

# Speed and Experience

**MotorSport NSW**

by **BEN MORLEY**

*Leading NSW Formula Ford driver*

**F**ROM when I was first confirmed to drive the car for the year, I was fairly excited and looking forward to the challenge. I was sort of hopeful that I'd be running within the top five or so, so the way things have gone so far it has just been great.

I'm employed full-time as the manager of Icon Motorsport. We've got four Formula Fords which are available to be run, so part of that is to offer people drives, and at the moment, we've been able to show that we're good at doing what we do.

Kristian Lindbom and Nick Lowe are both going quickly, and they've both got cars which are very good as well. They're definitely competitive young guys who are going to go places in the future.

And then Stephen Payne, Kyle Wood and the other guys are all very consistent and definitely put up a challenge all the time. So far it's been really good racing, everyone has been giving each other room, racing really hard and it's been good fun.

We had Taz Douglas from the Victorian Series come up to do the first round of our series and we were able to just keep ahead of him. He put up a strong fight and was good to race with. To see the NSW



guys running with up the front of the Victorian Series confirms that our series is pretty strong.

Coming here this weekend, I was still a bit weary of how competitive we would be. Even though we've been getting good results all year, the other guys are all fairly quick and have been running up the front in Victoria as well.

We're very happy with the result, even if we weren't able

to keep the winning-streak going. Nick's been right up my tail a couple of times and he was able to slip by me in Race 3. He just had a little bit extra drive off the corners, which was helping him get behind me and into my slipstream down the straights.

We'll be coming back here in late July with a bit more confidence, knowing that we were quick this weekend. I'll be trying a few different things with the car, to try to improve the drive out of the corners.

As far as the Championship is concerned, I've been around racing for a long time and I know how things change pretty quickly. You can be going pretty good for a while and then all of a sudden things don't go so well. I've really just gotta keep pushing; race wins are what I'm aiming for, but at the same time in the back of my head I know that I've got the margin there, so there's no need to push things too far.

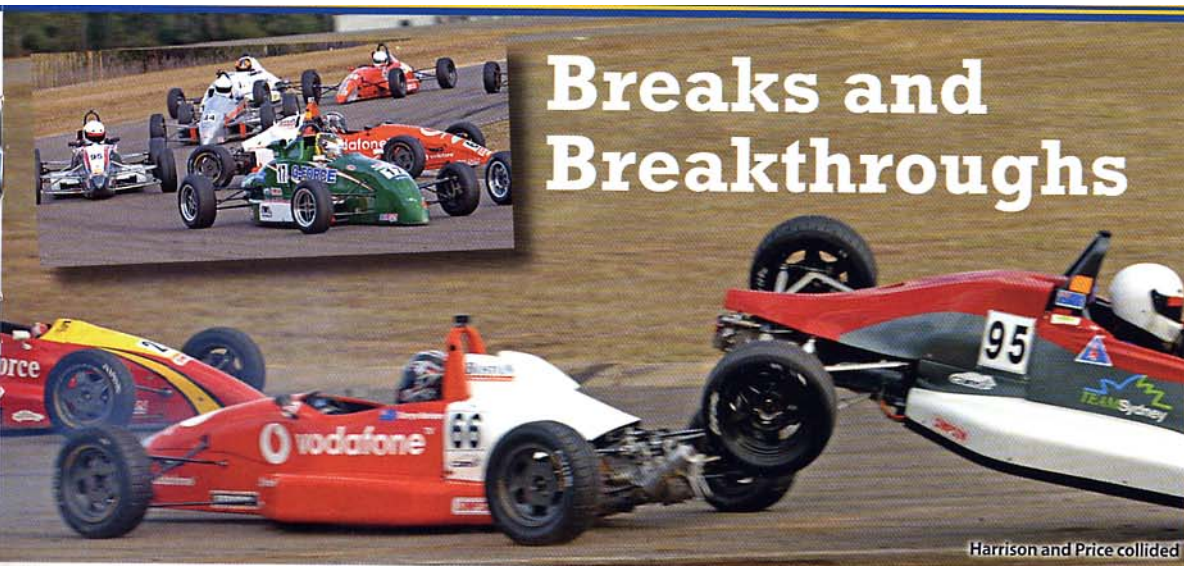
## Icon expansion

FORMULA Ford outfit Icon Motorsport will expand its operations in time for Round 4 at Oran Park on July 29-30.

The team, who currently lead the Formula Ford standings with Ben Morley, will run a pair of Series 6 Mazda RX7s in Production Sports for Brad Gower and Dave Williams.

– MITCHELL ADAM

# Breaks and Breakthroughs



**N**ICK Lowe has ended Ben Morley's winning streak in the 2006 NSW Formula Ford 1600 Championship supported by Simpson Race Products, but not before Morley added another two wins to his tally at Oran Park Raceway.

Morley (Stubbies Workwear Spectrum) took pole position and won Races 1 and 2, making it eight wins from eight starts – the longest run in the series's history, eclipsing Joel Spychala's seven-race run in 2004. In the opening race, he fought off a challenge from Lowe (Jaycar Electronics

Spectrum 010b), but the victory margin in Race 2 was more comfortable after a slow start left Lowe with work to do before recovering to second.

In the 10-lap Trophy Race, Morley led with Lowe right behind. On Lap 7, Lowe executed a good run out of the final corner, got into Morley's slipstream and took the lead. Lowe resisted the pressure from Morley in the remaining laps and took his first Formula Ford win.

Behind them was Kristian Lindbom (LinkMe.com.au Spectrum 010B), who missed Race 1 after bolts connecting chassis and suspension broke twice – once in practice and once in qualifying – resulting in a pair of accidents at the final corner. He recovered to eighth in Race 2 and third in Race 3.

Stephen Payne's weekend went in the other direction. Looking to add to fourth and third places in the two previous races, his Van Dieman RF98 was forced out of the final with a rear suspension failure.

Matthew Howard (Vincent Prints Van Diemen RF91) bounced back from an engine failure at Eastern Creek, finishing third in Race 1 and fourth in the remaining races. In Races 2 and 3, he finished ahead of another consistent performer, Lee Burges (Anglo Australian Motorsport Van Dieman).

Beyond Burges, Glenn Welch (Redline Motorsport Developments Mygale SJ98),

Andrew Taite (Eureka Racing Mygale SU01A), Kyle Wood (Alpanel Van Dieman RF98), Daniel Cotton (Taubmans Spectrum 06B) and Chris Goodman (Precision Automotive Spectrum 06B) completed the Trophy Race Top 10. Taite and Wood had started well down after an incident in Race 2.

A Safety Car period was required after an accident between Matt McGill (Auto Motion Motorsport Swift SC92F) and Jason Liddell (Swift). McGill came unstuck at Turn 8, and Liddell had nowhere to go. One of McGill's wheels flew off his car and hit Liddell's helmet. Without sufficient spares, their weekends were done.

## Formula Ford R3, Oran Park

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

Points: Morley 266, Lowe 178, Payne 158, Lindbom 155, Welch 144, Howard 142, Cotton 133, Wood 126, Burges 108, Taite 94, Price 81, Harrison 77, Taz Douglas 76, Pattis 72, Colin Seiders 60, Goodman 52, Martin 41, Birt 40, McGill 33, Liddell 31, Cady 22, Dumas 11.

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