

The Chris's for a crisis



Story and pictures by Kerry Marshall

So here I am hanging over the back of the pace car as it speeds around the track, trying to take photos of the TQ Sprint cars forming up behind me. The pace car bumps around the track and pulls off onto the grass releasing the field for the start of the race. They fly around the final two corners for the green light but it's not to be. Contact at the back of the field spins three cars to a halt before they have even reached the start/finish line. We race over to make sure everything is all right then form the field up again for another attempt at a start.

I'm riding with the safety crew in the pace car covering the action at the

ZM Meeanee Speedway in Hawke's Bay. In the passenger seat is a St John paramedic and on two jumpseats in the back are Chris Bullard and Chris King from the Taradale Volunteer Fire Brigade. They're here using their skills in an unofficial capacity to provide fire cover and safety. I'm wedged in between the fire extinguishers at the end trying not to bounce out as I see things from a different perspective.

Back on the track two stockcars have an argument over the same piece of track and one hits the wall hard. It rolls and comes to a rest upside down. Red lights around the track stop the racing and we speed over to help. The two Chris's secure the car and since

the driver is complaining of a sore neck an ambulance is bought into the field and a stretcher is used. Once the driver is clear the car is righted, towed into the infield and the race is restarted.

Next race the super saloons come together scattering pieces of car all over the track. Assorted parts are collected from the track and join us in the back lest they get flicked up by a wheel.

These are just a few of the many incidents in an action packed evening. By the end we're hot, dusty and tired. When the next meeting roars into life there'll be more smashes and crashes and once again Chris and Chris will be there to keep everyone safe.

SPORTS COUNCIL

Event Calendar

2006

Indoor Rowing Competition

Dunedin
September 30, 2006
Email: logan.akers@fire.org.nz

National Golf Tournament

Ohakune
October 9 – 15, 2006
Email: Ohakune@fire.org.nz

2006 Australasian Fire Brigades Golf

Adelaide, Australia
Contact Ray Shields,
or 07 347 2252 Email:

Entry forms and contacts for some events are available online at Firenet or fire.org.nz