

Morley's Hefty Championship Lead Maintained at Oran Park, despite winning Streak Ending

The successful run of Icon Motorsport team driver Ben Morley in the 2006 New South Wales (NSW) Formula Ford Championship continued during the third round at Oran Park Raceway - Narellan last weekend (June 17 - 18), despite his run of eight consecutive race wins coming to an end in the third and final race.

Although disappointed to have his winning form blemished, Morley wasn't too disheartened with the weekend overall after managing to maintain his comfortable lead in the Championship point standings. Morley lost the third race by the slimmest of margins, but the weekend up until that point was looking good for another clean sweep after qualifying on pole position and winning race one and two.

"I can't really complain too much about our weekend, and although I was disappointed to have my winning streak end I know where I went wrong and where I can improve," said the # 72 Stubbies Workwear supported Spectrum 09B driver.

"Nick (Lowe) was quick all weekend and full credit must go to him as he is a clean racer.

"Where he had an advantage over me was coming out of the corners, my car failed to have enough traction in that area, so that allowed Nick to get a better run on me and after finishing second behind me in the first two races he was able to go one better in the third."

After the third round Morley holds down an 88 point advantage in the Championship point standings over second placed Nick Lowe.

"The aim for our team heading into the weekend was to keep our handy Championship buffer and we achieved that," explained Morley.

"I was happy with the progress we made with the car over the weekend and although there is still further development to be made, the future is looking quite promising."



Morley would like to say a special thanks to the entire Icon Motorsport team, along with Peter Larner Race Engines and Boland Racing Developments for all their support.

Icon Motorsport team mate, Derryn Harrison scored his best ever result in the second race via a ninth place, however his run in the third race came to a premature end after being collected by a rival from behind in the opening turn that saw him spin and he heavily collected by a rival in the process. Despite being able to continue, Harrison returned to the pits to change a rear tyre, but later retired due to an ongoing miss in the engine of his # 66 Vodafone Team Spectrum 06B.

Earlier in the weekend, Harrison qualified 12th in his best ever result and progressed forward in the opening race by finishing 11th. In the overall Championship standings Harrison is 12th with a total of 77 points.

"Over the weekend my car was suffering from a bad miss with the engine that got progressively worse and in the third race it got to the point where I had to retire," Harrison said.

"Despite this drama, I was really pleased with my performance and I'm quietly confident of duplicating similar results when we return here (Oran Park) next month."

Round four of the NSW Formula Ford Championship will see a return to Oran Park Raceway on July 29 - 30.

Latest NSW Championship Point Standings (after three rounds):

- 1 Ben Morley - 266 points
- 2 Nick Lowe - 178
- 3 Stephen Payne - 158
- 4 Kristian Lindbom - 155
- 5 Glenn Welch - 144
- *12 Derryn Harrison - 77

-Ends Release-

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