



ROTARY CLUB OF WAITAKERE

Making a difference in our world

P O Box 104-017 Lincoln North, Auckland 0654

www.soapboxderby.co.nz

2013 Soapbox Derby Newsletter #6

19th March 2013

Dear Schools and Sponsors

Plan B:

Plan B? There is ALWAYS a Plan B!

Every September when I complete the Road Closure application I come to the box marked "Rain Date" and every year I hesitate, think of the barrier relocation and put "We will join the next race for a joint race." And then hope it doesn't come to this and watch the forecasts anxiously prior to race day.

On our 10th year it finally happened. 3 months of fine weather, a major drought and the **ONE DAY** of very bad weather was **DERBY DAY!**

The Rain Gods obviously have a warped sense of humour.

The Plan:

Northcote Race Director Guy Parkes and I have consulted and come up with the following:

Joint Northcote/Waitakere Race Date:	Saturday 23rd March 2013
Start Time:	9am
Venue:	Kaipatiki Road, Glenfield (corner of Kaipatiki Road/Glenfield Road by McDonalds)

Weather:

Currently it is looking very good.

No rain dances please, no matter how empty your water tank is – we need fine weather.

Logistics:

Joining two races together has logistical problems due to more cars.

Northcote have fewer cars than Waitakere but they do have a few track problems:

- It is a residential street so neighbours, although advised of the derby and asked to restrict movement, need to get in and out as required
- - o One year a resident moved house on derby day!





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- Last year a bus driver decided that "road closure" didn't apply to him. The resulting 39 point turn to return the way he came in was very entertaining (particularly the Race Director's commentary) but it did stop things for a while.
- The car return is up the derby track rather than via a separate road
- Car parking is restricted
- They do not have nice open grass space for extra event activities
- As McDonalds is on the corner and lose their exit drive their business on the day is affected. For this reason school food stalls are not available. Please either support McDonalds, the mall opposite or bring your own food

The Program:

We will run our two races as separate races with separate scoring systems so that both teams get Champions and Finalists.

The most efficient use of time is to slot the two races together as this will maximize the pit crew time between races resulting in a faster turnaround and fewer delays.

Race order will be:

- Northcote A Drivers
- Masters
- Corporate – 1 race
- Super Kids – 1 race
- Waitakere A Drivers

- Northcote B Drivers
- ...

We have come up with three options as to how the races will run.

The one thing we do not want is for the day to drag out to a late ending. Too long a day and everyone - volunteers, parents, teachers, pit crew and drivers - tire. And when people are tired they make mistakes. Safety is of critical importance.

If all goes well we *may* be able to achieve the ultimate – all drivers from both race centres race twice followed by elimination races for both sets of team.

If delays happen Waitakere, as the gate crashers to the Northcote party, are the ones who will have to readjust. This is only fair.

The Race Schedule shows the ultimate plan BUT... if, as the day progresses, it becomes obvious that it is too ambitious the Northcote Race Director holds full rights to reduce the number of the Waitakere races.

We will be monitoring the time against the estimated spreadsheet times. Do not use this for race times – we will be moving cars faster to allow for breaks for car returns and neighbour movements.





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Our 3 options are:

1. A full race with elimination races for both race centres
2. A full race – but Waitakere hold our elimination finals at Whangaparaoa either on Saturday 6th April (the Whangaparaoa race) or Sunday 7th April (prior to the Finals)
3. A full Northcote race but shortened Waitakere version
 - Northcote drivers race twice with elimination finals
 - Waitakere drivers race once plus elimination finals. We would pick the top 6 drivers from each lane and get them to race twice with the winner being the West Auckland Champion and the fastest 6 of these drivers going to the Finals.

If big delays happen we may have to think up option 4 – perhaps a combination of options 3 and 2.

Super Kids Races:

Northcote Rotary has advertised this heavily around their schools and as they have a lot of interest they will be running these for North Shore Super Kids.

For our Waitakere Super Kids – you won't miss out. Although the Northcote program is full Whangaparaoa Rotary has offered us spots in their program for our drivers. More details after we see how this weekend goes.

Corporate Races?

We'll wing this one as we see what happens...

Race Site:

A 2011 Northcote site map and a link to photos from last year have been uploaded to the Finals page on our web site.

<http://www.rotarywaitakere.org.nz/our-fundraisers/soapbox-derby-2013/sbd-nz-finals-2013>

The Northcote teams will use their normal pit crew area – the Salvation Army car park

The Waitakere teams will use the new large concrete area next door

There will be two scrutineering tents – one for each of us.

Timetable:

Same as planned for our race

Race Day Timeline

5:45am	Road Closure team arrives
6:00am	Road Closure starts – signs and cones in place on road and surrounding streets (This can take up to one hour)
6:30am	Rotarians and barrier installation team arrive High Viz vests issued
6:45am to 7:00am	Once Road is formally closed and permission is





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	giving to proceed: - Install barriers
7:30am – or as soon as barriers are in place: TIMING Set up starting ramps and finish line NOTE: Set up and testing takes time and races WILL BE DELAYED unless this is tested and working	Finish Line - Run timing cable from Start area to Finish line - Run rope across road at finish line to hold timing cable - Set up Timing equipment
	Top - Set up start ramps
	Timing – test system (Minimum - half an hour. Longer if there is a fault)
	Setup other areas
7:30am	School teams start arriving
8:00am	Registration desk opens
8:00am	Scrutinizing of cars start
8:30am	Calibrate lanes and double check timing system is working correctly
9:00am	Racing starts

Reminders:

- Bring your Waitakere hats
- Bring your driver's Ids

Personal Equipment Gazebos, tables, chairs... If in doubt – bring your own. Also remember items on right.	Sun screen Hats Dark glasses Water bottles	Cell phone Camera Walking shoes Money
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Plan B:

What Plan B? If the weather gods haven't finished with us just remember... There is ALWAYS a Plan B!

Our drivers WILL race... somewhere... sometime... Just give me time to think further about it and make it work.

Website:

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As information becomes available we add it to our website – including copies of the newsletters. Photos, videos etc from past derbies are also on our site.





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Emails:

Please keep an eye on your emails as more information will be coming out soon. If you have other people who would like copies - email Heather with their email address and they will be added to the mail out list.

We have very few parents on the email list (we haven't been given addresses for them) so please ensure they get a copy and know about the website.

The Rotary core team for the event and contact details are:

Kerry McMillan Derby Director clanmcmillan@xtra.co.nz Phone 832-3229 or 021-416-777	Lyn Parts Phone: 021 251 5490 The storeroom is located behind Grasslands at 570 Swanson Road. Ring Lyn first to ensure he is there.
Heather Pattison Project Manager heather@details.co.nz Phone 810-9589 or 0274-719-569	Alan Pattison Technical Assistant alan@details.co.nz Phone 810-9589 or 0274-80-88-30
Shawn Dyer Home: 412 9500 Mobile: 027 390 9885 Chief Scrutineer	<p style="text-align: center;">Are YOU the missing piece?</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">Rotary Membership Enquiries Welcome!</p>
<p>Rotary Meetings:</p> <p>Wednesday 6pm to 8pm</p> <p>Starling Park Sports Grounds 34 Glen Road Ranui</p>	

Heather Pattison

Please copy this newsletter and distribute to all of the people involved in the event!

