

PRESS RELEASE

The Queensland Formula Ford 1600 Championship will continue to be a focal point of state level racing this weekend at Queensland Raceway, Amberley for what promises to be a spectator's delight. The grid will be full of championship contenders and new faces looking to put forward a great promotion for the rapidly expanding class.

After Round 2 of the series concluded with a 4 car freight train fight to the flag at Warwick's Morgan Park facility, and the top 5 qualifiers being covered by a mere 0.4 seconds, there are now 7 drivers putting their hand up for this year's title. Better than that, the action flowed down throughout the field with mini battle groups racing each other all weekend, and a good mix of "Masters" and "Rookie" drivers like Dr Phil Kay and James Gardiner chipping away in their own sub-championships.

Andre Borell, a leading contender had this to say after the ultra competitive round *"We had some set-backs on Friday, but we turned it around and had quite a good weekend, with a strong haul of points. The final race was really good fun, positions swapping every lap, wheel rubbing; Fantastic!"*

Other drivers battling for the top spot and continuing their good form into Round 3 are James Mann, Nick Foster, David Lawrence, Tony Chapman, Roman Krumins and Cameron Short.

Nick Foster continues to develop his skills in Formula Ford, using competitive state level racing to compliment his campaign in this year's Genuine Ford Parts Australian Formula Ford Championship aboard a BF Racing prepared Van Diemen, the same team he is using for his state based racing. After much testing in 2007 at Queensland Raceway and wheel to wheel combat with championship leader James Mann only a few weeks ago Foster will be one to watch.

Tony Chapman debuted his newly acquired Spectrum chassis, marking the first change of brands for the previously Van Diemen equipped outfit, at Round 2. After gathering data over the course of the weekend Chapman recorded the fastest lap time of the last race and drove around the outside of Borell to snatch 3rd place after starting 6th on the grid, demonstrating the potential of his new mount.

Aussie Racing Car standout driver David Lawrence suffered some unfortunate engine dramas at the previous round, losing some of the good points buffer he enjoyed at the start of the year. There is no doubt his car will be strong and his driving even stronger as he joins the front running battle to catch run away leader Mann.

Mann himself will need to be on his game with all the pressure on, as one slip will have him fall back to half a dozen cars on the points table, and with the nature of Queensland Raceway and the slip stream effect on its long straights it is easy to fall from 1st to 10th in the blink of an eye.

As noted by ex-Gemini racer Tony Chapman with *"I'm surrounded by go-karters"* there are many graduates from the world's dominant racing driver school, sprint karts, to the Queensland Formula Ford 1600 Championship, and this weekend sees James Watson join Mann, Lawrence, Foster, Borell and Short as a graduate as he climbs aboard his ex-Ash Lowe Spectrum for the first time. Chapman is not totally alone though with Brett Phillips, a leading Gemini driver of 2007, making his second appearance in Formula Ford in his newly purchased Vector chassis.

Further additions to the championship will be the first appearance for 2008 of James Corbett (Vector) and Jasen Hannagan (Van Diemen).

The weekend proceedings will include 15 minutes of practice, 15 minutes of qualifying and one 15 lap race on Saturday, followed up with a further two 15 lap races on Sunday. Anyone who has not seen Formula Ford racing at Queensland Raceway before is strongly encouraged to come along and camp at Turn Three, the end of the back straight, to watch the cars jostling for position in the braking area. The majority of cars will also be housed in one garage in the pit area.

As always, if interested parties are unable to make it to the race meetings, they can catch up with all the action on the Championship's web site, www.formulafordqueensland.com.au