



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Mygale Australia's Greg Woodrow with the Championship winning Mygale SJ08a

Beams takes 2008 Victorian CAMS FF1600 Championship

The 2008 Victorian CAMS Formula Ford Championship was decided at Phillip Island on the weekend, with Andrew Beams taking the Championship in the final race of the weekend.

Beams and his ZX1 Extralube / Mygale team enjoyed a 16 point lead in the Championship heading into the final round, knowing that one bad race or DNF could jeopardise the chances of Championship victory.

Friday's practice day gave the team the opportunity to fine tune the car for Saturday morning's qualifying session. "The car was good straight out of the truck, but we had some things we wanted to try, and Friday gave us the opportunities we needed" said Ryan Russian, team principal.

Making minimal changes to the car overnight, Saturday's qualifying session was held in perfect conditions, and got the weekend off to a great start, with Beams taking his first Formula Ford pole position in a scintillating 1min 41.5775sec, just over a tenth of championship rival Ellery. "The car was a rocket in qualifying, the team made the right changes overnight, I couldn't believe the time when I saw it, and to take my first pole is a good feeling" said Andrew after qualifying.

Race One saw Beams get a good start off the line, leading into turn 1. He and Ellery then battled it out for the 7 lap journey, going 2 wide through the quick turn 1, and through Honda lap after lap. It was a great race with Beams taking the win by just 2 one hundredths of a second as they crossed the line.

Starting from pole in race 2, Andrew got a bit of wheel spin off the line and settled into 2nd behind Ellery for most of the race, again going side by side around much of the 4.4km circuit. Things got interesting at Honda, when going side-by-side, Beams had to swerve to avoid a rabbit that had decided to enter the circuit, the move almost taking out both Championship contenders. Tom Tweedie challenged Beams for a number of laps towards the end of the race, and it was a photo finish between the two, Beams taking 2nd place by 4 one thousandths of a second.

Race 3, triple points and needing to finish 4th or better to take the Championship, Beams started alongside Ellery, a common picture throughout the Championship this year. The weather made it tricky, with a drizzle of rain coming just as the cars left the dummy grid. The first few laps were difficult for drivers and crew alike. You could feel the tension on the pit wall, 10 laps that would either make or break a year for both teams. "I got a decent start, and was challenging for the lead for a few laps. Ellery made a gap on me, and I just went into cruise control. I knew where I had to finish, and didn't want to put the car in jeopardy by pushing too hard" said Andrew after the race. Finishing second was more than enough to take the Championship.

Quotables:

"We finished every race this year, the RJR team has given me a fantastic car all year. I'm thrilled to take the Championship, it still hasn't really set in. The boys worked hard all year, often working around the clock, I'm pleased to be able to reward the guys this way", Beams on winning the CAMS Formula Ford Championship.

"I'm ecstatic with the win, the year has been long, and you often ask yourself why you do it, why you put in the long hours. This moment right now is why! Andrew has shown great maturity all year. We kept an eye on the Championship all year, but didn't let it get the better of us, we did what we needed to do, and it has paid off. I'm thrilled to be able to give Mygale it's first Victorian State Championship, and really need to thank Mygale Australia for the massive support and assistance throughout the year." RJR team principal Ryan Russian.

"Ryan has prepared and run the ZX1 Extralube/Mygale car and team with great professionalism all year. I'm wrapped for the boys. Often the last to leave the circuit each night, they did everything right all year, and they've been rewarded with a Championship. It's a great job." Mygale Australia agent Greg Woodrow.

RJR Services acknowledges the support of it's partners and sponsors, without them, we wouldn't be where we are.

Thanks to Mygale Australia, G-Force Event Management, Extralube ZX1, Evershine Waterless Auto Care, Racefit Performance Management, Peter Larner Engines and Trent Harrison Motorsport.

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