

Hunter Valley Club dominates Round 1 of 2010 NSW Off Road Championship

Hunter Valley Off Road Racing Association members conquered all (almost) in Round 1 of the NSW Off Road Championship held at Dondingalong (Kempsey NSW) March 20/21.

Pro Buggy Class was dominated by the two Hunter Valley entries of Justin Guy / Danny Richardson (#19 Jimco) and Jeremy Robards / Wendy Robards (#39 Rivmasta). The two teams battled closely on Saturday however the Guy / Richardson combination gained the ascendancy on Sunday to not only take the Class victory, but also outright honours. The Robard team finished second outright and second in Class. Peter Sowter from Taree battled power steering issues both days to finish third in Pro Buggy Class.

Brian Duck from the Hunter Valley Club drove sensationally all weekend to claim the Prolite Buggy Class in only his second race at the Dondingalong Circuit. Duck finished well ahead of the class placegetters, #196 Conrad Bignell, representing the Kempsey Club, and #133 Gordon Tardrew from Sydney.

Super 1650 Buggy was hotly contested but the Port Macquarie father and son team of Chris and Len Levi, members of the Kempsey Macleay Off Road Club, eventually took class honours in their #210 Manxco by a scant five seconds from the Hunter Valley team of Scott and Michelle McNeil. The Levi team also placed third outright. #279 Derek Rose / Mishell Densly, from Warialda, finished third in class.

In the Sportsman Buggy Class Billy and Traci Standing from the Hunter Valley Club saw off the late challenges of the Kempsey team of Katherine Wellings / Elizabeth Lee to take top honours.

Several Kempsey Macleay Off Road Club members struck car trouble over the course of the weekend.

Club President Darren Perrin, with John Stevens navigating, retired with rear suspension failure on Saturday, only to return for the Sunday section of the race and to be forced to retire again with another suspension failure. The Tim Baker / Andy Baker combination, in the Baker family VW Pro Buggy, dropped out early on Saturday with power steering issues. They returned to the track Sunday and showed some blistering pace until they were once again forced to withdraw in the final Heat.

Phillip Page / Nicole Giorgi, never got to compete in the Saturday portion of the program after a serious engine problem was diagnosed. Parts were brought in from Newcastle to make the necessary repairs and they returned to the track Sunday and promptly recorded the fastest Heat time of the event.

Luke Gilkinson, with David Hartwig in the navigators seat of the #239 BNM Buggy, provided the most dramatic action of the weekend when he rolled his machine in the main spectator arena during the Saturday morning Prologue. Luckily the damage was only light, and the pair were able to complete the event. Gilkinson, from Warialda, was competing in his first Off Road race.

Despite the car numbers being slightly down on last year's race Kempsey Macleay Off Road Club officials were extremely pleased with how smoothly the event ran, and the good spectator attendance on both days.

Kempsey Macleay Off Road Club members now turn their attention to preparations for the annual Scotts Hydraulic Services Wittittrin 200, Round 3 of the NSW Off Road Championship / Round 1 of the Premier Long Course Series, that will be held May 29 and 30.

For all the latest news from the Kempsey Macleay Off Road Club, and full photo coverage of the Dondingalong Round of the NSW Off Road Championship, visit www.kempseyoffroadracing.net.

RESULTS : ROUND 1 NSW OFF ROAD CHAMPIONSHIP : DONDINGALONG : 20/21 MARCH 2010

OUTRIGHT

1. 19 Justin Guy / Danny Richardson 43:34:65
2. 39 Jeremy Robards / Wendy Robards 44:54:00
3. 210 Chris Levi / Len Levi 45:09:01

PRO BUGGY

1. 19 Justin Guy / Danny Richardson 43:34:65
2. 39 Jeremy Robards / Wendy Robards 44:54:00
3. 985 Peter Sowter 48:24:60

PROLITE BUGGY

1. 137 Brian Duck 45:22:09
2. 196 Conrad Bignell 48:42:13
3. 133 Gordon Tardrew 37:59:36

SUPER 1650 BUGGY

1. 210 Chris Levi / Len Levi 45:09:01
2. 206 Scott McNeil / Michelle McNeil 45:14.12
3. 279 Derek Rose / Michell Densly 46:50:57

SPORTSMAN BUGGY

1. 366 Billy Standing / Traci Standing 46:18:56
2. 358 Katherine Wellings / Elizabeth Lee 47:04:16



ABOVE : (Left) Justin Guy on his way to victory. (Right) Jeremy Robards finished 2nd Outright.
BELOW : Chris Levi was 3rd Outright and 1st in Super 1650 Buggy. Photos by Sean O'Leary.

