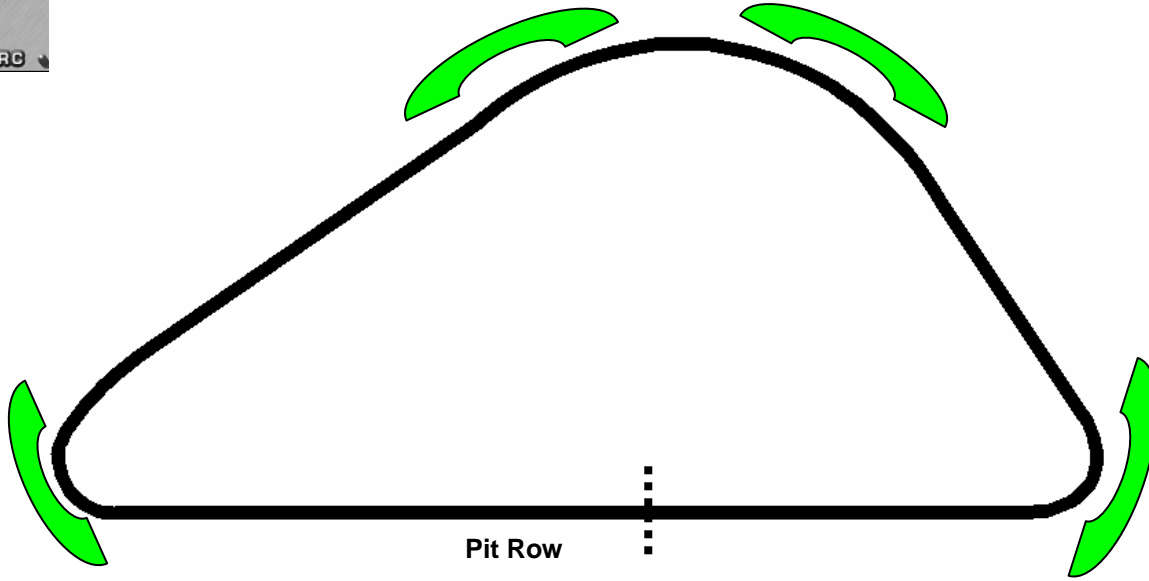




BFC XMODS Racing Series Wintergreen 100

January 16, 2003



Time Keeper: B. Klein

Track Marshals: C. Andrews, S. Crockett, L. Dell, D. Mangano, S. McClurg, L. Wisniewski

Fond Farewell

Thankfully course owner Mel Clough allowed the XMOD Series to pay one last visit to the venerable establishment before office buildings took its place. With philanthropist money from TG Marsden the farewell race drew one of the largest crowds the series has seen with overwhelming support from race marshals.

Everyone on the grid was excited as many finally had the chance to run their new power plants on this super speedway. As always the Wintergreen Speedway supplied its flawless surface giving the cars traction conditions the setup crews only dreamed about. Pit crews were busy with an entire race week filled with setup changes from spring rates and tire compounds to motors and final gearing, and drivers spent painstaking hours finding the groove for this unfamiliar track.

At the green flag point leaders A. Santamarina and R. Hester jumped to an early lead with K. Schloer quickly in tow. Rising star G. Stephenson was continuing his trend with a solid performance but was battling the incessant threats from local favorite K. Morrison. When the field was about to pass through lap 25 Morrison's Toyota lost a wheel in turn one. Since his pit crew was unprepared for such a failure Morrison was done for the day. Owner/driver Morrison promptly made his way to the pits (on foot) and fired his crew chief. We were able to get a comment from Morrison after the incident, "This should not have happened, this type of performance is inexcusable." Morrison had a chance at a top four finish.

As the yellow flag was raised from Morrison's untimely end, Santamarina hammered the throttle and maintained his 8 lap lead on Hester, showing the rest of the public that foreigners can race ovals. The high speed and close quarters brought the usual sharing of paint and crashes in the turns. But as the end approached the cars that had the stage 2 motors were clearly overpowering the competition, leading the rest of the group by more than 10 laps. However, with the extra speed comes a price of fuel consumption.

With only 4 laps to go Santamarina's Nissan began to show signs of power loss. The blood began to boil as the Nissan drivers drew closer and closer. Hester's driving technique and setup allowed for fuel conservation and he quickly began to eat away at Santamarina's 8 lap lead but was only able to draw back 2 laps before the checkered flag.

Results:

1 – A. Santamarina, 2 – R. Hester, 3 – K. Schloer, 4 – G. Stephenson, 5 – A. Romack, 6 – B. Lucas

Organizer Notes:

Many thanks to BFC for sponsoring the event and especially the track marshals, we really couldn't have done it without you.

I would like to remind all of those spectators who got pumped watching the Wintergreen race that we have a race every week during lunch. Just ask me or any of the drivers where it will be and you are welcome to come and watch. Next week we are back at Lakeside SpA until Corsa del Lombardo is available for racing.