



BNT Mason Motorsport

20 April 2008

Well the rally season has begun and in typical style many spanners were thrown into the championship works. Our aim was achieved... a NZRC round win resulting in us now having a good lead in the championship... awesome start. Although we didn't have the rally all our own way....

RALLY WAIRARAPA: DAY 1

Day one dawned fine and we were ready to rock. Stage one however, turned out to be very difficult for us... this year we only have 1min gaps between the top cars rather than 2min... this proved to be significant right from the offset. 3km in to the 21km stage the car seeded in front of us rolled but kept going. Needless to say it didn't take long and we were right in amongst his thick dust. We struggled along and had a large spin in a fast section with Richard not being able to see the road... not good. We got going again and not too far from the end we came around a corner to find the car in front off the road. With 35seconds lost to the NZRC stage winner at the end of the stage we were on the back foot right from the start (8th NZRC).

However, we love a challenge and set off to climb our way back up the leader board, now being the first car on the road. Richard was struggling with the suspension set up in the car and it was amazing how thick the gravel was... even with the best intercom system we were struggling to communicate in the car.

We began our charge and set our sights on still winning the day. Stage by stage we climbed up placings. Although our cause wasn't helped by braking a gear lever in stage 5; it was actually quite funny however watching Richard try to change gears by sticking his hand right down into the gearbox and changing gear with what was left of the gear lever, in spite of this we still managed to win the stage... check out our in-car camera footage on TVI's motorsport show, Sunday 4th of May between 3-6pm.

As we progressed through the day, it was amazing how many teams were having problems and retiring.

Going into the last stage of the day, we thought we had a lead of 4.1seconds and so didn't push it too hard through the stage, we found out mid way while on a tarmac section, that our launch control was stuck on as well, with the car only capable of about 170kph on a straight that should be more like 200kph... despite this we still managed to increase our lead by 5seconds.

However, on arriving at the finish we found out that Stewart Taylor had a wrong time by 10seconds on stage 2 and he actually ended up beating us for the day by 0.9sec... disappointing but nevertheless still good points to start the season off with. Bring on day two!

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- New Zealand Rally Championship Dates**
- Rally Otago 10-11th May
 - Rally Whangarei 7-8th June
 - Rally Hawkes Bay 26-27th July
 - Rally NZ 28-31st August
 - Rally Nelson 20-21st September

- TV One Coverage for Rally Wairarapa:
- ◆ Sunday 4th May (day 1)
 - ◆ Sunday 11th May (day 2)



RALLY WAIRARAPA: DAY 2

We woke up on day two ready to go. We went hard from the start and won the first stage. Richard found he had to drive much more sideways on the heavily graveled roads to find extra speed. Richard's favorite road in New Zealand was used in reverse for the 23km second stage (Bartons Line) and it was a great ride, not pushing beyond limits but very natural. We won the stage by over 0.5sec/km over the second NZRC competitor but didn't manage to get the record for the stage.

We were right on track for the day, with also winning stage three. Stage four was won by Brett Martin, with us losing out by 1.4seconds. Stage 5 (Kopikopiko) was next, as with last year we found this stage very difficult, with many changes in rhythm throughout, however we took the stage win again. Stage 6 for the day was a repeat of stage three and it was great to be on swept roads, we won this stage also. Stage 7 was made up of the second half of the Bartons Line stage but in reverse; Richard loves this stuff—nice fast and flowing roads, we won this one too.



So all was looking good for a day NZRC win. The last stage of the day was a repeat of yesterday's last stage. We drove sedately through (at an average speed of just over 124kph for the 13km), driving with our heads to get the car to the finish and grab the points.

THE RALLY

Andrew Hawkeswood and Rocky Hudson flew through the rally and won it overall... winning 9 of the 15 stages outright. They weren't eligible for the championship, being in a more powerful Group A car and running avgas rather than the championship required road car fuel.

MAKING HISTORY

Rally Wairarapa takes Richard's NZRC round wins to 12; this puts him 4th on the NZRC all-time round winners list, equal with Geof Argyle and Brian Stokes. In the co-driving ranks, I've just achieved my 9th win and am up to 5th, equal with Crunch Bennett and pushing BNT boss Greg Horne down to 7th... Sorry Greg :)

THANKS

Thanks to our Supporters for getting out there at the rally and providing so much encouragement. Thanks must also go to our hardworking team; Chris, Spud, Stu, Dwight, Nick, Murray, Corina and Jemma and our lovely team girls; Dani and Jessie. —> Thanks to Greg and Pauline Horne, Mum & Dad (Randall) and Mum & Dad (Mason) for time keeping. Also a big thanks to Trust House and Racetech for a great Wairarapa Rally.



POINTS AFTER WAIRARAPA

Drivers

1)	R. Mason	62
2)	S. Taylor	48
3)	H. Paddon	44
4)	M. Tapper	41
5)	C. West	40
6)	B. Martin	37
7)	C. McInnes	34
8)	S. Cox	24
9)	A. Meier	23
10)	G. Barber	22
11)	K. Nelson	19
12)	P. Malley(2wd)	17
13)	E. Gilmour	13
14)	B. Ayling	8
15)	B. Jagger (2wd)	7
16)	N. Thomas	7

Co-Drivers

1)	S. Mason	62
2)	W. Searle	48
3)	J. Kennard	44
4)	J. Cress	41
5)	G. Cowan	40
6)	G. Marra	37
7)	D. Calder	34
8)	T. Cox	24
9)	J. Farmer	23
10)	B. O'Connor	22
11)	M. Brunt	19
12)	R. Bennett	17
13)	J. Judd	13
14)	M. Read	8
15)	B. Hawkins	7
16)	R. Kelly	7

Junior Drivers

1)	H. Paddon	67
2)	S. Cox	52
3)	A. Meier	51
4)	K. Nelson	40
5)	P. Malley	36
6)	B. Jagger	16

Manufacturers Trophy

1)	Mitsubishi	83
2)	Subaru	72
3)	Ford	17

Rookie Drivers

1)	A. Meier	67
2)	G Poole	52
3)	B. Ayling	28
4)	D. Breden	23

For live rally results & points
check out:

www.chrissport.co.nz

JUNIOR DRIVERS

We would like to congratulate our junior drivers for their efforts at Rally Wairarapa. Andre Meier and Jason Farmer took maximum points for the Rookie title and had a great battle with the drivers around them. Kirsty Nelson and Michele Brunt went well, with Kirsty being the first female home. Brad Ayling and Malcolm Read had a character building rally and we're sure they'll have more luck at the next one.

NEXT ON THE AGENDA...

More testing! We're entering the Tauranga club rally this weekend to get some more valuable testing under our belt, with Richard not 100% happy yet with our car setup. (check out www.chrissport.co.nz for results) After that it will be full force attack at Rally Otago on the 10th-11th May. Our goal is again simple... to win.



CONTACTS

Richard: 027 244 0401

Sara: 027 224 9785

richard_and_sara@xtra.co.nz

www.richardmason.co.nz

Check out:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xUKYVbtfuQY>

For Rally Wairarapa highlights.

