

CALSHOT THUNDER DROME

CALSHOT 2008 WITH SHMCC.ORG

By Robin Howett



The circuit, banked wooden cycling track

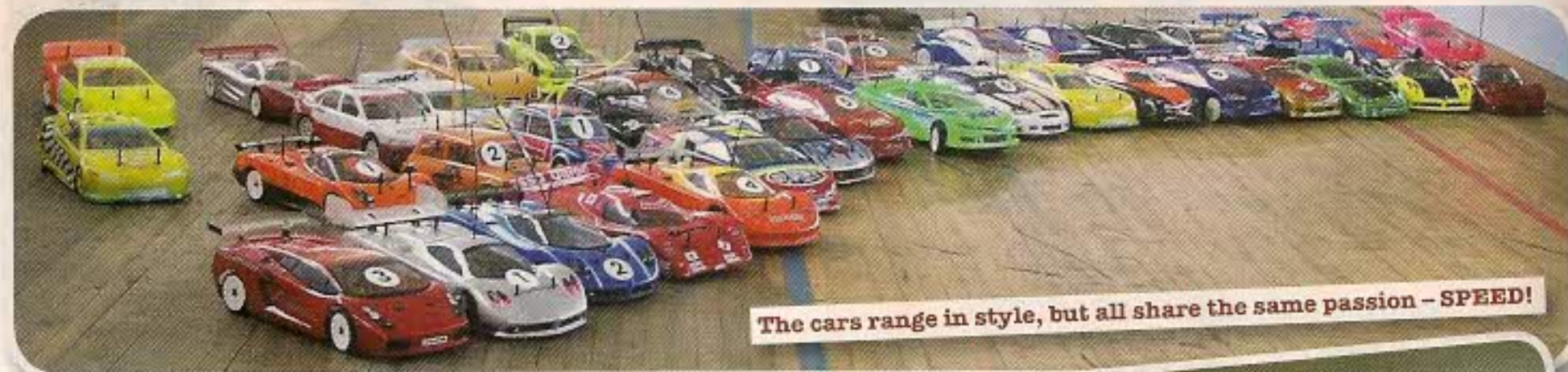
The day started bright and early and 45 drivers prepared for a day's racing featuring the high 30 degree banked wooden curves of the famous cycling track at Calshot's velodrome. This was the 7th year that South Hants Model Car Club (SHMCC.org) had run this annual race and lots of familiar faces and some new ones got a few practice laps before racing started.

The day would include timed practice to sort through the heats to try and speed match the drivers throughout three rounds of qualifying heats, followed by 3 legged 4 min finals for all.

Chassis design is completely open so you can run a 1/12th or 1/10th pan car or a 1/10 touring car, but classes run to four formulas:

- Mini, FWD chassis, any motor
- Stock, any 27T motor, 6-cell, any bodyshell (but NASCAR look good)
- Superstock, any 19T motor, 6-cell, any bodyshell (Go NASCAR style)
- Open Modified, brushed/brushless, 6-cell NiMH, 7.4 V LiPo + voltage detector/cutoff, any bodyshell (again NASCAR look good)

Thunderdrome speed runs at lunchtime are where anything goes, there is no motor nor cell limit, over 3 or 4 solo laps to try and go as



The cars range in style, but all share the same passion - SPEED!

Below: Top Mini drivers



A Mini grid, maximum fun!

SPECIAL TRACKSIDE REPORT



A good crowd, all bent on one ambition

fast a possible. Last year's lap record at the Thunderdrome was a 5.3 second lap equating to a whopping 62 mph!

First out was the mini class, which was new this year with the popular M03 fwd cars with open motors allowed. The fastest man on the track was Mark Townsend running a 10 x 3 motor and doing a best lap of 7.22 sec. The popular brushed Stock class then had the track with some very fast cars competing at the top of the tables but the clear leader was Dale Hulbert who was able to put in consistent 7 second laps, Dale was using a shaft drive CGM and new Gecko foam tyres (everyone else was on regular rubber tyres), which helped to give him that extra speed. The Pro Stock brushed and brushless class were getting faster with Les Baldry running a LRP 10.5 powered car, which was doing 6.5 second laps.

