



# BULLETIN

February 2012

## Welcome to the first addition of the Bulletin for 2012

### President's Report

Well, it been an interesting couple of months in motorsport. The WRC was in crisis with the loss of NorthOne as a promoter. Hayden Paddon tested and secured an S2000 drive in a Scoda. Ford announced its commitment to the WRC at the last minute. The National racing series held meetings in Invercargill and Timaru. Hamilton's own Shaun Lawrence won in the wet at Timaru and Simon Richards in his BNT V8 also won in Timaru. Angus Fogg stamps his authority on the BNT V8s.



We have held two committee meetings and are now ready for the planning of the up and coming 2012 season. Chris Ramsay has organised a national Hillclimb on gravel and tarmac in February. We have also been given an opportunity to run a rally in Maramarua thanks to Dale Perry. We need a committee for the rally. For those of you who would like to run a rally please come to the next club night and register your interest. No experience necessary, as there will be loads of guidance and support from your current committee. A rally committee is needed - no committee, no rally - so please come along to club night.

The Hamilton Car Club has some great people and it's members and it needs your support. It has been quite clear in recent years that the club has lacked helpers and organisers. If each member was to help at least once a year we would have some great events, as we did in the past.

We have at our finger tips, roads for rally sprints both country and forestry roads, but no one to run them. Scotty McDonald organises some cool events, but more are needed in order to attract new people. Members, this is your club and it can't run with just the few people that always run events for your pleasure. Rant over. Anyhow, Hamilton's part of the hill climb champs should be a great opportunity to hone your skills for the coming season. Get along with your car - rumour has it there is some great iron entered.

In conclusion, January has brought some sad news with the passing of Troy Cullinane. We extend our deepest sympathies to Bob, Chrissy and Brooke.

Adam Muir  
Hamilton Car Club President

[www.hamiltoncarclub.org.nz](http://www.hamiltoncarclub.org.nz)

# Coming Events

Date	Event	Venue
Wednesday, 8th of February 2012, 5:30pm – 10:30pm	Clubnight and Ladies Autocross Round 3	Vaile Road Clubrooms
Sunday, 12th of February 2012, 9:00am onwards	Working bee at clubrooms	Vaile Road Clubrooms
Tuesday, 21st of February 2012, 7:30pm – 9:30pm	Committee meeting	Vaile Road Clubrooms
Saturday, 25th of February 2012, 9:00am	Ngutunui Hill Climb Day 1 (Tarmac)	Ngutunui School, Kawhia
Sunday, 26th of February 2012, 9:00am	Ngutunui Hill Climb 2 (Gravel)	Ngutunui School, Kawhia
Saturday, 31st of March and Sunday, 1st of April 2012	Ohakune Hill Climb	Mountain Road, Mount Ruapehu
Saturday, 8th of September 2012	Hamilton Car Club Rally - Rally Xtreme	Maramarua Forest

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# Important Info

## Ladies Autocross Round 3



Held at the Vaile Road Clubrooms on Wednesday the 8th of February.

Round 3 starts at 5.30pm. \$30 entry.

Helmet, cotton overalls are required. Cars are supplied by the club.

## Ohakune Hill Climb

Taupo Car Club is again pleased to be involved in the 2nd Ohakune Hill Climb to be held on Saturday 31st March to Sunday 1st April 2012.

The venue utilises part of the popular rally stage and incorporates the infamous "Powderhorn Corner" before climbing 1000 metres to the finish line at Ruapahu Alpine Lifts car park. The course length is 16.5km.

There will be competition in six classes, 4 single crew categories – 0-2000, 2001-3500, over 3500 and 4WD, 2 two crew categories – 2WD and 4WD.

The event timetable provides for a recce run, one qualifying run and one timed run on Saturday with a further two timed runs on Sunday. It is planned to run in 3x 20cars groups. After each group the cars will be toured down before starting the next group. This will reduce the time that cars are held at the top of the hill which will prove popular.

4 viewing spots in addition to the finish and 'Powderhorn Corner' will be available. They will be serviced by buses which will rotate between the spots when the competitors are touring down the hill.

