

MIDWEEK WA MOTORSPORT

McKenzie on top in meet

CIRCUIT RACING

ANDREW VAN LEEUWEN



The WA motor racing season came to an unofficial close at Barbagallo Raceway at the weekend, with the running of the SmokeFree WA Night Masters Grand Finale.

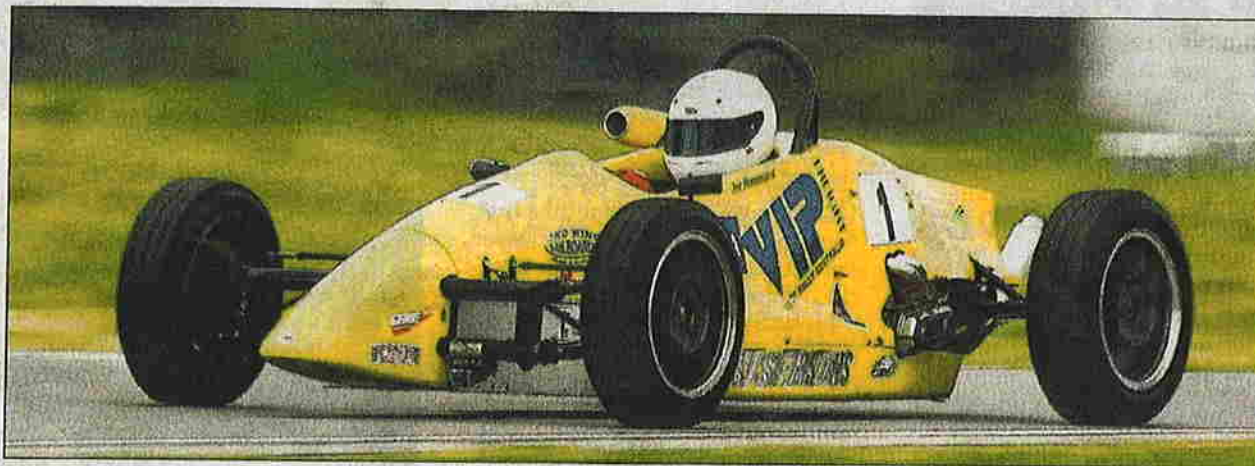
Peter McKenzie and his Ultra Sports car were the pick of the bunch for the second meeting of the season, dominating the Night Masters class. Richard Wheeler was able to take second for the round, thanks to frontrunner Dean Kovacevich's ninth place in race one.

Jeز Hammond was untouchable in the three Formula Vee races. The

Ajay driver took out all the heats. Bruce Allen was just as dominant in the 1200cc class, winning three from three from Bruce Welsh.

Neil McCrudden led the way in the Historic Racing Cars class, using a win in the final race to secure the round in his Macon Formula 2 car. Allan Beats was second in his Formula Ford, while Lance Carwardine took two wins aboard his W.A.R.M. Brabham. The Historic Front-Engine races were all won by Charlie Mitchell in his TS Special.

Street Cars was a three-way fight between Matt Cherry, Troy Stones and Mark Greenham, with Cherry coming out with the round after winning two of the three races. Greenham took the second race but Stones finished the round runner-up after recording three second places.



Untouchable: Jez Hammond won the Formula Vee category of the Night Masters finale. Picture: Matthew Oswald

Garry Hasler and Daryl Sosa shared the Improved Production wins, Hasler's two earning him the final round honours.

Stephen Raisin won all three HQ races, taking a rare clean sweep for the one-make category. The fight for second was closer, with Grant Howlett, Darren Peat and Howard Crump sharing the honours.

Grant Johnson was a runaway winner in Saloon Cars, taking both outright and class B honours in all three races. Second place was fought out between the class A cars of

former Australian champion Clint Harvey and Nathan Callaghan, with Harvey getting the edge each time.

Daniel Dragojevich won all three Historic Touring Car races, while Greg Barr and Leo Jameson shared second places.

HERRIDGE MISSES OUT

West Aussie rally ace Dean Herridge was unlucky not to win the final round of the FIA Asia-Pacific Rally Championship in China at the weekend, retiring from the lead during the first leg.

Herridge suffered transmission failure while leading by 9.3sec., handing the lead to fellow Aussie and 2007 APRC Champion Cody Crocker.

Crocker and co-driver Ben Atkinson went on to win the China Rally, capping off their great season.

But the weekend wasn't all bad news for Herridge. Despite not being at the final round of the Australian Championship in Melbourne, Herridge still wrapped up third in the series and leading privateer.