberto Falconer      Serpent

### **13.5 Touring A Main**

Put down your tools and goop machines; get trackside, as these were going to be Finals to enjoy. Top drivers, experienced and skilled, some top quality racing on the cards and that's exactly what we got.

**Main one.** Action all the way from the start as Mike Wiseman moved past Mike Gibson early on lap 1 and then put pressure on the leading pair of T.Q. man Anderton, and Jason, who had started 2<sup>nd</sup> on the grid. A mistake by Jason on lap 7 saw Mike onto the back of Anderton and he got by with a clean pass to take the first Main from a fast finishing Shaun Schutte who came up all the way from 6<sup>th</sup> on the grid. Jason held onto 3<sup>rd</sup> with Deon 4<sup>th</sup>.

**Main 2** saw a similar pattern with Mikey getting past Mike Gibson on the first lap and Jason unlucky to spin off after touching an island, going from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> in one lap. Sportingly, he waited rather than shoot back out onto the track at a high speed part of the middle strait. Again, a great race to watch as the leaders swopped places before Mike opened the gap to take this 2<sup>nd</sup> A Main as well. Anderton was pressuring Mike Gibson for the 2<sup>nd</sup> spot on the last lap, when he clipped the same island as Jason had and lost the challenge and some time on his final lap.

Mike Wiseman took the overall win while the varied finishes from the other drivers gave Shaun Schutte 2<sup>nd</sup> overall and Mike Gibson the 3<sup>rd</sup> Really great finals to watch. Great driving guys!

1<sup>st</sup> Mike Wiseman      Serpent

2<sup>nd</sup> Shaun Schutte      X Ray

3<sup>rd</sup> Mike Gibson      Schumacher

## 1/12 mods

After the 13.5 finals the 1/12 was less exciting, as few of the drivers really got their cars well sorted for the hi speed layout. Dave Wiseman helped lift the average age of the winners a bit as he had an edge in all 3 finals, with UCT Student Joseph Schauerte putting in two good runs to secure the 2<sup>nd</sup> spot and Shaun Schutte added to his trophy takings with a fighting 3<sup>rd</sup> after Shane Kok looked to have that place booked.

1<sup>st</sup> Dave Wiseman      Serpent

2<sup>nd</sup> Joseph Schauerte      Serpent

3<sup>rd</sup> Shaun Schutte      X Ray

## Touring Mods B Mains

Alex Ribiero recovered from a disastrous Saturday to bang in two good finals which would have seen him well placed in the A mains. Nearest to him was Albert Claasens with Colin Amis dropping to 3<sup>rd</sup> with a poor 2<sup>nd</sup> main result.

1<sup>st</sup> Alex Ribiero      Yokomo

2<sup>nd</sup> Albert Claasens      Associated

3<sup>rd</sup> Colin Amis      X Ray

## Touring Mods A Mains

After the spectacle of the 13.5 Mains, the Mods promised more of the same. Who still had a new set of tyres, when would they use them, all the options and permutations were being bandied around in the pits, what strategy to go on and what were the opposition doing??

**Main one.** Mike Wiseman got a good start with Jason immediately putting on pressure but the man on the move here was Mike Gibson, who showed the class and speed he has, as he moved through to 3<sup>rd</sup> on lap 1. Hein Kotze was also right on the pace along with Deon, with a string of quick tidy mid- 22sec laps. Mikey took the first main followed by a flying Mike Gibson with Hein snatching the 3<sup>rd</sup> from a no 6 spot on the grid. Unluckiest competitor must be Anderton who put in a stunning lap of 21.58 seconds, as he fought back to regain 5<sup>th</sup> spot after an incident earlier in the race.

**Main two.** Again Mike Wiseman shot away from the front and other than the early challenge from Jason, he was unchallenged to win by 7 seconds but the fight for second had really hotted up as most of the field had a go at the next placing's. Jason held on to 2<sup>nd</sup> with Shaun Schutte coming from 7<sup>th</sup> on the grid to secure the 3<sup>rd</sup> spot.

**Main Three.** Despite a blustering breeze that brought quite a bit of dust to the track surface. Mike Wiseman actually put the fastest run of the day in this final when he took his 3<sup>rd</sup> win with a clear gap of 11 seconds. Jason and Mike Gibson had a great scrap for 2<sup>nd</sup> with Jason securing the place and a fine 2<sup>nd</sup> overall for the weekend. 3<sup>rd</sup> was Mike Gibson ahead of a fighting drive from Anderton which would give him 5<sup>th</sup> overall, one spot behind Shaun.

1 <sup>st</sup> Mike Wiseman	Serpent
2 <sup>nd</sup> Jason Hillcoat	X Ray
3 <sup>rd</sup> Michael Gibson	Schumacher

Overall, a great weekends racing and sportsmanship with some of the top talents in R/C in the Country on display. Super racing across the board in all classes and hopefully we will see The SA Championships racing around the country in 2014, as is the case with all other divisions of SARDA, as this will surely give the best opportunities to all SA Drivers to have a go at becoming SA Champions in 2014.

Thanks to DMCC and the Camperdown Team for all the efforts in making this a great Durban National in 2013.