

Morley scores maximum points at Oran Park



Icon Motorsport team driver Ben Morley walked away from the fourth round of the NSW Formula Ford Championship at Oran Park Raceway over the weekend with a maximum points haul.

In a performance that has strengthened his lead in the NSW Championship, Morley scored a win (the ninth of 12 races this year) and two seconds from the weekend's three races - the maximum amount of points able to be gained due to Rob Storey (winner of race one and three) not being a Championship runner.

"Rob [Storey] was quick all weekend, but although he beat me in two out of the three races, I managed to stay ahead of my closest Championship rivals, which has increased my lead," Morley said.

"The aim for the rest of the Championship is to maintain my healthy lead... and although winning is something I always strive for, I'm not going to throw away vital Championship points for a race win. If I have to settle for second than I will."

Morley enthused that the Icon Motorsport team continues to help improve his # 72 Spectrum 09B – yet another positive outcome from the weekend.

"With each round we have been making more and more progress, and that can only be a good thing, especially in our chase for the Championship," he said.

"There are only two rounds remaining, we have a solid grip of the Championship and with our team making further inroads with the car, everything is in good shape."

Meanwhile, Morley's Icon Motorsport teammate Derryn Harrison (# 66 Vodafone Team Spectrum 06B), endured a tough weekend. Harrison summed up the round as being very disappointing on a personal level,

"I went into the weekend confident of top 10 results and unfortunately things didn't turn out that way," he said.

"We were chasing set-up all weekend and after race one the car felt pretty good, but in the second race the brake bias was set all the way to the rear, so I had no front brakes and as a result I ended up spinning out twice.

"Once I came back to the pits we discovered the drama, which was frustrating, and for the third race I battled confidence with the amount of grip I had out there and that hurt my driving somewhat."



Harrison finished the three races in 11th, 15th and 11th respectively, dropping from 12th to 13th in the overall NSW Championship standings.

Brad Gower made his debut in the Production Sports Cars aboard the # 41 Icon Motorsport Mazda RX7, and to say that he enjoyed his first road racing experience would be a rather large understatement.

"I had an absolute ball of a time out there this weekend," beamed Gower, whose only previous racing experience was a handful of road rally events.

"I managed to improve my speed, as well as keep out of trouble and brought the car back in one piece, so everything went to plan, and now I cannot wait to get back out there."

Icon Motorsport team manager, Ben Morley, emphasised that the entire weekend went smoothly despite juggling the workload between their two Formula Fords and the Production Sports Car.

"Everything on the weekend went off well, and we came away with no damage to any of the cars, so that's always a bonus in Motorsport," Morley commented.

"Our team worked strongly as a unit, and that plays a huge part in having a successful weekend."



Latest NSW Formula Ford Championship Point Standings (after four completed rounds):

- 1 Ben Morley – 356 points
 - 2 Kristian Lindbom – 233
 - 3 Stephen Payne – 224
 - 4 Nick Lowe – 220
 - 5 Matthew Howard – 196
- *13 Derryn Harrison - 107

Next on the Icon Motorsport team's agenda is the fifth round of the NSW State Championship at Goulburn's Wakefield Park Raceway from August 19 – 20, where Morley, Harrison and Gower will be in action.

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