

## 2010 Wittitrin 200 Race Report : Saturday



ABOVE : Michael Spokes / Alan Hetherington lead after Day 1.

Day one of the 2010 Scotts Hydraulic Services Wittitrin 200 held at Kempsey Saturday May 29 proved difficult for competitors, officials, and spectators alike.

After a week of sunshine, persistent rain set in early Saturday morning and did not let up until just prior to the commencement of the first Round of Heats at 11am. The rain made for greasy track conditions that caught a number of racers out early in proceedings. Officials also had to cut a small section of the course because of the wet weather. A meagre crowd was in attendance early, no doubt due to the rain, but when the weather broke at around midday the numbers grew significantly.

34 entries were received however the numbers were quickly culled by three when Conrad Bignell failed to start (mud in eye) and the Mark Eveleigh and Brian Duck machines failed to leave their transporters. The pink Extreme 2WD VW of Warren Irons / Tania Irons was another casualty with gearbox issues in reconnaissance.

#210 Chris Levi / Len Levi was the fastest of the 30 entries in the Prologue with a time of 7:04.57. Second fastest was #32 Dale Chadburn / Marnie Chadburn on 7:16.38 with #46 David Spokes / Anthony Fittler third on 7:22.72. Last year's Prologue 'giant killer' #308 Chris Browning, with Dean Mavin in the navigators seat this year, finished fourth on 7:23.09.

The Levi's set a blistering pace in Heat 1, easily drawing away from the competition. It all came unstuck on the final lap however when a rear wheel parted company. David Spokes then took over at the front only to succumb to gear box problems on the last lap. The completion of Round 1 therefore saw #116 Michael Spokes / Alan Hetherington (50:41.66)

leading the way from last year's winner #51 Jeff Thomas (51:10.29), with Peter Calvert navigating, and #279 Derek Rose / Rebecca Hardman(51:56.48) third.

By the time Heat 2 was ready to get underway the track had dried out a lot more meaning the faster machines were able to really get motoring. #26 Glenn Spizzo / Steven Brown were fastest in the Heat with a 43:06.44 as they attempted to chase down the Spokes machine that crossed under the flag with a 43:54.71 to be third quickest. #32 Dale Chadburn / Marnie Chadburn, who won Round 2 of the NSW Championship at Crookwell in April, emerged from the pack with a rapid time of 43:47.58 to be second fastest.

A number of racers came to grief during the two Rounds and the Prologue with #136 Mick Latimore having front left suspension / wheel issues, #256 Darren Perrin / John Stevens (Gearbox), and #307 Jarrad Eveleigh / Billy Hutchen (rear left suspension / wheel). #384 Shane Sussman / Damien Mitchell hit a tree in the Prologue.

At the completion of Saturdays racing the top 10 outright reads :

1. 116 Michael Spokes / Alan Hetherington 1:34:36.37
2. 26 Glenn Spizzo / Steven Brown 1:35:12.25
3. 32 Dale Chadburn / Marnie Chadburn 1:36:25.74
4. 51 Jeff Thomas / Peter Calvert 1:36:28.41
5. 279 Derek Rose / Rebecca Hardman 1:36:58.12
6. 996 Murray Bignell 1:38:53.01
7. 262 Andrew Griffin / Bradley Osborne 1:44:19.25
8. 288 Hugh Austin / Ben Austin 1:44:51.27
9. 335 Gary Hyde / Joshua Hyde 1:45:15.11
10. 190 David Nikiforoff / Maria Raccosta 1:47:57.35

18 teams have so far completed the entire course.

Racing resumes at 9am Sunday for Heats 3 and 4.



ABOVE : Glen Spizzo / Steven Brown are currently 2<sup>nd</sup>.



ABOVE : Dale Chadburn / Marnie Chadburn are third outright.

*Images courtesy of Sean O'Leary*

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