

AUTOCROSS SERIES CHAMPIONS

With the 1999 Autocross season just eight weeks away, we thought we'd review last season, and preview the new one.

Grade 3 (Novice) was won by Peter Bennison, who took the title from Roger Harries, by winning the night event. Doug Thompson took third, while consistent finishes for Heath Bennett and John Thornborough saw them take fourth and fifth respectively.

In Grade 2, Mark Travers capped his brilliant season to win the Grade, as well as winning the Junior Trophy. Gavin Reynolds's consistency saw him finish second ahead of Paul Mantellato and Brad Snow, while Peter Thompson, and Jason and Simon Lowther finished equal fifth.

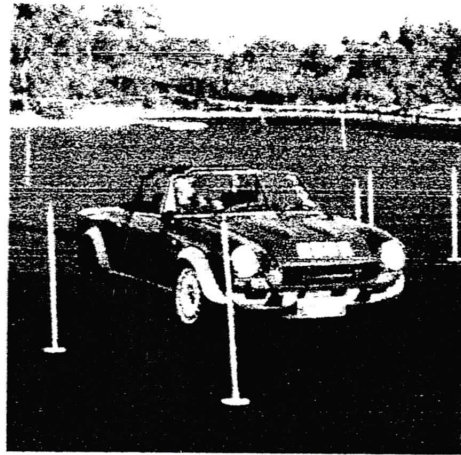
Despite missing the first round, Robert Percival won the Grade 1 title from Club members Ivan Murphy and Anthony Travers. Rob's teammate Alan Makin was fourth with Graham Cawley fifth.

Robert also won the Top Ten title, while the Ladies Trophy was won convincingly by Brenda Murphy. Brenda encourages more ladies to compete, so why not try it?

With grading to be carried out at the first event in May, the State Series should be more popular than ever if this year's entries are a guide. For Club members, there will be two club only events, in April and July, and while the emphasis is a more relaxed event, no doubt competition will be as fierce as ever. Can't wait.....

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

The busy 1999 season commences this month with a night Motorkhana at Hay Park in Bunbury on Saturday 27 February. This event was the last of the calendar in 1998, and all competitors who entered had an enjoyable time (*I promise not to break so many markers this year! - Heath*). Once again, Graeme Wellington will set a number of challenging tests to confound the drivers and confuse the navigators! This event is a low cost way to start the season, and younger members who are looking to compete in their first event are encouraged to enter. It is also a good shakedown for those who undertaking summer rebuilds. The event starts at 4.30pm, and interested competitors should contact Ross on 9725 9389.



DRIVER TRAINING FUNDING

Following the successful completion of the pilot youth driver training program, the future of the program has been assured.

In his report to the Club AGM, President Ross McGuigan said that \$24,000 was available to extend program to Newton Moore Senior High School, Bunbury Catholic College and Collie Senior High School in 1999.

The success of the pilot program has meant that funding is ensured to provide for up to 250 more students in 1999.

Co-ordinator John Hendry said that the program would continue to be conducted using practical sessions in small groups to enable instructors to closely monitor students progress.