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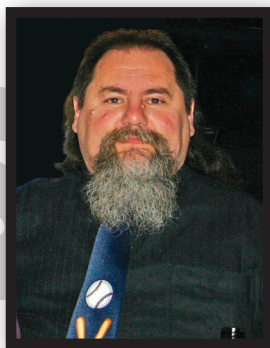
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with Geoff Crisp



One of the more disappointing things that crossed my desk recently was a note that three or so Speedway's in NSW had to cancel their opening meeting due to a lack of competitors.

What is all that about one may ask?

As some of you probably know we also publish a fortnightly Drag Racing Magazine called Dragster Australia and the straight line guys have been having a similar issue in NSW, for their fourth round of their Track Championship they had to drop the event from two days to one due to a lack of competitor entries.

These problems are much more pronounced in NSW and to a lesser extent QLD, a recent Government

take another \$100 or so in fuel bills racers just cannot afford to race.

After checking with Sydney Speedway those guys too are a little down on entries for their events and took the initiative to ring competitors who aren't currently competing and got the same answer, we would love to but money is tight.

And the cost issue is also affecting spectator numbers because those guys are no different to the racers, when money is tight the first things that get slashed are "luxury items" and going to the Speedway at \$40 a day is a luxury in this day and age.

One more thing on pricing, the Tyrepower Sydney Speedway have reduced admission prices down to

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luxury in this day and age.*

Business Survey showed that Western Australia was booming from an economic standpoint (and it shows in both Speedway and Drags) whilst South Australia was next and Victoria was also growing whilst QLD was struggling (put down to the floods) whilst NSW was basically rooted and with no sign of improvement in the short to medium term.

What should we be doing then to address this issue is a pretty fair question but what I see is the fact that Racers and Spectators just don't have the funds to enjoy such an extravagant (read expensive) sport. One other thing that I do believe has a knock on affect is racing in Sydney is racing every Saturday night and when you are not scheduled at one track the club books you into another one, guys just can't afford to race (and repair) every weekend and when you

\$20 per adult, \$18 for Pensioners, \$15 for Students and (like the Drags) kids under 12 free with the big deal a Family Pass which is two Students and two Adults all for \$50, that's a positive step right there.

Now let's look on the positive side, while I was sitting here in my office writing this the Reserve Bank dropped the official cash interest rate by .25 of 1 %. Will that make any difference to what is happening short term? Probably not but if it eases the pressure that the racers and spectators are under, not to mention the Promoters and sponsors then, in time we will be back on top of things, a little time is all we need.