

Media Release



Tyrepower Sydney Speedway Grand National set to rumble



ABOVE : Bad in black! #12 Darryl Grimson and #7 Scott McPherson both want victory in the Tyrepower Sydney Speedway Grand National. Photo by Gary Reid.

It's all systems go for the highest profile Late Model Race on the NSW schedule in 2011, the inaugural \$5000 to win Tyrepower Sydney Speedway Grand National Saturday March 19.

NSW Late Models officials are expecting up to 30 cars to be in the pits with half of that number being from interstate.

"The Tyrepower Sydney Speedway Grand National is an exciting event that is designed to bring the division to the forefront of public interest. With the largest field of Late Models in NSW this season the action out on the track should be intense" said NSW Late Models Marketing Manager Ross Nicastrì.

"This race has the potential to give the division a real boost leading into next season. The Tyrepower Sydney Speedway Grand National will help raise the profile of the division, and attract new drivers to this class of racing".

"We need more long distance races for Late Models so it's great to see this event scheduled for 50 laps. Long distance races allow drivers to settle into a rhythm better and gives them the opportunity to recover from any mishaps. They are the norm for this type of car in the USA and usually produce the most exciting racing" Nicastrì said.

“The Management of Tyrepower Sydney Speedway have been very supportive of Late Model Racing since its inception here on the East Coast and NSW Late Models is very appreciative of their efforts to build and promote the class via events such as the Tyrepower Sydney Speedway Grand National”.

“With five grand on the line for the winner, and a good payout down the field, you can expect the Tyrepower Sydney Speedway Grand National to be action packed from go to whoa!” concluded Nicastri.

A strong field has nominated for the event, headed by Western Australia’s Brad Blake in the #0 Zimmer Motorsport Rocket. With four Australian Late Model titles to his credit, including this years, Blake is the driver others have to beat. Blake has a perfect record on the East Coast this season in the Zimmer car, with victory in the Gold Cup at Tyrepower Sydney Speedway in January, victory in the Australian Championship at Mildura one week later, and victory in the Queensland Championship at Kingaroy in February.

Queenslands Blair Granger (#5 Mason Racin Rocket) and South Australia’s Mat Crimmins (#10 J & J Ruston Engineering Warrior), who placed second and third in the Australian title, have both nominated for the Tyrepower Sydney Speedway Grand National. Granger is enjoying his best ever season since entering the Late Model ranks. A third place in the Gold Cup was followed by the runner up spot in the national title, with his most recent success being second in the Queensland title. The Queensland racer has seen plenty of the rear of the Blake cars in recent times and will be keen to finish ahead of the national champion on Saturday.

Crimmins has enjoyed plenty of success in the South Australian Late Model Series but on his few appearances in Sydney thus far has found the track a difficult animal to master. He will be looking to atone for past performances on Saturday.

Making the journey north with Crimmins is Luke Raymond in the #5 S McLay Mechanical Rocket. Raymond won last weekend at Mount Gambier (South Australia) and is set to make an impression in Sydney.

Other interstate racers lining up to try and take the big dollars home with them are Warren Oldfield (WA), Matt Ingreys (QLD), Russell Bonsey (QLD), Geoff Phillips (QLD), Aaron van Zeeland (QLD), Steve van Zeeland (QLD), Jake Hawkins (QLD), Dean Hawkins (QLD), David Robertson (QLD), Dave Mentiplay (VIC), and Rod Edwards (VIC).

Of those drivers Oldfield and Phillips are real hard chargers and can be expected to challenge for outright honours.

A strong NSW contingent stands in the way of the interstate raiders.

Newcastles favourite son Nathan Disney (#11 Adamstown Car Doctors Rocket) has had a ‘dream season’, only spoiled by misfortune in the Australian title. In six Feature starts at Tyrepower Sydney Speedway in season 2010/11 he has not finished worse

than first or second. After trailing Brad Blake across the line in the Gold Cup Disney will attempt to reverse the positions come Saturday evening.

One of the quietest racers off the track is Darryl Grimson but when he belts himself into the #12 United Acreage Marketing Warrior he becomes at one with the car, the warrior in the warrior! Grimson has had his share of mixed luck this season but you can be sure the team will be well prepared for its crack at the Tyrepower Sydney Speedway Grand National.

Canberra's Scott McPherson is one racer who will enjoy the 50 lap distance. McPherson, a former state champion, has a wealth of experience racing Late Models and is slowly getting to grips with his new jet black #7 Better Trailers Rocket. Slightly down on horsepower compared to his rivals McPherson will rely on race craft to stay in contention.

Former Street Stock racer Dean Smith recently returned to action with his immaculate #90 Dean's Tyre & Mechanical Warrior and was immediately on the pace. As a former winner of the Late Model Gold Cup Smith must be considered a contender for victory in the Tyrepower Sydney Speedway Grand National.

Other NSW racers to watch include Barry Kelleher, Ed Borg, John Brown, Alan Oates, Lyle Dicker, Bruce Mackenzie, John Hector, and young guns Ben Nicastrri and Adam Brook.

Points awarded in Time Trials and the Heats will determine the starting positions in the big \$5000 to win 50 lap Tyrepower Sydney Speedway A Main. In a novel twist the highest pointscorer will draw for an 8, 10, or 12 inversion in the Main, and then be able to select the starting positions of the other cars in the inversion.

It all adds up to one thing, plenty of action for race fans attending the Tyrepower Sydney Speedway Grand National!

NSW Late Models finish their 2010/11 season back at Tyrepower Sydney Speedway Saturday March 26 for the final Round of the NSW Late Model Series. Only eight points separate the top three, with Scott McPherson just ahead of Darryl Grimson and Nathan Disney.

More information on the Tyrepower Sydney Speedway Grand National can be found at www.nswlatemodels.com and www.sydneyspeedway.com.au



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