

## **RALSTON TAKES CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP AT SOUTHLAND SPORTS CAR CLUB PRIZEGIVING**

*By Lindsay Beer, Publicity Officer, Southland Sports Car Club*

Robert Ralston of Invercargill was the major winner at the recent Southland Sports Car Club 2009/2010 prizegiving.

Ralston won the overall Club Championship, the title given to the competitor who accumulates the most points from the clubs activities each season. This includes racing at the Teretonga Park motor race circuit plus the grassroots clubsport activities such as motorkhanas and sprints. Ralston was to the fore in all disciplines. He won the 2501cc & over race class title and the Erskine Flying Farewell Championship Trophy while he also finished runner-up in the Race Championship behind fellow Invercargill driver Rick Michels and third in the Clubsport Championship behind Winton competitor Brendon Mitchell and Roger Laird of Gore. Ralston's successes gave him enough points to comfortably clinch the Club Championship from a past multiple champion, Brendon Mitchell. Mitchell won the Keith McFadzien Trophy for the Motorkhana Championship from Laird and Ralston's son Anthony (who pipped his father for third by one point) and the Warren Robbie Memorial Clubsport Championship.



The prizegiving capped off another successful season for the Southland Sports Car Club.

The SSCC Speed Trophy for the Sprint Championship went to newcomer Shannon Baker who took the title from Mitchell and Laird.

The race awards were keenly fought throughout the season with many of the class titles very close indeed. Mark Quartier won the Turntru Machining Trophy in the 0-1300cc class, using his Star Car to head off the similar car of Walter Wilmott by just 4 points with class stalwart Ian McKenzie of Otautau third. Jeremy Dawson won the Nebulite Windows & Doors Trophy for the 1301-1600cc class from Nick Hamlin and Jeremy Skeggs. Rick Michels took the 1601-2500cc class from Dean Maw who was in just his second season of motor racing while Ivan Harvey was close behind in third place. Club Champion Ralston won the 2501cc & over class from Phil Crannitch and Winton driver Brent Cross.

The Harold Williams Memorial Trophy for the Sports & Racing Car Championship went to expatriate Irishman Paul McCulla who headed off Invercargill duo Trevor Earley and Dave McKenzie.

Dean Maw won the Howard Kingsford-Smith Trophy for the Most Improved Driver while National Formula Ford Championship contender Damon Leitch again won the Ladies Committee Trophy for the Club's top Junior Driver in his final year of eligibility.

Another youngster, karting star Jamie Conroy, won the Arrow International Award for the Novice Driver of the Year and was also acknowledged for setting a new lap record of 1 minute 09.610 seconds in the 0-1300cc class in his maiden season. Rachael Beck took the Ladies Race Championship by one point from Nicky Maw.

Rick Michels won the Overall Race Championship from Ralston and Andrew Cundall.

Colin Dawson received a Special Award acknowledging his success in winning another South Island OSCA Saloon title while the Hedges Trophy for a young competitor from Otago or Southland competing successfully without a lot of sponsorship support went to Hamish Mosley of Balclutha.

While the clubs champions are acknowledged at each year's prizegiving so too are those behind the scenes whose input ensures that both the clubsport activities and motor racing take place each year.

This year the RB Munro Workers Trophy went to Chief Flag Marshall Richard McMillan while the Macks Panel & Paint Trophy for the Marshall of the Year went to Neil MacDonald.

Certificates of Appreciation were given to two hardworking club members stepping aside after many years of service, Neil Affleck who is retiring from the Club's Board Of Control and Wendy Jenks who is retiring as Race Committee Chairman.

A new award this year, the Keith Douglas Memorial Trophy, was presented for Distinguished Service to a club member who works extremely hard in the background. The inaugural awarding of the trophy went to Bevan Gerrard, the Chief Timekeeper who has been in the timekeeping area for around thirty years, twenty-five of them as the head. During that time he has dealt effectively with the transition to the many different timing systems that have evolved. His wife and family have also been heavily involved in the club.

The new season gets underway at Teretonga Park over the weekend of 18/19 September.

## **2009/2010 SOUTHLAND SPORTS CAR CLUB PRIZEGIVING**

### **CLUB CHAMPION - SSCC CLUB CHAMPION**

Robert Ralston

### **Runner -Up**

Brendon Mitchell

### **MOTORKHANA CHAMPIONSHIP - KEITH McFADZIEN TROPHY**

1st - Brendon Mitchell

2nd - Roger Laird

3rd - Anthony Ralston

### **SPRINT CHAMPION - SSCC SPEED TROPHY**

1st - Shannon Baker

2nd - Brendon Mitchell

3rd - Roger Laird

### **CLUBSPORT CHAMPION - WARREN ROBBIE MEMORIAL TROPHY**

1st - Brendon Mitchell

2nd - Roger Laird

3rd - Robert Ralston

### **RACE CHAMPIONSHIP**

### **SPORTS & RACING CAR CHAMPION - HAROLD WILLIAMS MEMORIAL TROPHY**

1st - Paul McCulla

2nd - Trevor Earley

3rd - Dave McKenzie

### **FLYING FAREWELL CHAMPION - ERSKINE FLYING FAREWELL TROPHY**

1st - Robert Ralston

2nd - Rick Michels

3rd - Jeremy Dawson

### **0 - 1300cc Class - TURNTRU MACHINING**

1st - Mark Quertier

2nd - Walter Wilmott

3rd - Ian McKenzie

### **1301 - 1600cc Class**

1st - Jeremy Dawson

2nd - Nick Hamlin

3rd - Jeremy Skeggs

### **1601 - 2500cc Class**

1st - Rick Michels

2nd - Dean Maw

3rd - Ivan Harvey

### **2501 & Over Class**

1st - Robert Ralston

2nd - Phil Crannitch

3rd - Brent Cross

### **RACE CHAMPION - NOEL MCINTYRE TROPHY**

1st - Rick Michels

2nd - Robert Ralston

3rd - Andrew Cundall

**Most Improved Driver**

Dean Maw

**Novice Driver**

Jamie Conroy

**Junior Driver**

Damon Leitch

**Ladies Champion**

Rachael Beck

**Hedges Trophy**

Hamish Mosely

**South Island OSCA Champion**

Colin Dawson

**WORKERS TROPHY - R.B. MUNRO TROPHY**

Richard McMillan

**MARSHALL OF THE YEAR - MACKS PANEL & PAINT MARSHALL OF THE YEAR**

Neil MacDonald

**SPECIAL AWARDS**

**Certificates of Appreciation**

Neil Affleck

Wendy Jenks

**Lap Record**

Jamie Conroy (Star Car) 0-1300cc 1minute 09.610 seconds 21/2/2010

**KEITH DOUGLAS MEMORIAL TROPHY - DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD**

Bevan Gerrard