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2016 A.S.R.C.C. Slot Car Swap Meet on 6th March 2016

The first big club event has been run for 2016, the annual club slot car swapmeet at the Reg Byrne Community Centre, Wentworthville. This was the same venue for the third consecutive year, making it easier for organising and accommodating as many sellers and slot cars as possible. This year was as jam packed as last year, both had a similar number of sellers and similar number of slot cars in the hall. We had a significant number of prior year sellers returning and where possible they got a similar location in the hall. We did have a few apologies from prior year sellers and hopefully they are back in future years. Thankfully we had some new sellers attend to sample the swap meet from behind a trestle table.

Some feedback on the day highlighted we had a great supply of more modern slot cars including Scalextric as well as most brands. What we seemed to miss a bit this year was some older 1960's and 1970's cars. Clive from Scalexworld in Adelaide brought a number over with him last year but was unable to attend this year due to other commitments. We did have some older cars but they were less prevalent and outweighed in the hall by more modern items. We have made a note of this for next year to encourage sellers to dig out older cars.

This year we did have the benefit of two Sydney slot car outlets in attendance. Eddie from Slot Shop had a stall for his first swap meet, attending with Jamie from his team. Also in attendance was Graeme from 1/32nd World. This was really beneficial for all. Both outlets got the opportunity to talk to between 130 to 160 slot car enthusiasts and those attending got to see a sample of what each outlet offered and meet the guys running them. The club and swap meet also benefitted from a number of their racers attending, helped with flyers promoting the event at each outlet. Thanks from the committee to both Eddie and Graeme for supporting the event and helping it to be a great advertisement for the hobby.

In terms of layout it was similar to last year with two small differences. We didn't use the stage this year for selling and the cool wall is being done at the 2nd April event at Slot Shop. The aim of these changes were to create a more usable area as well more evenly space people around the hall. It seemed to work quite well. Whilst it was a little squeezey, with the temperature in the 30's although not 38 like last year, the air conditioning was again appreciated to keep things manageable inside. Refreshments were really well taken care of by Nick and the local Rovers group.

Photos were a bit limited this year, below are two shots of the hall about an hour after doors opened. Shows the middle table sections with a good number of people checking out items and buying. Up until about midday it was busy and then the traffic volume slowed down a bit.



Financially for the club the event was a success. We got a number of new members and renewals organised, thanks to John G and Rod C on the door. We also had the cost of non-member entry at \$5, was \$3 the year before. This helped raise a bit more money without any negative feedback. This may have been helped by clearly advertising accompanied children are free so for dads with kids it was still only \$5. Members continue to benefit from free entry to the best slot car swap meet in Australia! Seller's tables were \$25 this year, up \$5 from last year and most sellers seemed to be happy with the day. We always welcome more feedback and at this the time initial thoughts are the \$5 entry and \$25 per trestle table will stay for next year.

The feedback received and thoughts of the committee is the swap meet had a bit less numbers than last year, maybe 15% to 20% down, most noticed that the busy time started to slow just before midday rather than closer to 1pm last year. We did see a big step up in 2015, in terms of sellers & cars in the room as well as buyer's attendance & spending. So to go back a little this year isn't unexpected. With the event always being the first Sunday in March it did mean it went up against the first round of the NRL this year and this may have had an influence.

Hope you have enjoyed the update and thanks to all those attended this year, be it the club committee, sellers or buyers. Big thanks to Big Pete for being the chief organiser, organising the hall, etc. You all helped make it a great event. If you were unable to make it this year, the next annual swap meet will be on Sunday 5th March 2017. Lock it in and see you there!!!!

Cheers

Dominic