We are taking the Hamilton Car Club bus down, and we need 10 people to help. Accommodation and breakfast is provided, and this event will be a blast, just like last year!

**Please contact Adam Muir on 0274 220 119 or [adam@onguard.co.nz](mailto:adam@onguard.co.nz).**

## Ngutunui Hill Climb 2012

This year's event at Ngutunui is part of the national hill climb series and is held over two days on the 25th and 26th of February.

Saturday is the tarmac climb and Sunday will be the gravel stage. There is going to be ferocious competition from around the country as it is the third round in a five round competition.

**We need marshalls and helpers for both days. Please contact Chris Ramsay on 07 853 2850 (home), 07 853 7944 (work) or 0274 888 183 (mobile). You can also email him at [chrisramsay@xtra.co.nz](mailto:chrisramsay@xtra.co.nz).**

## Hamilton Car Club Rally - Rally Xtreme Round 5



The Rally Xtreme challenge series will be the home of fast cars from Evo Xs to Toyota Starlets. Rallying with 1 hour of TV coverage and with an affordable budget for all.

This event is held on Saturday, 8th of September. The scrutineering is held at Rally Drive N.Z. Limited in Frankton, Hamilton. The rally itself starts in the Maramarua Forest, and the rally will finish at the Hamilton Car Club clubrooms.

Cars will need to be road registered, as there is approximately 100km of travel on public roads.

We will be asking for helpers at the upcoming clubnight, and a rally committee needs to be formed.

**More information about this event will be provided as it becomes available.**

# Important Info

## Working bee at clubrooms

The working bee starts at 9am on Sunday, 12th of February, and there are a few chores to be done around the clubrooms, including:

- Fixing the roof
- Mounting the whiteboard to the wall in the kitchen
- Installation of security cameras and signs
- General cleaning and maintenance

The bar will be open once the working bee has been completed.

## Event calendar meeting for 2012

We will be having a meeting after the working bee on Sunday, 12th of February to discuss the Hamilton Car Club event calendar for 2012.

The purpose of this meeting is to plan events of various types for the club, such as:

- Autocrosses
- Motorkhanas
- Rallies
- Circuit racing
- Social events

Your attendance and input would be greatly appreciated.



