AFX Racemasters 6hr Endurance Race 2010

Pinewood Raceway, Wokingham, Berkshire, UK.

Race Report

The 12th September 2010 saw the second running of the AFX Racemasters 6hr Endurance event. The event, as was the 2009 event, was held at one of the UK’s premier slot car racing clubs, Pinewood Raceway. Pinewood Raceway comprises of 2 main tracks, a 6 lane 1/32nd track for plastic bodied slot cars, and a 6 lane 1/24th track for exotic metal chassis lexan body slot cars. They also run Slot-stoxs as part of monthly activities.

A 6 lane, AFX track was laid on-top of the 130 foot 1/24th track, with the AFX track following some of features of the 1/24th track, giving the HO track a similar track length.

Because of the length of the track, uprated and individual lane power supplies were used, along with power taps to ensure that power was fed evenly around the track. The track voltage was set at 18volts to mimic UK AFX supplied power packs.

Timing and power control was handled by a PC based system comprising of TrackMate hardware, and Slot Trak software. There were various screens around the venue allowing drivers, marshals and spectators to see how all teams were coping.

Tomy Turbos were again used for this event, as was last year, so records were there to be beaten.

Teams for this event are as follows:

*DHORC (Derby HO Racing Club (Rolls Royce))*

Winners of last year’s event and organisers of the famous HO Le-Man 24 hour race held in Derby, UK annually. Hold local race meetings weekly, with lots of experience behind them. Fielding 4 drivers this year.

*FLBT (Four Lane Black Top)*

Came 3rd in the 2009 event. Raced 1/32nd exotic slot cars until a fire destroyed the clubs premises. Ventured into other forms of slot racing including HO. Hold weekly race meetings. Bringing experience and good pace, they were a team to watch. Fielded 4 drivers.

*Race Control*

A mix of drivers who regularly organise and race HO slot cars and other slot car scales. As well as running the event, they field 3 drivers. Were runners up in 2009 by 1 lap.

*Allsorts*

As the name implies, a mix of racers from over the country. With a mix of vast HO racing experience, and with drivers new to the HO scene, they are sure to be entertaining. Field of 3 drivers. Were 6th in the 2009 event.

*Worthing HO*

A new club in 2009, they have shown all the enthusiasm to become a very successful racing club. Running regular events in their home town, the drivers have shown very good pace in national events. Fielded 3 drivers.

After a drivers briefing, team captains were given their hand out tyres (tires), and motors. Each team had to supply a standard Tomy Turbo with a body from an approved list. This year, bodies carried the Group C theme.

Tyres handed out were SuperTires and teams were given 3 different sizes to choose from as they raced.

Motors were standard Tomy Turbo can motors.

Teams were given their parts in the order that they came in the 2009 event.

Teams were then given 30 minutes to assemble their cars and give them a test drive. Cars were then handed over to race control, along with a specified kit of parts available for use during the event. All cars successfully passed scrutineering.

At 10am, the 5 teams had their cars assemble on the starting line. Obligatory photos were taken, and the lights readied for the start.

Hour 1 saw all teams off to a very close start. DHORC took an early lead, and extended it after FLBT had car troubles early on and lost 6 laps. FLBT then worked on consistency on one of the better lanes and in the later stages of the hour, overtook DHORC. The other 3 teams jostled for the other places with 25 laps covering them at the end of the first hour.

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| **HOUR 1** | **Lane** | **Average** | **Fastest** | **Segment** | **Segment** | **Total** | **Race** |
| **Laptime** | **Laptime** | **Laps** | **Place** | **Laps** | **Place** |
| FLBT | White | 11.623 | 9.911 | 309 | 1 | 309 | 1 |
| DHORC Evolution | Yellow | 11.82 | 10.664 | 304 | 2 | 304 | 2 |
| Allsorts | Blue | 12.722 | 10.624 | 282 | 3 | 282 | 3 |
| Worthing HO | Green | 13.005 | 11.348 | 276 | 4 | 276 | 4 |
| Race Control | Red | 13.418 | 10.637 | 267 | 5 | 267 | 5 |

Hour 2 saw the two leading teams side by side in 2 of the centre lanes with only 11 laps difference over the hour. Race control, in the outside lane closed the gap on third place. Worthing HO continued to put in credible lap times in the innermost lane, with the noisiest car on track.

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| **HOUR 2** | **Lane** | **Average** | **Fastest** | **Segment** | **Segment** | **Total** | **Race** |
| **Laptime** | **Laptime** | **Laps** | **Place** | **Laps** | **Place** |
| FLBT | Red | 12.061 | 9.839 | 295 | 1 | 604 | 1 |
| DHORC Evolution | Blue | 12.611 | 10.257 | 284 | 2 | 588 | 2 |
| Allsorts | Green | 12.777 | 10.736 | 277 | 3 | 559 | 3 |
| Race Control | Yellow | 13.135 | 10.575 | 274 | 4 | 541 | 4 |
| Worthing HO | Purple | 14.113 | 12.092 | 254 | 5 | 530 | 5 |

Hour 3 saw the top 2 hold their places, with FLBT extending their lead after DHORC has some troubled laps on the green lane. Worthing HO made the most of the better white lane overtaking Allsorts. Allsorts struggling on the Purple lane saw Race Control keep their 3rd place spot, but not catching the 2 leaders. 3rd spot was very much up for grabs.

