

Dear Supporters

Throughout February I completed a number of driver coaching days as part of my race apprenticeship with Andy Neale and the Canterbury Motor Racing School, thanks to the support of Michael Morton and The Mad Butcher.

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> of February it started with a one on one day in the RX7 after 40 laps my time was down to a 1:47.5 Andy's best is a high minute 43. Both Andy and I were happy with the time and I was forming a good base to work on. A week later I was aboard a flight to Palmerston North for the penultimate round of the Porsche GT3 cup challenge at Manfeild Park to be the gopher for Triple X Motorsport. It was a cool weekend and the teams Toyota Racing Series driver Earl Bamber won the Grand Prix which gave me even more motivation and inspiration to succeed and put extra effort in.

Not long after I got home it was back out to the track for half a day in the RX7 before making the step up into the Formula Ford. In the RX7 I dropped my time to a 1:45.7. In the Formula Ford I managed to put in minute forty odd second laps then once I got more comfortable in the car my times dropped down to a 1:37.2. A few days and spins later I managed to lower that to a 1:35.5 and now the really hard work started, trying to get the last few seconds off. But again the next day I put in a 1:34.3. A week later after a time to think about it I again managed to find another second.

On Friday I had a shake down for my club day on Sunday. Andy and Ryan prepped the car well and put some good rubber on it, this and some good conditions helped me break into the minute 32 second bracket, after thirty five laps I was consistently in the "race pace zone" as the boys put it. Andy believes that I'm doing a sterling job considering I could hardly drive a car a month ago and to now be on the pace in a Formula Ford for club racing. To put it in perspective Andy after decades of experience in the cars and on the track post times around the minute thirty one to thirty second mark.

For a report of how I went on the Sunday see my other newsletter.

Thank you to everyone for the support and especially Michael Morton for giving me this awesome opportunity.

Cheers

Tom Barker

## PARTNERS

