

## PIT NEWS

Today we will see the greatest line-up of overseas drivers yet seen in Queensland. Heading the list is current World Champion, Denny Hulme in his Brabham Cosworth, then two former World Champions, Jim Clark and Graham Hill both in Lotus Fords. We then have the two BRM's driven by Richard Attwood and Pedro Rodriguez. For the first time in Australia we have a works Ferrari to be driven by young New Zealander — Chris Amon. Next is Piers Courage with his McLaren Cosworth, a light car renowned for its good handling qualities.

Leading the Australian challenge will be Frank Gardiner in Alec Mildren's Brabham Alfa which has surprised everyone with its speed during the New Zealand events. His team mate will be Kevin Bartlett in a Brabham Climax. We will also see Leo Geoghegan in his Lotus 39 once again fitted with a Repco engine. Greg Casack will be driving Scuderia Velocip's Repco Brabham in which he recently won the Australian Hill Climb Championship.

After the New Zealand round of four Tasman races, Chris Amon leads the point score comfortably with 27 points. However, there is a real battle going on for the minor places as Piers Courage has 15 points and Jim Clark has 15. Not far back is Frank Gardiner with 10 points. So today we are sure to see some very close racing as these drivers struggle for more points in the championship.

They will face stiff opposition from our own Australian drivers as well as the two works BRM's which now seem to be more reliable after a poor start in the early races of the series. Bruce McLaren in a BRM won the last of the New Zealand races. His car will be driven here by Richard Attwood.

The Sports Car Race promises to be every bit as exciting as the "Rothmans 100" for we have Chris Amon in a Ferrari P4 sports car matched against Frank Match in his Match SR 3 which has yet to be beaten in Australia. Chris would be just the one to topple Frank, though these two drivers recorded identical lap times at a race in America during the recent CAN-AM Series. However, mechanical troubles prevented either of them from finishing the race so it has yet to be decided who is the quicker of the two. Very close behind them will be Niel Allen in his big Elfin Traco which has recorded very fast times on this circuit.

Niel will also be appearing in his Mustang with which he broke Ian Geoghegan's old lap record at the last meeting here. The Touring Car Race is sure to develop into a great battle between these two Mustang drivers.

The Morris Coopers always provide a great spectacle and the drive by Phil Barnes at the last meeting when he held off Pete Geoghegan's Mustang in the rain, won't be forgotten for a long time. In this class today there should be a good dice between John French and Trevor Meehan who will be using 1310 cc. engines. Given a stir along John could get below the class record which he holds jointly with Brian Foley.

The Alfa Romeo in the hands of Max Brunninghausen is the ex Alec Mildren TZ 2 which did so well in the first Rothmans 12-Hour, Ian Hindmarsh and Max are planning a busy season with the Alfa and their efforts should be rewarded as this is a quick and reliable car.

Good to see Joe Camilleri back again on four wheels after his spectacular flip under Repco Hill last meeting. The immaculate Cooper S looked very much the worse for wear after the incident but is now back to its former condition after a lot of work.

A very warm welcome to the Formula Vee competitors from New South Wales who have made a special trip to Surfers Paradise for this meeting to compete for points in the "E.M.P.I. Eastern States Trophy" for Formula Vees.

The competition to decide the winner of this trophy will be held over the three Tasman meetings held at Surfers Paradise, Warwick Farm and Sandown Park. The trophy has been presented by Rod Blair Agencies Pty. Ltd., who are Australian agents for EMPI Volkswagen equipment.

Their support has certainly stimulated a lot of interest amongst the Formula Vee drivers and will do a lot towards fostering this Formula in Australia.

Points are decided on the same basis as for the Tasman Championship, i.e., from the first to sixth place — 9, 6, 4, 3, 2, 1 and it is hoped to have Graham Hill present the trophy to the winner following the final race at Sandown Park after this month.

### Who's for Club Racing?

One of the biggest closed club race meetings held in Queensland will be staged at Lakeside on March 3.

By early indications, the day looks like being an eye-opener to the racing talent of the future for the spectators and drivers alike.

It has been organised by the Queensland Motor Sporting Club in conjunction with Surfers Paradise Automotobile Racing Club, M.G. Car Club, Formula Minor Car Club and Brisbane Sporting Car Club, as a stepping stone between Club Sprint meetings and open race meetings.

The March meet is aimed at opening possibilities for beginners and the not-so-experienced driver, and will follow up the QMSC racing driver lectures held last year which attracted almost 100 people.

Competitors will experience actual racing conditions without the danger and difficulty of fronting top-line drivers in faster cars.

The circuit will be manned in the usual manner — flag marshalls, fire-fighting officials, ambulancemen and safety officers, etc.

Practice is on Sunday morning, with 12 races of four and five laps, in the afternoon.

Organisers expect an enthusiastic turnout at a budget price — \$1 for spectators.

Prospective contestants can obtain supplementary regulations from QMSC, box 6051, GPO, Brisbane.

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Young New Zealander Chris Amon, No. 1 driver for Ferrari Factory currently leading in points for the Tasman Championship



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