

In for the Long Haul

Our Slot car section was in action this October competing in the SCX 12 Hour endurance event held at North Staffs Club in Stoke on Trent.

This competition was on an invitation only basis, open to only the top clubs in the Central England area and when Wolves dropped out they had no alternative to invite MDMC instead!

With six teams, from as far away as South Wales and Liverpool we knew we would be up against some stiff competition as a number of Teams had within their midst a number of current and ex national slot car champions.

Sponsored by slot car manufacturers SCX, the premise of the event was simple. Each Team would be provided with a body shell top two weeks before the event which they were to paint to be judged in a 'best paint job' competition which was to be posted on the Slot Forum web portal. The winner would be decided by the son of the SCX importers MD.



Next each team would be given a single chassis complete with spare motor, running gear and tyres which were to be race prepped during a one hour practice session.

The race would then be run on an endurance basis over a twelve hour period with a two minute change every two hours for a lane change, thus ensuring all teams had a run on each of the six lanes. All driver changes had to be made in race time as did any running repairs or adjustments.

The first session didn't go too well as our practice time had been very limited as we had spent our time trying to remedy a bent rear axle which had given little time to run in our new RX42b motor. After the first two driver sessions we were in fifth place however, over the course of the next 1½ hours we clawed our way back up to second, 28 or so laps down on the Leaders despite our front wheel assembly coming loose and then our back axle being dislodged by a particularly heavy shunt up the rear!



The second session then went much better as our motor started to run in and some extremely close racing ensued against the Team Slot guys, with us both dicing on the same lap for over 50 mins. Eventually however we came through to a thrilling stage win, leading by two laps.



The third and fourth sessions were not as kind to us as we moved to the two centre lanes which whilst eliminating the tighter turns at the hairpin slowed the flow through the more open end of the circuits after the long straight leaving us some 70 laps adrift after 4 legs.

To reflect a real endurance race it had already been decided that two legs would be run in the dark with only the lights from the cars to illuminate the circuit and as evening fell we moved onto the fifth leg only to discover that some competitors had by, either

poor maintenance or as part of the painting process, managed to render their headlights either inoperable or barely visible! Fantastic when racing around a little known circuit and then to encounter mysterious black blobs either stationary or travelling at speed!

After another closely fought leg Melton, buoyed by an influx of hot pizza, held their own going into the final leg with a deficit of 73 laps.



Over the previous legs whilst we had encountered some minor niggles, particularly in relation to poor pick up the leaders had enjoyed a virtually trouble free event but how that was to change in the final leg.

Going in 73 laps down, about half an hour into the final leg Demon Slot started to encounter pick up gremlins and at the end of the first hour our intrepid racers had managed to reduce the deficit to only 40 laps. Smelling blood we pressed on and whilst the leaders had managed to virtually resolve their cars issue, we were still homing in and a fantastic finale ensued as the panic set in.

In the end and with all credit to the eventual winners, they managed to hold onto the end, despite their car conking out completely on the last lap never to run again! Five more minutes and we would have snatched victory from under their noses!

Final results were:-

Position	Team	Total Laps	Deficit
1 st	Demon Slot	4077.84	-
2 nd	MDMC	4054.67	-23.17
3 rd	Quorn	3884.34	-170.33
4 th	Scale Models	3733.75	-150.59
5 th	Hawthorne Racing	3685.35	-48.4
6 th	North Staffs	3625.31	-60.04

So there we have it a great result for Melton and certainly one that saw us punching above our weight and well and truly putting us on the slot car map and leaving them all asking 'and who are we they?'

Finally then the event was a fantastic advertisement both the hobby and manufacturers SCX in general, with not even one set of our tyres changed over 4000 plus laps. Anyone have the telephone number for Pirelli?



Such was the success of the event that it is now being considered turning it into a series with the next round being planned for Hawthorne in Liverpool and a Melton round next summer. So what about the paint job competition/ Whilst the consensus was ours was the best we had forgotten the clue in the rules, it was to be judged by a seven year old who chose the simple black livery but with 'BEN 10' (Whoever he is!) decals. In the meantime look out for our commemorative frame in the Club house coming soon