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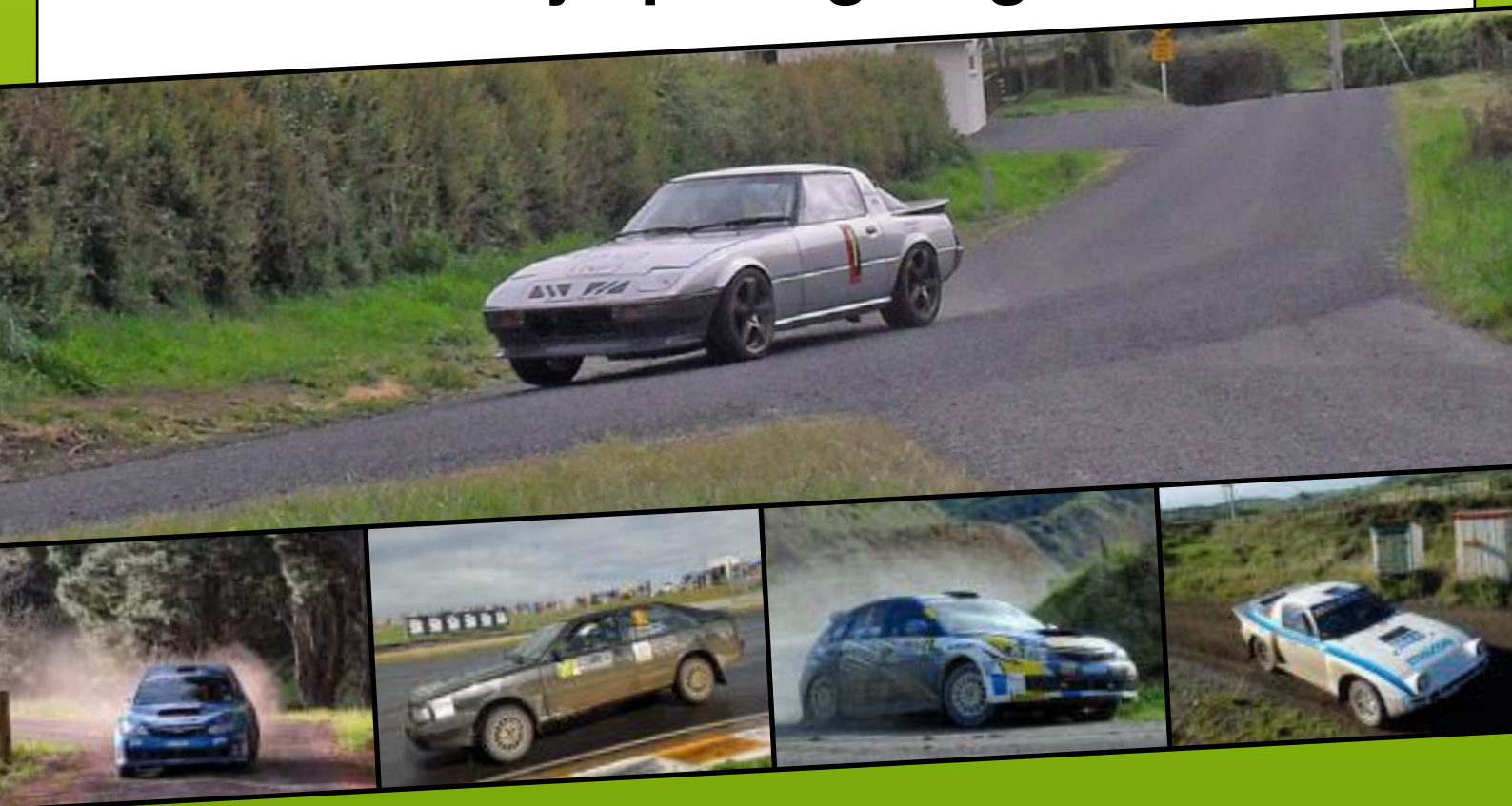
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# **Hamilton Car Club MSNZ Hillclimb Championship Qualifying Round 2**

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**Entries available from [hamiltoncarclub.org.nz](http://hamiltoncarclub.org.nz)  
or [motorsportnz.org.nz](http://motorsportnz.org.nz)**

**Event organiser: Chris Ramsay**

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Rd1 12th Feb Wearmouth rd. HCMC

Rd2 4th March. Rurangi rd NCC

Rd3 25th March Wiakorea Valley rd PCC

Rd4 22nd April Trigg rd SACC

Rd5 6th May Wade rd TVCC

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## SUZUKI SWIFTS COME TO LIFE FOR 2012

After a brief break from racing over the Christmas period, the 2012 leg of the Suzuki Swift Sport Cup comes to life as the field heads to Teretonga (near Invercargill) for the second of three consecutive Southern legs of the Premier Race Championship.

For the Hamilton based Liquorland Racing team, the short gap has seemed more of an eternity, and for driver Shaun Lawrence it's definitely been a case of "hurry up and wait". The teams immaculately presented Suzuki came away from the last round at Ruapuna (Christchurch) with a few minor bumps and scrapes, but was generally mechanically perfect which has made for a somewhat de-stressed rest period.

Following on from a near forgettable second round of the Championship, Lawrence now heads back to the track that brought his maiden race win twelve months ago. Rest assured, he'll definitely be out to replicate that effort again this year!

"I've got a real soft-spot for Teretonga", says a smiling Lawrence. "We had an excellent car set up there last year which obviously brought the results. We'll be using the same set up again this year for sure, and I think it's fair to say that the team's pretty confident of putting on a good show. It'd definitely get our campaign right back on track" he added.

After his best ever start to a season, Lawrence came away from Round One second equal on the points table and brimming with confidence, however a difficult round at Ruapuna (which included a lengthy pit stop to replace a bent steering arm) has seen the team drop a few spots. That said, the season is only one-third complete so there's plenty of races left to get the campaign back where it should be, and the team are certainly raring to get going.

