



Demolition derby helps charity

Winner gifts half purse to cancer research

Motorsport
By Peter Thorley

Charity was the winner in the Whangarei Speedway demolition derby, despite the Canteen car being left stranded without gears in the middle of the track.

Eventual winner Brad Moggridge, driving a Nissen Skyline, had already decided what to with his winnings if he managed to pull off a second successive derby win.

"The prize money was \$800 and I'll donate half of that to Breast Cancer Research, which is a charity of the Holiday Parks Association, my own pet charity," he said.

Moggridge is becoming used to winning demolition derbies after his Skyline was the last car standing — or in this case the last car moving — at the Port Road track on Saturday.

It was the second race he has won in the Skyline after towing a caravan to victory in the Waikaraka Park Speedway caravan demo derby in Onehunga last year.

"It's the fifth derby I've won

now. I did quite a few in Australia before I moved over here seven years ago," Moggridge said.

After winning the Waikaraka race, the car had been sitting in the garage ever since.

Although it is now a mess of panel damage and has been consigned to scrap, it did the job on Saturday.

"This car's already been in a derby and lost its waters, so it's got hot before and so I wanted to finish it off in style.

"I stalled it a couple of times but managed to get it going again and I survived the last couple of hits to win," he said.

Moggridge, whose family owns the Alpha Holiday Park in Tarewa Rd, said there wasn't too much strategy involved in the win. "The six-cylinder cars tend to hold their heat quite well and can run without water for a while but there's a whole lot of reasons that cars stop, it's really the luck of the draw. You can be well prepared but there's always something you haven't prepared for," he said.

Moggridge took his dad to a demolition derby on Fathers' Day when he was about 10 and caught the demo-derby bug.

"I decided then it was something I wanted to get into. I didn't do my first one for another 10 years or so but it's one of those things, once you start you can't

stop," he said. He'll now be on the lookout for a new car to introduce to the scrap heap — via a demolition derby — and said selection of a car is usually a spur-of-the-moment thing.

"Generally, I'm always on the lookout for something different, something no one has ever done before and if I can't find one then I've always got a few others sitting in the backyard as well," he said.

Although he would prefer to have more, even Moggridge knows there are limits.

"We own the a holiday park so, unfortunately, I can't have too many lying around," he said.



ABOVE: The smoke billows as Saturday's demolition derby action heats up with the eventual winner featuring in car 34. **LEFT:** Brad Moggridge is offered another chequered flag for his collection. **PHOTOS/RON BURG**



Contest funds to help take young cancer sufferers for day's fishing

The Stevenson Pine Harbour fishing contest held on April 9-10 raised over \$8600 to go to the Canteen Fishing day which will be held on May 15.

This day is organised by local businessmen Paul Gapes from Furnmart and Trevor Helm from TJ Helm Plumbing.

Local launch owners treat young people affected by cancer to a day out fishing culminating in a prize giving at the Maeratai Boating Club. The Fire Service and the Police also support the day.

The Pine Harbour contest was sponsored by Stevenson Engineering's Marine division and the event attracted over 100 anglers who fished to win part of a \$10,000 prize pool.

Organisers Gary Richmond and Grant Wearing from Stevensons thanked the sponsors and the Good Bastards fishing club for their continuing support. All fish were

auctioned at the end of the day with food and refreshments supplied by the Jolly Roger Pub.

Winners on the day were Bill Compton with a 4.05 kg snapper. Mystery weight snapper winner was Grant Gordon who won a \$3000 lounge suite package sponsored by Furnmart.

An entry prize a Heli-fishing trip to Great Barrier Island sponsored by Oceania Helicopters was won by Daniel Richmond.

"We hope next year will be bigger and better,"

says Gary Richmond.

"This contest is all about raising funds so

young people affected by cancer can enjoy a great day's fishing."



Gary Richmond (left) from Stevensons Marine hands a cheque for \$8600 to Canteen Fishing Day organiser Paul Gapes.