

Wesbank to host Pro Tour

MOTORING STAFF

THE NEWLY launched Pro Tour National Championship will see drivers trading paint and shredding tyres for the very first time on WesBank Raceway's 2.6km road circuit on 18 February.

The Pro Tour is a combination of some of South Africa's leading National and Regional championships. The National categories will be represented by the Formula Ford Zetecs, Holland Shelby Can Ams and Formula Vees. The regional categories will include the Altech Porsche 924 and Unlimited classes, Goldwagen VW Challenge (with a field of more than 50 cars) as well as the Lotus challenge support class and the Sports Racing Association.

The Holland Shelby Can Am national series in its second season in 2006 saw Ruan Pretorius take overall victory with 374 points overall. Neil Lobb

and Donovan Roscoe took the final two podium positions with a mere three points separating them at 323 points and 320 points respectively. With Ruan Pretorius out of the 2007 series, the rest of the field will be raring to take the top podium positions.

The Formula Ford National Championships drew to a close last year with Brett Maybery taking the title by a single point from Jayde Kruger, Donovan Howard and Jennifer Murray. The new year sees a major reshuffle throughout the field with Brett Maybery, Donovan Howard and a number of other drivers leaving the series and making way for new entrants, and this will surely keep the racing close as each driver challenges for the top.

Formula Vee has been one of the most successful and longest-running categories in South Africa. Since its local inception in 1965 these single seater racers have been through a continuous evolution of

engine and chassis while remaining faithful to the ethos of genuine single-seater racing at affordable cost.

Alan Holm took his second national championship in a row last year with 277 points. Peter Hills managed to accrue 199 points to finish second in front of Jaco Schriks who ended on 171 points. The new season promises to be very exciting as the field gets ready to challenge for the national title.

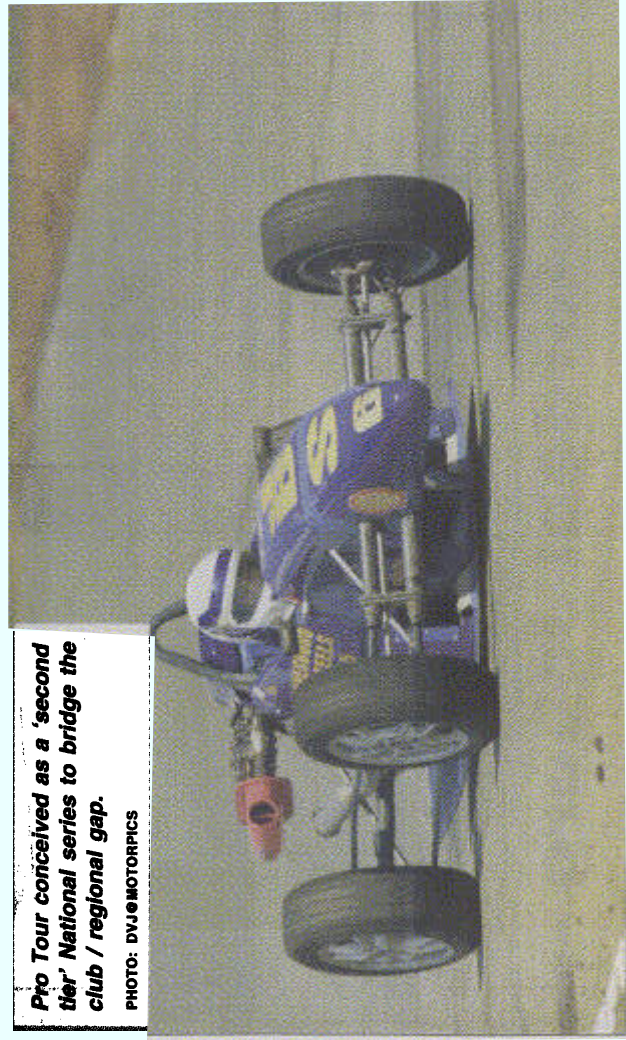
In the Altech Porsche Challenge, Rolf Schlub took overall honours last year in his Class D Porsche 964 RS C/S with 177 points. Second placed Thomas Reib finished only five points behind on 172 in his Class B 964 RSR and George Smalberger in a Class E 911 was right on their tails with 162 points, highlighting the extremely close racing that this series provides. The one-make Goldwagen VW challenge has evolved into one of the premier regional

series in the country, with four classes and over 40 cars competing. Ray Wilford (Class A) emerged at the top of the pile overall in 2006 with 161 points with Waldie Meintjies (Class P) on 141 points in second and Barry Groenewald (class P) on 132 points in third place overall.

The highly competitive Lotus challenge marked its 10th birthday at the end of 2006 and with four competitive classes the racing is always tight. The Northern regions championships are decided on a points-based system which allows cross-class comparisons.

Top man for 2006 was Clive Wilmot followed by Klippien Krige and Brad Woolley.

Entry tickets will be available at the gate on Sunday, at a cost of R40 per adult and R20 per child while Saturday's practice will allow free entry.



Pro Tour conceived as a 'second tier' National series to bridge the club / regional gap.

PHOTO: DJJEMOTORPICS



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