



March 21 2011

Webbling finishes runner-up in New Zealand Formula Ford Championship

Taranaki driver, Stefan Webling, finished runner-up to his Superlux team-mate, Andre Heimgartner, in this season's Formula Ford Championship. They were both driving Mygale Formula Fords run by the experienced Motorsport Solutions team of John Crawford. Webling won the first race at the final round of the Championship at Taupo Motorsport Park, and took second place for the final round, just seven points behind the round winner, former champion, John Whelan.

Whelan took pole position in qualifying ahead of Tim Vickers and Webling, just fractions of a second separating them. Then in the first race, Webling passed Whelan around the outside in a braking duel at the end of the back straight on lap one to take the lead which he held to the end of the race, his team-mate Heimgartner slowed by a failing shock absorber.

Race two then became important for Webling as, despite Heimgartner's big lead in the championship points, he could still be beaten if he failed to finish the next race. In this close race, Whelan set the pace as Webling dived with Tim Vickers, eventually passing him, and then closed on Whelan but was unable to pass the former champion due to laps running out and settled for second. Heimgartner finished fourth, giving him an almost unassailable points lead.

The final race over ten laps saw Richard Vickers take the win from Whelan with Webling third and Heimgartner fifth, earning enough points to make him Formula Ford Champion.

"I went into this last round still with a chance to win the championship. It came down to the last race of the 18 race series for the championship to be decided. My car setup for the last race wasn't as good as for the first two races, so I struggled a bit. I want to congratulate my team-mate, Andre, and thank the Motorsport Solutions team that ran our Superlux team cars for providing competitive cars at each round of the championship," said Webling.

A special thanks goes to, John and Trish Crawford for running a great team, Peter for excellent race car engineering, Brendon and Jen for preparing a great car, Ian and Andy for top, reliable engines, and all of the Motorsport Solutions team for a great season.

Webling's record for the six-round series was: Two round wins and five round podium finishes.

Championship points: Heimgartner 1122, Webling 1067, Whelan 1044, T Vickers 966, R Vickers 786, Williams 688, Thomas-Kircher 668, Vincent 666.

Photo attached showing Webling on his way to winning race one, ahead of John Whelan and Richard Vickers.

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