

THORL

The HO Racing League

Welcome to the latest THORL newsletter.

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AFX 6hr 2016

THORL 2015/16 Round 4 @ Pinewood Raceway January 24th 2016

January 24th saw the first THORL round of 2016, continuing the 2015/16 season.

Round 4 took us to Wokingham, Berkshire, home of Pinewood Raceway.

Pinewood Raceway currently hosts 2 great tracks. A 120ft 6 lane 1/24 track, which saw the first THORL round held upon, and a new 5 lane 1/32 track.

This time round, the track was laid atop the 1/32 track. A mix of AFX and BSTS made up a track which at first sight looked fiddly, but was a great drive with a mix of straight lengths, each leading onto a rewarding challenge at each turn. Banked sections of BSTS took the track under the bridge section.

The day started with a late Christmas Present. The latest delivery of AFX cars, track and other parts.

All were drooling over the new LMP car, the GT40 looks amazing, and the NASCARS are stunning. Al W was particularly exited over the new AFX lapcounters, and soon had them apart to inspect their inner workings!!!!

The 18 competitors grabbed their controllers ready to race in the Open Wheel class.

It was quickly apparent that the track was suited to the new MG+ chassis. Some were even ripped out from the packet and put straight to work on the track.

The pace was quickly being set by the racers from Larkfield. Ash, and Elliot and first time THORL competitor Martin were all putting lap counts in the high 20s-early thirties.

Running right with them, 9 year old Henry. Dad Marc proudly watching all the action unfold.

Henry brilliantly qualified first, breaking the Larkfield stronghold since the second round in October.

Top Mega G runner was Clive, qualifying in 4th.

The finals underway, Louis took the first win from Dave H and Josh.

The finals, each taking their turn showed great close racing and the winners each rewarded by stepping up to the next final.

Winners of each final were Louis, Marc, Al T, Al W, and Martin.

Martin doing a fantastic job at his first THORL round. However....

The A final, with top qualifier Henry joined by Elliot, Ash and Martin was an absolute thriller. Ash with his 'unusual' paint scheme on a 3D printed body was victor, but only just from Henry. 0.15 laps was the gap.

Martin was a brilliant third, and Elliot came in 4th.

Drive of the day, there and then, awarded to Henry. Brilliant driving under pressure all morning. Dad Marc, super proud.



After a bit of grub, the afternoon classes commenced.

Grand Touring with Callum, Clive, Dave were joined by juniors Louis and Joshua. The Quinn family also joined us in the afternoon and took part in the Le Mans Class using the THORL LMP club cars.

The qualifying for the closed wheel classes underway, Callum cementing his place at the top of the A Final. Dave H was his closest rival, with good scores in blue and white lanes. Mr consistent, Clive just couldn't match the others in outright pace.

In LMP the Elliot and Ash continued to lead the pack with the MG+, this time under the LMP bodies. Elliot being the first person to use the awesome new Peugeot 908 Matmut livery. Further down the pack, father and son Marc and Henry were doing battle, qualifying next to each other, Henry not quite able to find the consistency of the morning round. Marc (along with Deane) was trying out the short wheel base MG+ with shorter Group C Body mounted on. Very quick, but would swap ends in a heartbeat!

The finals for the Grand Touring class were first. Louis and Joshua did battle, with Louis winning his final.

In the GT A final, Callum bettering his score in Blue lane took the win, nearly 4 laps ahead of Dave, who also bettered his score.

Clive only just lost out to Dave, about half a lap down.

With a field of 16 racers, the first of the Le Mans finals began. Deane won the first of the finals after a disappointing qualifying session. The 'Family Quinn' enjoying their first go at HO racing, with dad Frank just finishing ahead of Oliver.

Further up the field, Marc edged ahead of Henry to win his final, stepping up, but unable to progress as the pace increased.

Soon it was time for the A final. An all Larkfield affair, with Nick stepping up from the B. Martin was having a great day, with another A final.

Lights out, and it was soon clear that Elliot and Ash has the upper hand. After the 3 minutes, Elliot narrowly took the Le Man win from Ash, who was just 0.3 laps behind.

