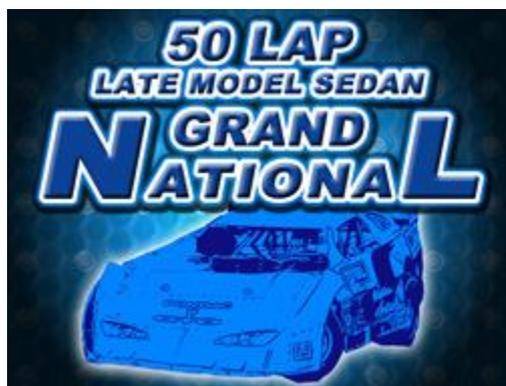


Late Model Grand National interstate line-up increases



Interest in the Late Model Grand National at Tyrepower Sydney Speedway on March 19 is going from strength to strength.

Late Model organisers announced today that 14 interstate drivers are now confirmed for the show that pays \$5000 to the winner of the main event decided over a distance of 50 laps.

“The build up for this night, which showcases the Late Models as the major attraction, is really gaining momentum. This will be a great opportunity to present the Late Models at their absolute best,” Tyrepower Sydney Speedway Race Director Rod Britton said today.

National Champion Brad Blake from Western Australia heads the interstate challenge.

Blake regained his Australian title earlier this year with victory at the Timmis Speedway Mildura driving the Marc Zimmer-owned Rocket chassis Late Model.

All three placegetters in the 2011 Australian Late Model Championship – including runner-up Blair Granger (Queensland) and third-placed Matt Crimmins (South Australia) – have now entered for the Tyrepower Sydney Speedway Late Model Grand National.

Another West Aussie Warren Oldfield has nominated.

The biggest interstate representation comes from Queensland, with eight drivers set to run. In addition to Granger, Matt Ingrey, Russell Bonsey, Geoff Phillips, Aaron van Zeeland, Steve van Zeeland, Jake and Dean Hawkins will also represent the Sunshine State.

Crimmins will be joined by fellow South Australian statesman Luke Raymond, while Dave Mentiplay and Rod Eildon are the Victorian entrants.

Drivers will compete in time trials (two cars at a time over two laps) with points allocated to determine start positions in the heats. Only one Round of heats will be contested with an inverted top six from time trials.

Start positions in the Feature are decided after the points from the time trials and heats are totalled. The highest point scorer will then draw for an eight, ten or twelve inversion for the 50-lap feature race.

In a novel twist, the highest point scorer will have the opportunity to determine the start positions of all other racers included in the inversion.

“The format for the Tyrepower Sydney Speedway Grand National will ensure race fans will get to see plenty of action, and with the inversion system, it really opens the race up”.

“NSW Late Models are committed to developing the Tyrepower Sydney Speedway Grand National into one of the nation’s premier Late Model events, and with the interest shown already, we are well on the way to achieving that goal,” NSW organiser Ross Nicastrì said.

Nicastrì is one of the home town drivers contesting the Grand National. Nathan Disney, Darryl Grimson and Scott McPherson also spearhead the local line-up. With 14 interstateers already confirmed, plus the addition of NSW cars, it is not beyond expectations for close on 30 cars to be on hand.

A Demolition Derby also is programmed for the March 19 fixture, while AMCAs and Fender Benders are also on the card.

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