



PRESS RELEASE

Team Doosan Competes in Race Four of the Rayglass New Zealand Offshore Powerboat Championship - Napier 26th February

Champions Combine for Napier Race

The Doosan Team saw some changes this week with wheelman Sam Fillmore unavailable. Faced with finding a replacement driver, the team did not have to look far for experience and proven skill with a guest appearance from Wayne Carson. The Carson name is synonymous with offshore powerboating in New Zealand and Wayne has successfully raced for many seasons, winning six national championships in the past. Throttleman Cary Gleeson said it would be strange to be racing with someone else behind the wheel, but that he couldn't think of anyone better than Wayne to race with. Certainly there was no sign that anything was different and the boat set out looking and sounding great.

Napier has always been one of the most challenging venues for the NZ Offshore Powerboats. This year the team were faced with an eerily calm sea with wide gentle swells of just over one metre. With each race the team must decide on the best props and setup for the boat and they went out set up for a flat fast race. The exposed coastline is however temperamental and wave conditions change rapidly, often within the timespan of a race.

While the water was flat in toward the port where it was more sheltered, the course saw the boats racing across the open water toward the westshore, and running back along the beachline where the waves rose as they washed toward the beach. The top end of the course provided more swell than anticipated during the course of the race and with the boat set up for flatter water, the crew had to work harder to find the extra performance needed in the conditions. Though frustrated by the turn of events, Doosan raced well and gained a further 375 second place points toward the championship.

Consistency is always the key to every championship. Finishing each race without a breakdown in equipment, and strategies to get the best performance for the conditions in every race are all vital to accumulate the necessary results. The championship, with four of the eight races completed, is very much an open competition and the Doosan Team are certainly looking at

the top spot with a repeat performance of last years championship win.

Racing now moves to Whitianga. The race starts at 1.00pm on Saturday March 12th and will no doubt provide more action packed racing. Whitianga is a spectacular venue with the boats traditionally leaping out of the air on their run out against the ocean swell to the island before turning and racing in toward the beach. With its high cliffs and surrounding hillsides Whitianga is a natural ampitheatre where the sound of the engines can be heard for miles resonating in the air.

Doosan would like to thank all their supporters and would especially like to acknowledge the tremendous support they receive from Doosan Construction Equipment NZ Ltd, JFC, Gleeson Builders, Hydraulink, AB Marine Services, Placemakers Cook Street, Porterhire, Schaeffer Premium Oil and Intertruck without which racing would not be possible.

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