

Experience pays as Morley prevails



IF Round 1 at Wakefield Park is anything to go by, 2006 looks set to be another competitive year in the NSW Formula Ford 1600 Championship, supported by Simpson Race Products.

A group of talented youngsters have joined the field, but it was Ben Morley, making his first start in the series since 1998, who stole the show.

Morley (Stubbies Workwear Spectrum 09B) was runner-up in the series in 1998, and is getting back behind the wheel this year, having spent recent years

preparing cars in the series.

He got back into the swing of things in fine style, claiming pole position and three wins from three starts ... but he didn't have it all his own way.

In a successful Formula Ford debut, Taz Douglas (Caterpillar RF Van Dieman) took the lead briefly in Race 1. The Victorian went around the outside of Morley at turn two, only to spin a lap later at the same corner. He finished third, behind Morley and Matthew Howard (Vincent Prints Van Diemen RF91).

In the remaining races, Douglas and 2002 series champion Howard battled all the way and kept Morley honest. Douglas was second in Races 2 and 3, with Howard right behind him on each occasion.

Stephen Payne (Payne Motorsport VD RF98), who finished eighth last year, had a solid start to his second Formula Ford season. He scored a pair of fourth place finishes.

While Douglas led the rookie charge on race day – and now leads the Simpson Rookie of the Year standings – Leigh Burges (Anglo Australian Motorsport Van Dieman), was the pick of the six rookies in qualifying.

He qualified on the front row of the grid alongside Morley, but a mid-race spin at the fishhook cost him places. Burges fought back in the remaining races to finish each inside the top five.

Another rookie, CAMS Rising Star Kristian Lindbom (LinkMe.

com.au Spectrum) also started the weekend strongly. Lindbom finished fourth in Race 1, but a drive-through penalty for jumping the start in Race 2 put a dent in his debut weekend.

Sixth in the final race was a good result for Kyle Wood (Alpanel Van Dieman RF98), who failed to start Race 1 when

a mechanical problem struck on the formation lap.

One place behind was Glenn Welch (Redline Motorsport Developments Mygale SJ98), who clashed with Nick Lowe (Nick Lowe Racing Spectrum 10b) early in Race 2. Unfortunately, both drivers failed to finish the race.

Formula Ford R1, Wakefield Park

	Q	R1	R2	R3
1. Ben Morley	1	1	1	1
2. Taz Douglas (R)	4	3	2	2
3. Matt Howard	3	2	3	3
4. Stephen Payne	6	7	4	4
5. Leigh Burges (R)	2	8	5	5
6. Kristian Lindbom (R)	5	4	12	8
7. Daniel Cotton	15	10	6	9
8. Glen Welch	7	5	DNF	7
9. Alan Price (R)	12	12	7	10
10. Kyle Wood	9	DNF	9	6
11. Andrew Talte	19	18	8	12
12. Derryn Harrison	16	15	10	13
13. Nick Lowe	8	6	DNF	DNF
14. San Pattis (R)	10	9	DNF	15
15. Colin Seiders	11	13	DNF	11
16. Ken Birt	14	11	DNF	14
17. Chris Goodman (R)	13	14	14	DNF
18. Daran Martin	18	17	11	DNF
19. Bradley Cady	20	19	13	17
20. Matt McGill	17	16	DNF	16

Points: Morley 90, Douglas 76, Howard 74, Payne 60, Burges 54, Lindbom 45, Cotton 41, Welch 36, Price 36, Wood 30, Talte 26, Harrison 25, Lowe 18, Seiders 18, Birt 17, Goodman 14, Martin 14, Cady 14, McGill 10.

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