

## International season briefs ... 2009

- Everyone recognises that sponsorship opportunities must be grabbed when they come up. However I must admit that it was weird to see **Steve Kinser** in a car coloured anything other than green. Journalists across the ages have always referred to him as “*that man in the green car*”. Couldn’t do that this trip though .....
- It is a rare event that the wing manufacturers don’t make money at a TPCR race night. Amazingly we went two whole meetings where everyone stayed the right way up. New Year’s Day and the first night of the Scott Darley Memorial .....
- As a compulsive attendee at Parramatta, we sometimes endure nights where the crowd is less than satisfactory. So when a big congregation comes in, the atmosphere changes remarkably. It’s almost party time with spontaneous reactions to incidents on track. I’ve always wondered whether the drivers can hear the fans in the stands. Surely **the King** must have heard the acclamation when he crossed the line a length ahead of Schatz??
- Sometimes I think hotlaps are an accident waiting to happen. The very annoying practice of the gun drivers waiting for a clear track ahead before standing on the gas causes major bottlenecks behind them. The middle markers are reluctant to invade the “*star space*” and hence hang back, thus triggering it all again. Should there not be less cars out there at any one time?
- Will we ever know whether Sportsbet cleaned up on Schatz not winning the SDM? (*Scott Darley Memorial*). After six successive \$50,000 cheques and a dominant performance on night 1, surely most educated punters piled their money on. Yes, he was carrying mine around ....
- Did anyone else notice that the Vermeer Motorsports car of Kerry Madsen was towed to the track on an open trailer? Little brother Ian commandeered the Madsen truck for #35, leaving #55 to face the elements. Is it the first time since the early years of the touring series that a World of Outlaws car hasn’t arrived at a speedway enclosed in a transporter?
- Speaking of the Madsens, the above reference to “*Kerry’s little brother*” should be the last ever. Surely he has earned the right now to be known as Ian Madsen .....

- While on the subject of family, Kraig Kinser, as good as he is in his own right, must surely wonder whether the day will ever come when he can take to the track as the only **Kinser** out there. Steve turns 55 this year and since he won his first main event in 1976, he has won at least six feature races each year. An inaugural Outlaw from 1978, he has won 549 WoO mains, has been the WoO series champ 20 times and won the Knoxville Nationals 12 times. Even considering all of the above, I reckon he really was genuinely excited with his SDM \$50k victory. Has anyone else in any sport been at the absolute top of their profession for 33 years!!!!
- Special commendation to the 50/50 ladies who always have eternally smiling faces each and every week. They all have a family link to the racers but their first priority is to sell as many tickets as they can. \$3,200 on night 2 was a great pick up. Although I don't think we'll ever beat the \$29,000 I saw the Eldora 50/50 pay out one night. The winning punter got the cash and a security guard for the balance of the night.....
- Isn't Mitchell Dumesny a refreshingly honest interviewee? Bright, cheerful, animated and humorous, Mitch calls it as he sees it. As and when the sponsors pile on board though, I hope he doesn't fall into the trap of trying to name the car after them all in one sentence, as is the practice of many these days .....
- Part of the reason Mitch comes across so well is the calibre of the commentary and interviewing team at TPCR these days. Steve, Wade and Stuey have made it a pleasure to be in attendance at the races. Informed, entertaining, accurate and appropriate at all times. In particular Stu was in good form moving down the ranks of drivers prior to the start of the 50k and again in the pits post race when he very sensitively handled the interviews with the Darley and Loudon family present. Wonder how the Monster Trucks on a Gold Coast Saturday night rated on Wade's excitement scale? Night 2 was one he wouldn't have wanted to miss ....
- Where was Garry Brazier?
- A demo derby with just 11 cars is not as good a spectacle as it could be with 40-50, like "*the old days*". Are they programmed too often now?