

January 28 2011

## **Testing time for Webling at Timaru**

Taranaki racing driver, Stefan Webling, took third overall in the Formula Ford class at Timaru raceway last weekend, and with his team-mate, Andre Heimgartner (16) winning the round with two race wins and a second, Heimgartner has taken over the lead in the Formula Fiord Championship with Webling now second.

Heimgartner took pole position in qualifying, right at the last minute from Whelan, Williams and Webling. Whelan made the best start to take the lead in the opening 10 lap race. Heimgartner then made a brilliant move to pass Whelan at the end of the back straight, but with a couple of laps remaining, Whelan's experience saw him take back the lead and the win from Heimgartner, Williams and Webling. Second race of 10 laps, same as the first with the front four hard at it again, but this time Heimgartner took the win from Whelan (minus his nose-cone after getting a little too close to Heimgartner), then Williams, Webling, Richard Vickers, Tim Vickers Godwin, Leitch etc. A horrifying crash halted the race on the third lap when Heffernan and Vincent collided on the back straight, sending both cars into the tyre wall with Vincent's landing upside down. Fortunately neither driver was injured. Williams was relegated to seventh after being adjudged to have his car's nose cone over the grid line at the start. The 12 lap feature race was again closely fought, with Whelan again winning the start then swapping places with Heimgartner several times until Heimgartner made a great passing move to take the lead and the win with Williams right behind Whelan, then Tim Vickers and Webling.

"I had been quickest in practice and testing for this meeting, but my Motorsport Solutions team made some changes prior to qualifying to try and improve the car at one or two corners, but the car was not as good and I qualified fourth. On the tight Timaru circuit, that made it difficult to win races as the front four cars are so evenly matched this year. We changed the car back to its previous settings for the first two races and I set the fastest lap time in both races, but could not get through to the lead. For the third race I made a big effort to pass Matt Williams, but he shut me out and I had to back off, dropping to eighth place, but then got back to take fifth. A disappointing weekend, but I am still right in there for winning the championship and with more open circuits still to come, I am looking forward to regaining the lead in the championship," said Webling.

Points: Heimgartner 749, Webling 708, Williams 688, Whelan 677, T Vickers 639, Thomas-Kircher 499, R Vickers 446, Godwin 414, Leitch 402, Vincent 390.

Next round : Feb 11-12 Manfeild Motorsport Park (Feilding)

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