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| **HOUR 3** | **Lane** | **Average** | **Fastest** | **Segment** | **Segment** | **Total** | **Race** |
| **Laptime** | **Laptime** | **Laps** | **Place** | **Laps** | **Place** |
| FLBT | Yellow | 11.531 | 9.987 | 306 | 1 | 910 | 1 |
| DHORC Evolution | Green | 12.9 | 10.429 | 278 | 4 | 866 | 2 |
| Race Control | Blue | 12.629 | 10.237 | 285 | 3 | 826 | 3 |
| Worthing HO | White | 12.391 | 11.163 | 290 | 2 | 820 | 4 |
| Allsorts | Purple | 16.082 | 11.755 | 224 | 5 | 783 | 5 |

Hour 4 saw Worthing HO put in their second best lap count, moving them up to 3rd place, but with a car which remained noisy, calls of ‘it will never make it’ and ‘that axle needs changing’ could be heard around the room.

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| **HOUR 4** | **Lane** | **Average** | **Fastest** | **Segment** | **Segment** | **Total** | **Race** |
| **Laptime** | **Laptime** | **Laps** | **Place** | **Laps** | **Place** |
| FLBT | Blue | 11.673 | 9.839 | 299 | 1 | 1209 | 1 |
| DHORC Evolution | Purple | 12.948 | 11.038 | 278 | 3 | 1144 | 2 |
| Worthing HO | Red | 12.766 | 11.031 | 282 | 2 | 1102 | 3 |
| Race Control | Green | 13.605 | 11.013 | 263 | 4 | 1089 | 4 |
| Allsorts | White | 13.738 | 11.065 | 262 | 5 | 1045 | 5 |

Hour 5 saw Allsorts making the most of a good red lane closing the gap between them and Worthing HO. The top 2 teams were still within 130 laps of each other, with both teams still in contention for a race win as FLBT had the gutter lanes to run. The gap between Race Control and 4th place remained very close.

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| **HOUR 5** | **Lane** | **Average** | **Fastest** | **Segment** | **Segment** | **Total** | **Race** |
| **Laptime** | **Laptime** | **Laps** | **Place** | **Laps** | **Place** |
| FLBT | Green | 11.752 | 10.084 | 305 | 1 | 1514 | 1 |
| DHORC Evolution | White | 11.961 | 9.999 | 299 | 2 | 1443 | 2 |
| Race Control | Purple | 12.619 | 10.593 | 285 | 3 | 1374 | 3 |
| Worthing HO | Yellow | 14.018 | 11.867 | 256 | 5 | 1358 | 4 |
| Allsorts | Red | 12.636 | 10.399 | 284 | 4 | 1329 | 5 |

Hour 6, and some of the cars were past their best. The only team at this stage to change a motor was DHORC, but the second motor was not as fast as the first and catching FLBT was going to be a challenge. Race control opened up the gap on 3rd place, and Worthing HO made the most of a good Blue lane, their car, still as noisy as ever. The car, now retired after the event, named ‘The Rattler’ by their team. FLBT were to score the fastest laptime of the race in this final hour.

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| **HOUR 6** | **Lane** | **Average** | **Fastest** | **Segment** | **Segment** | **Total** | **Race** |
| **Laptime** | **Laptime** | **Laps** | **Place** | **Laps** | **Place** |
| FLBT | Purple | 11.469 | 9.82 | 313 | 1 | 1827 | 1 |
| DHORC Evolution | Red | 12.202 | 10.463 | 295 | 3 | 1738 | 2 |
| Race Control | White | 11.961 | 10.064 | 301 | 2 | 1675 | 3 |
| Worthing HO | Blue | 12.955 | 10.871 | 277 | 5 | 1635 | 4 |
| Allsorts | Yellow | 12.44 | 10.381 | 289 | 4 | 1618 | 5 |

After the 6 hours, the lap count was checked, amended for missed lap counts (a jumped lane on the last corner saw several teams driving on the wrong lane over the start lane), the final results were:

FLBT – 1829 laps

DHORC – 1746 laps (-83)

Race Control – 1681 laps (-148)

Worthing HO – 1635 laps (-194)

Allsorts – 1627 laps (-202)

Although overall winners, FLBT could not match the 1930 laps set by DHORC in 2009. The lap record also still stands at 9.014 seconds, again held by DHORC.

The winning car did travel 45.465 miles over the 6 hrs, travelling at an average 7.5775 mph. That is a scale mph of 485mph!!!

The winners FLBT were handed the trophy held by DHORC in 2009. The winners were also presented with medals and certificates.

Second place DHORC were presented with medals and certificated.

The rest of the teams were given awarded certificates according to their finishing position.

After the prizes were awarded, they track was dismantled (20 mins to take apart, 7 hrs to build!!) and drivers set off on their journey home.

May I thank AFX Racemasters for supporting the race, Pinewood Raceway for allowing us to use their facilities, FrankTheRacer.com and Supertires for the tyres, and slorcarsdirect.co.uk for the motors and spares.

May I also thank all those who have supported the race especially to those who took part.

Videos of the event can be found at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j9NH-VICyoo>

and a USA friendly version: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9skMOImm6nU>

Pictures can be viewed at: ……………………….

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