



Media Release

Late Model Grand National set to rock Tyrepower Sydney Speedway



**ABOVE : David Robertson won the inaugural Grand National in 2011. Can he repeat in 2012?
Photo by Gary Reid.**

With a \$5000 payout awaiting the winner, it's no surprise that the Late Model Grand National at Tyrepower Sydney Speedway on Saturday April 14 has attracted a quality field.

The Grand National continues to grow in stature, even though the 2012 race is just the second time the event has been held.

Defending Champion David Robertson will have to be right on his game if he is to secure a repeat victory though, as the opposition has lifted over the past 12 months. Robertson won the 2011 Grand National in a gutsy drive, making his way back to the front of the field on the high line after spinning early.

With an abundance of Late Model racing at Tyrepower Sydney Speedway this season, including the Frank's Auto Parts Australian title in January, most racers have had the opportunity to fine tune their machines, and their skills.

The NSW Late Model ranks have also continued to blossom, with good numbers at each meeting, but it is the small number of interstate racers that local competitors will have to fear most in the Grand National.

Western Australia is strongly represented by this year's runner up in the National Title Jamie Oldfield, his brother Warren, and experienced long time campaigner Craig Vosbergen. Jamie Oldfield almost snatched the national title victory off US visitor Steve Francis in January, and after another second place (to Vosbergen) in a big \$10000 to win show at Mildura last weekend, will be extra keen to make the Grand National his own. Vosbergen on the other hand, wouldn't mind collecting the \$5000 on offer in the Grand National to supplement the \$10000 he won last weekend! Vosbergen has been involved in Late Model Racing for a long time, and often spends the winter months racing in the US.

Warren Oldfield is the current West Australian Champion, and like brother Jamie has a wealth of raw talent. Warren will be slightly out of his 'comfort zone' Saturday night though, as he will be belting himself into a car owned by Bruce Mackenzie. Despite the lack of seat time he is still expected to be a contender.

Queensland is represented by the sole entry of Josh Hawkins in the #12. Hawkins raced at Tyrepower Sydney Speedway the week prior to the National title, in a 'Young Guns' format, and impressed.

Heading up from Victoria to compete is Gary Bryans in the V19. Bryans has not raced much this summer, but is a tough competitor with vast experience in various sedan divisions.

NSW has the most starters numerically, with Ross Nicastrì, Nathan Disney, Darryl Grimson, Bruce White, Ron Pyne, Col Robinson, and last year's winner Robertson, all expected to feature at the pointy end of proceedings.

Nicastrì has been in fine form this summer, and is overdue for a big race win, while Disney broke through for his maiden Feature win of the season at the last Tyrepower Sydney Speedway Late Model show, and looked sharp all night. Grimson is always solid, and finished 3rd in Mildura last weekend, while White and Pyne have been fast at every meeting they have contested. Robinson, since returning to the left hand drive V8 division just prior to Christmas, has shown plenty of potential, and a Grand National victory may be in the offering.

After a good showing in the Australian title, where he finished 5th in his first major Late Model race, Speedcar sensation Nathan Smeë could surprise the opposition, while Greg Cassidy in the N2 car is one racer who is long overdue for some success.

Other NSW competitors in the field include Bruce Mackenzie, Stewart Jordan, Barry Kelleher, Ed Borg, and Jamie Dicker.

Racers will compete in two Heats each, prior to taking the green flag in the 30 lap A Main.

The Grand National will bring down the chequered flag on a highly successful NSW Late Model race season.

For the latest news on the Grand National, and NSW Late Model Racing, visit www.nswlatemodels.com

Ends Release

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