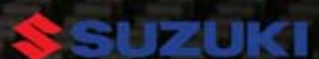
Lawrence, along with team-mate Chris Cox are also the current leaders in the 2011/12 Suzuki Swift Sport Cup Teams Championship, and will certainly be looking to cement that position over the course of the weekend.

Free-to-Air coverage of the meeting continues on TV3, screening on the afternoon of January 15. Round Four of the Championship takes place one week later at Timaru's Levels Raceway, before the Championship returns to the North Island where the Suzuki's head to the Manfield Circuit near Palmerston North.

If you are interested in supporting the team in any way, please contact Shaun Lawrence on 027 2414076 or Graeme Lawrence on 027 4470121

END

JPS Media





### SO CLOSE, BUT YET SO FAR!

Round three of the 2011/12 Suzuki Swift Sport Cup proved to be a case of “oh so close” for Hamilton’s Shaun Lawrence following a predominantly wet and wild round held at the Teretonga circuit near Invercargill last weekend. Early signs were extremely good with Lawrence taking the Liquorland Suzuki to second fastest on the timesheets during Friday’s practise sessions.

The team elected to use a new set of front tyres for qualifying, a move which unfortunately failed to pay the dividends they had hoped for. The extra grip didn’t suit the car set up, with Lawrence ultimately qualifying in a frustrated eighth position for Race One, a 30 Lap mini-enduro which included a compulsory pit stop for all crews.

The pit stop was always going to prove to be a pivotal moment in race. In a class renowned for close racing and performance equality, any time gained by an efficient stop would be a huge bonus. For the Liquorland Racing crew, a near perfect stop saw Lawrence climb from seventh to second position overall with just under half of the race completed.

“The guys did an unbelievable job!” explains Lawrence. “We had a similar situation last year, and it’s a fantastic example of how the guys behind the scenes are the unsung hero’s” he added.

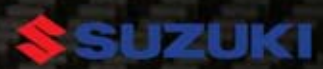
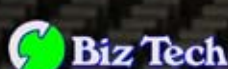
With everything going to plan, all was looking good for a major points haul as Lawrence did his utmost to hold position. The car, unfortunately, had other ideas and was struggling for top end speed. On a relatively open circuit such as Teretonga, it didn’t take long for Lawrence to be caught by the chasing pack, ultimately coming home in fifth position.

Race Two got under way in torrential rain, and a frustrated Lawrence threw caution to the wind. Using the now familiar “reverse-grid” format, Lawrence (a self-confessed fan of the wet) charged his way through the field to come home in an excellent third position. The points from the first two races would see Lawrence of the third row of the grid for the final race of the weekend.

Race Three got underway with a definite dry racing line on an otherwise wet track. Just a few laps in, the Heavens opened once again, and it was a determined Lawrence that had his sights set on another podium to finish the weekend. Ironically it was the wet track (normally working in Lawrence’s favour) that proved to be his undoing with the Suzuki aquaplaning off into a sand trap.

Although he was able to get the car going again, it took an eternity to get the car back on the track and the team had no option other than to settle for last place. The points gained from the weekend however have seen Lawrence climb back up to fourth overall, and with the Championship only half over there’s still plenty to play for.

The field now have just a week-long break before taking to the Levels Circuit for the final Southern Round before heading back up North. Once again, coverage is broadcast free-to-air on TV3 this coming Sunday, January 22.





## LIQUORLAND RACING REAPS SOUTHERN REWARDS

Isn't it incredible what a difference 24 hours can make? For the Hamilton based Liquorland Racing Suzuki Swift Sport Cup team, what was shaping up to be a somewhat frustrating weekend of racing at Timaru's Levels Racing turned into the most successful meeting of the season to date.

Qualifying a disappointing ninth for the first race of the weekend, driver Shaun Lawrence did all he could to muster as many Championship points as possible, ultimately finishing in the same position he started. After a self-described "average performance" the team were determined to force a change of fortune to complete the Southern leg of the 2011/12 Championship.

