

After the Skope Classic, Richard Kelly, Robert Hulme and John Mines continued on to the Southern Hydraulic Classic at Levels Raceway, Timaru. They were joined by Sam Smith in Rhubarb 3.

Sports Cars were placed in the Sports & GT races as opposed to the Formula Libre races. In race 1, Richard and Sam led the field away and were not challenged by the rest. Robert started from the back of the grid as he missed qualifying and quickly moved through the field to finish third. John Mines finished a credible 6th in the JRM2.

As a result of the speed of the three front sports cars, they were moved to the Formula Libre Class. To provide a further challenge, they were to start from the back of the grid since that had not qualified for this class.

Richard and Robert moved quickly through the field until lap 4 where Richard rotated somewhat than he needed to at the end of the strait while in pursuit of the race leader, Geoff Harriman. Robert joined in and also spun. They then went on to finish 3rd and 4th as Steve Donaldson had passed them. Sam Smith also worked his way through the field to finish 6th. For a car that is 46 years old, Rhubarb 3 put in some impressive lap times. Robert posted the fastest Sports Car lap time in the Formula Libre race.

There is more racing tomorrow and details can be found at myLaps.

At Levels Raceway, the intensity of the racing stepped up on Sunday from where they left off on Saturday.

Richard Kelly and Robert Hulme were now on the front row of the grid having set the fastest times in the previous race. Robert led from the start and was hotly pursued by Richard all the way to the finish line.

Geoff Harriman made it past Steve Donaldson at the end of the back straight on lap 1 and held this position to the finish.

Sam Smith was in 5th place until the last lap when a rod went through the side of the block. For the last race, Robert again led from the start. Steve managed to head Richard for a short time from the start. Both Richard and Robert posted personal best times with Robert's time being 1m 4.895s.

This time Geoff took until mid race to put a move on Steve and cross the line in 3rd place.

John Mines enjoyed a win and a second place in the Sports & GT class. On his way to winning the race, he set his best lap time, an impressive 1m 10.344s

All drivers improved their times throughout the weekend, be it by either more competition of familiarity with the track. Sam Smith was once again very quick in Rhubarb 3. Robert set a new sports car lap record for the track. The speed of Steve Donaldson's car was impressive, being a Formula Ford with a modified motor and no wings or slicks. The grid start provided an interesting change from the usual rolling starts for sports cars.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C9J0EutoDvQ>