



Biante Historic Touring Car Series 2006 Round Seven - Symmons Plains, Tasmania

November 10 - 12

Paul Stubber ('69 Camaro) has an unassailable points lead in this years Biante Series after taking two wins at the Apple Isle. The penultimate round for 2006 saw the probably the finest field of Historic Tourers ever seen in the state. Eleven of the best locals joined the Biante regulars to form a 31 strong grid. Stubber was under Darren Pearces lap record on only his third lap of the circuit in free practice, then going on to wrap up pole in qualifying with the first sub-minute lap time for an Historic Tourer (coincidentally, Bob Jane actually debuted his Camaro at Symmons in 1971 and clocked a 60 second dead). Local Anthony Frost (Torana) ran a bearing in practice but would return with a spare engine installed but Lew Bush (RX-2) and Harry Bargwanna (Capri) both pulled out with engine dramas of their own.

Race One

Gavin Bullas (Boss Mustang) beat Stubber off the front row to lead into turn one before the Chev powered past on the back straight. Steve Mason ('69 Camaro) battled with Hobarts Brendon Diprose (XW Falcon) and Alastair MacLean ('68 Camaro) for third whilst Drew Marget (Boss Mustang) overcooked it at the end of the back straight, clashing with Garry Treloar ('68 Camaro) with both cars off into the dirt and losing a few places. Mick Cross (Torana) retired with brake issues and Alf Bargwanna (Torana) broke an axle. Garry Rogers (HQ Monaro) hit Marget in the tail under heavy braking for the hairpin and retired, the Munro a bit sad in the front end and now out for the remainder. Rapid local John Douglas (Torana) pressured John Bryant (HQ Monaro) mercilessly until Bryant received a "meatball" for a gearbox leak. Stubber took the win, despite having to hold the car in the car in gear for much of the circuit after shifter dramas mid-race. Second was Bullas, then MacLean, Diprose and Mason who just beat Treloar for fifth. Darren Pearce ('68 Mustang) was seventh then Marget, Tony Hunter ('69 Camaro) and Trevor Talbot (Torana) rounding out the ten. Fastest lap: Stubber 0:59.6470 (set on lap two-new lap record). Richard Fairlam (EH) suffered a fuel pump failure and came to a stop just inches from the finish line, an attempt to creep over on the starter motor all to no avail. The crowd in the stands certainly gave Richie plenty of encouragement though!

"Race" Two

Heavy overnight rain saw the track soaked, the drizzle not abating at all as the cars gridded up, mostly on wet weather rubber. Diprose had only enough wets for the front of his Big Henry, and metres into the race found he had little traction and looped at turn one. Stubber led as several cars fell off (including a rare excursion for Talbot) until Diprose had another lose on the front straight, smacking the pit wall and bringing out the red flag after four laps. A no race was declared due to insufficient laps completed (12 laps the scheduled journey). The star of the aborted race had to be Mick Wilson, the lone Charger slicing through the spray to be fourth at the red flag having started 14th on the grid!

Race Three

Stubber got the jump to lead as further back Douglas fell off at turn one and Leo Jameson (RX-2) retired with carbie problems. Pearce stopped with a blown clutch, as did Peter Manning (ex Steve Bye Falcon) several laps later. MacLean slipped under Bullas at the end of the back straight to move into second and then went into the lead as Stubber slowed momentarily exiting the hairpin. Margets frustrating year continued, the `Stang retiring with potential engine problems (thought to be piston). MacLeans moment in the sun ended when he spun at the greasy turn one, Stubber taking to the infield to avoid him but then regaining the lead. MacLean rejoined in fifth as Treloar finally got past Mason to grab third after a great dice. The only Mini in the field of Lance Stannard stopped with an electrical gremlin as Douglas gradually clawed back to within sight of the top ten. Chris Wilson (Torana) retired with a gearbox issue as Stubber enveloped those on the pit wall with tyre smoke as he power slid to another win. The consistent Bullas was second, then Treloar (with rear drums on fire) and Mason followed by MacLean. Talbot just beat home Greg Toepfer (Eric Stanford Falcon) after an entertaining battle. Mick Wilson was eighth, then Bargwanna and Bryant with Douglas 11th. Fastest lap: Stubber 1:01.2414.

Darren Knight