



Pedders Racing Team Update

Australian Production Car Series – Round 4, Sydney Motorsport Park NSW

14.11.2016

A finale fit for a... joker!

The final round of the 2016 Australian Production Cars Series and understandably, the student and volunteer crew of Pedders Racing were heading into the finale with questions, concerns, excitement and confidence as while the year had been a rough ride so far, there was always still room for hope that the season would get better.

It had been an outstanding job by the students and teachers of Motorsports Training Australia to have #86 ready, back from the brink after an engine rebuild using injectors that were successfully rebuilt and flow tested by Bendigo Diesel Injectors, the efforts all about ensuring the factory components would stand up to the enduring and unforgiving race conditions. It wasn't just the front end in pieces since the penultimate round, the MTA group also had the task to remove and reinstall the fuel cell that needed repair after a tough three seasons to date.

As the Pedders crew arrived to Wodonga, the champion 86 was so close to ready we could almost smell the fuel and taste the famous chicken roll lunches, but before we load, we tune.

Our tuning master Henry Lim of Ozygen Chemicals / Cosmic Performance logged into the ECUTEK system via remote connection from his metropolitan base, reviewing the setup, making the necessary changes to ensure that #86 would be on her game at the Sydney circuit. Henry doesn't rest until #86 is not just ready, but ready to race! From garage to track, Phillips and Turpie completed testing laps with Henry working his remote magic. Now that is technology and service!

Nine hours later, Emily, our youngest crew member had added many hours country driving to her Learners log book, and it was time for the crew to settle #86 into her final pit garage of the season as the sun set. A relaxing evening ahead of the season finale onslaught, the crew quietly pondering the mathematical chance of still bringing home a third national circuit racing title.

Friday morning and as our story goes, there was never a dull moment for the Motorsports Training Australia / Pedders Racing crew with a full Practice 1 session for Turpie, but it wasn't so good for Phillips in Practice 2 with a left rear hub failing on the opening lap. Replaced and looking good again, it was time for sponsor rides to close the day before another great evening for the crew.

Welcome Saturday. Turpie headed out for the opening qualifier, things were feeling good but we didn't want to push the 'a game' too soon in the hope that our confidence would finally be rewarded amongst the weekend's busiest Class D field to date. In a big call, the crew chose to swap diffs in the hour between the qualifiers, and they made it happen without a hitch. People power, education and determination saw another successful job done- these youngins just keep going with whatever the 86 throws their way.

All the effort and #86 decided that she didn't want to qualify for Phillips. Another drama, another disappointment for the Team Principal with fuel starve issues meaning the engine shut itself down after just two laps of the second qualifier, rolling back down the lane to the disappointed crew. Both Turpie and Phillips had put in times, but it's like #86 had read our minds and disagreed.

The final pre-race session on Saturday afternoon saw an afternoon of work begin to pay off and #86 started to step up. While we were still off the pace we knew we could achieve, the drivers were feeling confident and the Motorsports Training Australia student crew had worked hard to keep overcoming the season of challenges. Racing is about commitment, passion and drive and this little volunteer team has that in abundance!

For the first time, race day Sunday was opened by the Australian Production Cars Series feature race, the Sydney 4 Hour. Gridding up for a 9am start meant an early morning, but the mood was relaxed, no matter what, this final race was going to be about teamwork, capability, effort and fun!

As had happened all season, #86 was off the line well with Phillips at the wheel, having a great battle with some

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Pedders Racing Operations & PR Managers, CIMA Media,
Kat O'Shaughnessy, 0421 962 571, kat@cimamedia.com.au





of the maiden APCS 86 entries in a strong class field. The race was keeping everyone on their toes, action across the classes, laps falling away in the sun as we saw over and under passes, vehicles and drivers on the limit, and there was so much more to go.



Heartbreak. With just 24 laps completed, #86 was stranded at turn 6. Devastation swept across the crew. It had been going so well – Phillips enjoying the on track battle, Turpie looking forward to a strong stint, and the crew enjoying the atmosphere.



Lap 24, into turn one and #86 had gone to manual steering. Phillips pushed on, sideways through two, but the dash lights began a flashing show, the taco and speedo then stuck in place and there was no drive. Phillips, fighting the devastation, tried to continue back to pit lane but the car had lost power so the choice was made to leave the circuit, parking at the flag point after turn five. Not only did we have the disappointment of yet another unexplained failure, but with Phillips ensuring the car was safely off the circuit to protect it and to avoid interruption to everyone's race, the officials wouldn't call for a Safety Car – our only hope to get the car back, repair and return to the racing, and that hope quickly faded with each lap that passed.



A Safety Car was finally called, #86 was delivered back to the pits and despite the 75% race distance lap approaching at warp speed, the crew went into action to complete a systematic electrical investigation. Finding that wiring to the battery had failed due to corrosion, a direct result of remaining residue from the fire retardant used during QR's spot fire, a repair was completed and our incredible Motorsports Training Australia / Pedders Racing crew made sure that we were back on track to see the final chequered flag wave.



By the official results we hadn't made the 75% of laps required so we ended the hardest season yet with a DNF, the title chances had slipped away, but what wasn't lost was the determination of the young, volunteer, student crew. This is motorsport and they are the definition of strength, determination, positivity and passion!



Pedders Racing is about never giving up, always learning. It's about being a team who work together to overcome anything with a smile on our faces. A second season of national racing with Motorsports Training Australia's first year students at the helm of our racing program has again affirmed that they may be young, but the MTA crew impresses every time!



What a crew. What a team. What a season.

Pedders Racing is proudly supported by Motorsports Training Australia, Pedders Suspension, Borneo Bears Australian Rules Football Club, Pitman Trucks, Evans Waterless Coolant, MSC Signs, Bears AFL AusKick, Sportsnet, Euro Truck Spares, Reliable Rack & Pinion, AMG Australia, DBA (Disc Brakes Australia), Nameless Performance, Exedy, Heidi Yi, Harrop Engineering, Moro & Dooly Accident Repair Centre (Bendigo), Valvoline, Total Tools Dandenong, ssMEDIA, Motor GuardianCam, OZ Racing, CC-MW, Ozygen Chemicals, Cosmic Performance, Bendigo Diesel Injectors, J&A Logistics, Driveway Labs, CIMA Media, and of course our fans!

ends



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