As the medal presentations took place, biggest cheer went to Henry taking the prize for top Junior. Brilliantly driven under pressure in the morning.

Prizes went to:

Ash Melville : Open Wheel
Callum Norris : Grand Touring
Elliot O Gorman : Le Mans
Henry Townsend : Top Junior

A Fantastic race day.

Many thanks go to Pinewood Raceway for letting us use their fantastic facilities.
Thanks also go to Clive who assisted in setting up the track the day before.

All the results and tables can be found on the THORL website.

THORL Round 5 - February 28th @ HONK, Orpington.

HONK in Orpington, Kent will be hosting the fifth round in the THORL season.

All equipment can be provided for newcomers.

Directions and more are available on the website, and on our Facebook event page.

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1040840225959682/>



THORL @ FLBT.

Confirmation that Round 6 of the THORL race season will be held by FLBT in Devizes, Wiltshire.

Directions to the venue will be added to the THORL website soon.

HO News from Nuremberg International Toy Fair

Possibly the most exciting news to hit UK shores for the HO community.

A deal to distribute AFX in Europe has been made with the German arm of Horizon Hobbies. Some details are still to be thrashed out, part of the reason AFX were in Nuremberg, but the deal is done.

Exactly when stuff hits the UK is not yet decided. In an ideal world it would roll out just behind Germany, which is April (on-shelf in May), but it is a complex business even in these times where the EU is one territory.

The Endurance Champions set will be followed by a set with two new LMP1 shapes, of similar size to and replacing the current Super Coupes set.

There will be 8 initial cars sold separately, available through Horizon too. Things like the recent Matmut 908 and 'launch' Sauber. Sets will include the three-stage power supply, with 8V, 12V and 22V. The plug for Germany already exists, the UK does not, which may affect dates.

Looking ahead at least two more 908s are planned. There will sadly be no follow-up to the R8s. Decisions on looking at more Euro-centric series like DTM and WTCC, now the range is to be sold here, will follow as the year progresses.

AFX continue to look at some minor tweaks to the controllers and track, and a new barrier idea. Also the decision to bring out the track in dark grey.

AFX and Horizon are working on something which is a complete game-changer. It was still being worked on in its prototype mode the day before the fair. The new kit consists of an app which counts down at the moment but will include just about every bell and whistle one can think of in due course, including saving data. The app will be Apple first, Android later. It combines with holographic projection to read which car has come into the pits and shows a crew of guys working on the car, including one scenario where the car catches on fire. There are start lights and fireworks too, and much, much more to come.

AutoWorld were also at the Toy Fair and announced that it will also be sold in Mainland Europe, further to more compliance testing. No idea when or where.

UK Slot Car Festival 2016

We can confirm the HO Zone will be at the UK Slot Car Festival 2016.

Spanning the weekend of May 14th and 15th, it brings enthusiasts and manufacturers from the hobby to the largest slot car event in the UK. More details of the exhibits in the Zone will be announced in future newsletters.



Held at The British Motor Museum, Gaydon (formerly Motor Heritage Centre). The new name is the first step in a multi-million pound redevelopment to showcase the world's largest collection of historic British cars. For the first time you will be able to view reserve collections, an extra 230 cars, including vehicles from the Jaguar Heritage Trust.

AFX Endurance Event 2016

The 2016 AFX Endurance event will be held on Sunday July 17th.

This will be the 8th running of the event, held at Pinewood Raceway.

If you would like to enter a team (min 3, max 6), or would like to race please let me know either using this email address, or on the Facebook event page

<https://www.facebook.com/events/747383755361289/>

Details of past events can be found at <http://afxenduro.weebly.com>.

More details of our events are available on the website and on our [Facebook Page](#).

News, information, and the latest results can be found on the [THORL](#) website.

Links to other HO Clubs and Organisations can be found in the LINKS page of the website.

If you would like to be involved with THORL or would like more information or advice on HO Scale Slot cars, please get in touch.

We hope that you have enjoyed reading this newsletter, but if you would prefer not to receive e-mails from THORL, please reply to with 'No Thanks' as the subject.

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