

Bay Park snippets. January 2006 – World of Outlaws at Baypark, NZ

- The curfew here is extreme. No cars on the track before 6.30pm or after 10.00pm. The track is located in a suburban area and I would say that Sydney Swans' Barry Hall could kick a drop punt into the back yard of the nearest residence.....
- The car parks at this gigantic site are set to be doubled. Already they can hold 5,000 cars, but Bob says it's not enough!!!
- Brandon Wimmer has impressed on this trip. Although his equipment doesn't look the best, it is fast and so is he. The baby faced Wimmer looks like he should be selling hotdogs in the stands rather than dueling with **Kinser and Co**.....
- I'm sure I didn't imagine it but standing on the Turn 1 infield at the start of the final A Main, the ground definitely shook beneath me. I'm sure it was the racecars but Taupo some two hours away experienced a 5.5 earthquake about that same time.....
- Trevor Green and Kerry Madsen aided by Danny Lasoski, had 'words' with the track curator when the water truck came out just before the Night 3 A Main ...
- Every competing sprintcar was allocated their own quad 4 wheeler and exclusive driver for the duration. The lucky young man who got the Barry Lewis – Trevor Green Adrad Radiator team, went home with heaps of team merchandise
- On night 1, chaos reigned supreme with the curfew shortened A Main. So much so that when Johnny Gibson attempted to get onto the track to interview **Steve Kinser**, he was prevented from doing so by an over zealous security guard. So, John just fired up the wireless microphone and announced to the crowd what he thought of the dude standing next to him
- The 68m Bayspeed sponsored racer of Colin Entwistle certainly outperformed Dennis Moore Jnr with his donut demo in Turn 4. Even more impressive was Entwistle's 42" plasma TV in the transporter for after race parties
- Bay Park owner Bob Clarkson is the local Federal MP for the National Party, who are in opposition. His desire to do and build things for the community often brings him into conflict with the Mayor of Tauranga Stuart Crosby. Weird, considering that Crosby is a racer himself in the Limited Saloon class at Baypark.
- Drivers were asked to be particularly thoughtful when driving on the prized infield turf. Motors had to be killed when pulling up, but I still located dozens of burnt patches. When the Rugby is played there, artificial turf is rolled over the racetrack giving the appearance it is a totally grassed infield

- Strangely enough the track was built with only one pit gate which caused delays in getting cars off and on. With clear curfew restrictions, it caused problems ...
- Overheard the sound measuring man relating that if he disqualified the cars over the 95 decibel limit we would have lost half the field....
- Crowds on Night 1 & 2 were about 4,000 to 5,000. **Bob Clarkson** suggested that was above their budgeted expectations. The final night saw the stadium half full at 10,000 by my guess.....
- Trevor Green and crew, including co-owner Barry Lewis, Bob and Paul Stock were active on the local sponsorship front. They secured great support from the locally based Pegasus Rent-a-Car company. Plus, the place for all Aussies to visit in Tauranga is the fabulous “Usual Suspects” bar and nightclub in The Strand. Peter and his wife Lee will definitely look after all speedway fans
- Greg Henderson, the track photographer caught the massive Super Saloon flip with an incredible 18 consecutive perfectly focused shots
- Why did Sammy Swindell return to racing after A Main flip only to be a hindrance to all other cars, being lapped three times by the leaders
- By my calculations, Kerry Madsen and Trevor Green took home nearly AUS\$35,000 between them for their three night efforts
- The quality of the NZ equipment was outstanding and surprised first time Oz visitors. Easily the most impressive Kiwis were Alan Wakeling, Kerry Jones and current NZ champion, 16 year old Ben Finemore
- Being in the infield on all three nights was spectacular. However the continual crowd roar on the final night was stunning especially when the Yanks generated the triple flip
- As per usual, there was feverish horse-trading of those US cars and motors not yet already sold
- Plenty of Aussie visitors including TPCR’s Brian Healey and Steve Green, although Steve missed the final night to fly home to run the midget meeting at Parramatta that same night. Barry Graham was with Slammin’ Sammy ...
- Clerk of the Course Willie Kay looked like a very relieved man once it was all done and dusted ...

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