Sunday was to see the Suzuki's on track for the final two races of the weekend, the weather had now deteriorated to the point where the circuit resembled more of a lake than a race track. The first race of the day was a reverse grid format, and Lawrence was keen to make the most of what would be an ideal starting position near the front of the grid.

After an excellent race start, it was a determined Lawrence that took the race lead soon after the first turn, immediately pulling a gap on the field. With the rain still falling heavily, running from the front was always going to be a major advantage, however that advantage was soon to be negated following a major mid-pack accident involving a number of the series front runners.

Forced to follow behind the pace car for a number of laps as debris was cleared, the field had now closed up as the green flag dropped to signal the race restart. Lawrence again lead from the front, holding his nerve throughout the difficult conditions to take his first win of the season.

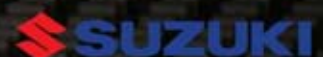
"I was more relieved than anything else" explains Lawrence. "They say that one mans misfortune is another mans gain. The points we collected here were crucial to our campaign, it was exactly the sort of morale boost we were hoping for" he added.

The final race of the weekend saw Lawrence take to the track brimming with confidence and now looking to consolidate the points haul they had gained. Another bumper-to-bumper race saw the Liquorland Suzuki come home in fifth position, gaining enough points to finish third outright for the weekend, but more importantly Lawrence had now moved up to second outright in the Championship proper.

The Suzuki Swift Sport Cup now takes a short break before heading to Manfield (near Palmerston North) for the penultimate round of the Championship.

END

JPS Media



# Day 1 at Hampton Downs for the NZ Festival of Motorsport BMW Motorsport



## Day one saw great weather and large fields of classic race cars.

Of course it was a BMW themed weekend with many other makes and models in the mix. Always great to see the Muscle Car and Historics play along with the F5000 monsters. Some of those F5000 are almost as fast as my R33 Skyline. A bit more chassis tuning and they might just have me beat.

The day ran pretty well with only the general gathering up of the odd non finisher causing small delays. Beyond that there was plenty of great racing.

It's always great to see lesser powered cars give the big machines a run for their money. I'm sure one of the Mustang drivers must have found the Amco Morris Cooper a tough little nut to crack. The big V8 having a straight line grunt advantage only to lose the spot again as the Cooper took it back under brakes.

Very impressive run by the BMW 2002 Turbo taking it to the BMW M3's and GTR. Somewhat lesser engine capacity yet holding it's own against the big engines.

As usual there was good food available along with the "always got to have at least once for the race weekend" hotdog and chips. Haha.

Sadly there is always a need at Hampton Downs for more seating, especially down the back of the pits, even if it's only 6 or so rows of seat down by turn 3 and 4. You can spend a lot of time on your feet if you don't want to have to carry a seat around with you. I like to move from spot to spot to watch each race from a different place around the circuit.

One place I tried for the first time was down by the crest of the front straight. From there you see everything from turn 4 and turn 5 (the dipper) and all away along to the current turn 6 (what I call the "sweeper" 'cause this is my story) and then you can still see all the cars as they accelerate up the front straight. Again seating here would be great just to take the load off your feet between races.

Of course the grandstand between the apartments buildings is a great viewing place (and somewhere to nod off for a few moments as it turns out).

It was great to be able to walk around the paddock to look at all the different makes and models of cars. It also gave me a chance to offer the likes of Jim Richards a few tips on how to drive fast (yeah right). There were all those "one off" cars to view, some of the great icons of the 70's and 80's, built in the days before the "man hug" was invented. Build what you want/can and race it.

One little bit of entertainment for me was noting some little shite of a kid had slid the "In Use" sign across on the porta loos doors so they looked like someone was in there. The que started growing quite long so I thought I best go explain what the deal was.

Yet another day of good stuff racing at Hampton Downs. Some huge fields (40 entrants for E30 BMW's) and great battles. Some cars heavily dominated in one or two classes, but thats just the way it is in this type of racing.

And there was still 3 more days to go of all this, wahoo.

Nigel Nichols



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