The mod class was a bit low on numbers this year but the cars still managed to get the attention of the assembled crowds in the viewing areas as the brushless powered cars motored around putting in 5.5 second laps. Three rounds of qualifying saw some interesting racing lines taken by the cars with some running on the vertical wall around the top of the track and a few managed to get out of the track completely resulting in various levels of car damage including one broken chassis, several wheels ripped off and a very bowed propshaft.

The lunch break speed runs saw a new lap record of 5.01 seconds and this was set by Les Baldry running a 3.5 Novak brushless, breaking last year's record of 5.03 and this maybe a track limit, as Les seemed unable to stop the car literally taking off as he accelerated down the straights but it's great fun watching. Some video footage is on our club site www.shmcc.org and I have to say it's quite amazing.

The finals had some very close racing and some very clean racing with the cars much better matched for speed. The Mini class was won by Mark Townsend with Lee Malyon 2nd and Simon Newbery 3rd, Stock honours went to Dale Hulbert with Jeff Smith 2nd and Trevor Slocombe 3rd, Pro Stock win to Ian Newton with Daniel Horton 2nd and Les Baldry 3rd and in Mod the win went to Ryan Docketty with Robin Howett 2nd and Les Baldry 3rd. Well done to all the drivers and South Hants Model Car Club would like to thank Lesro Models, Reality Racing and Schumacher Racing.

For more info on next year's Calshot Thunderdrome call Colleen Fullick, SHMCC committee on 01962 831036 or visit www.shmcc.org RRCI

TOP SPEED CHART

Class	Driver	Laptime	Speed
Mini	Mark Townsend	7.22 sec	44 mph
Stock	Dale Hulbert	7 sec	45 mph
Pro Stock	Les Baldry	6.5 sec	49 mph
Mod	Les Baldry	5.01 sec	63 mph

DRIVER	CAR	MOTOR	SPEEDO	CELLS	FDR	TYRES	SHELL
Dale Hulbert	Yoko EGM	Slingshot 27	MRT MX	Lesro EP4200	3.5	Gecko foam45	Mazda 6
Jeff Smith	Schumi Mi2EC	CD27	VFS-1	IB4200	3.4	RP30	Mazda 6
Trevor Slocombe	XRAY T2	Team 1 CO27	LRP Q2	Demon Lipo	3.6	CS22 firm ins	Lambo Murcolo
Ian Newton	Schumi Mi2EC	V2 19t	Nosram Matrix	Demon Lipo	3.1	127 EVO's	Saleen
Daniel Horton	HB Cyclone	Axiom 19t	MRT pro	Trackpower Lipo	3.38	SSB's	Mazda 6
Les Baldry	Kyosho TFS	LRP 10.5	LRP	IB4200	Secret!	RP30	Zonda
Ryan Docketty	Corally RDX	Nosram 4T	LRP TC	Trackpower Lipo	6	MM 32s	Toyota
Robin Howett	Schumi Mi2	SP 2.5T	GM 95	Trackpower Lipo	9	Sorex 32	Dodge
Les Baldry	Kyosho FT5	Novak 3.5	Novak GTB	Trackpower Lipo	6.5	RP 30	Zonda
Twinkle Townsend	Tamiya M03	10x3	vago	GP3600	5.8	Express	Mini Cooper
Lee Malyon	Tamiya M03	Checkpoint 19t	N/A	IB4200	5.8	Kit	Mini Cooper
Simon Newbery	Tamiya M03	12x2	N/A	EP4200	5.8	Kit	Mini Cooper



Mr Speed, Les 'Secret Ratio' Baldry took a new outright lap record of just 5.01 sec

