



After the success of getting the new engine in the truck on time for Timaru it was great to finally get the truck out on the race track on Friday (testing day) and really find out what it was made of. This was to be the first time the new engine was to be put through the paces. We experienced several problems which resulted in having to have parts flown in from around the country and some track side modifications done to the engine.

Saturday morning was testing again and we had more problems with the engine. By the end of testing we concluded that the engine definitely had more power, but a limited power range due to turbo lag. So Malcolm had to re educate him self on how to drive the race truck. With the problems we had earlier on, the team didn't get the time needed to set the Truck up for the track. So in qualifying later in the afternoon Malcolm went out on the track and did the best he could. The team wasn't too displeased with the results: Malcolm qualified 2nd with a fastest lap time of 1.22.088 with only a difference of 1.059 - which is a 3 second gain more than last year.

RACE 1: The first race was held Saturday afternoon - Grid Race We started at the front along side Porter, Porter got the jump and by the time the Freightliner's engine came alive John Hepburn and Troy Wheeler had already gotten by. Malcolm managed to get past both Hepburn and Wheeler, but didn't quite manage to pull back Porter with the gap he got from getting the jump at the start. 1st place went to Andrew Porter, 2nd place Malcolm and in 3rd John Hepburn in the Bedford. Team mate Milton Durham came in, in 8th place. The lap times showed that we had the fastest truck out on the track.



RACE 2: Reverse Split Grid - As we were the fastest truck on the circuit in race one, we became the last truck to start the race. By the first corner Malcolm had already put 3 truck lengths on Porter. Malcolm caught up to the back of the main bunch but Porter managed to get by us in the traffic, we followed him through the corner but passed him down the back straight. We progressed our way through the field to take the win. That's right 1st place was BTR - Malcolm Little, 2nd place John Hepburn, 3rd place Calven Bonney.



RACE 3: Reverse Split Grid - This was basically a repeat of the second race. 1st place Malcolm Little, 2nd place Colin Hooper and in 3rd place Troy Wheeler.

Next was the flying farewell, 3 x 3 races. We were split into two heats. In each heat BTR took the checkered flag.

In summary the weekend could not have gone any better for us. This has no doubt been the best weekend of Truck Racing that the BTR Team have ever.

The crew has a little bit of work to be done in preparation for Manfeild on 24th & 25th of March. But we'll be ready, and hopefully we shall have another successful weekend as the one we had in Timaru.

See you at Manfeild 24th - 25th March for the finals of the NZ Super Truck Challenge.

