

Extreme Festival promises truckloads of family appeal

EXCITEMENT is building in the local petrolhead ranks as the penultimate round of the national Extreme Festival Series, which is being staged at Killarney on October 24, draws nearer.

Expected to be the highlight of what has been a thrilling South African racing season, the meeting will include events for Production Cars, Sports and GT Cars, Engen Polo Cup, GTi Challenge and Formula Ford single-seaters. The motorcycle events will feature the big Thunderbikes, as well as a round of the one-make Kawasaki ZX 10's Master's Cup.

Looking back, the biggest upset during the most recent Extreme Festival meeting at the Zwartkops Raceway near Pretoria last month was the eclipse of the previously unbeaten Porsche GT2R kingpin Toby Venter. Although hard-fought with very

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little to choose between them, the new Kyalami owner was forced to settle for a close second in all three races, behind a rampant Lee Thompson, whose *blitsvinnige* BMW M3 is now rated the fastest privateer race car in the country.

In the first event, the pair were followed across the line by an incredibly quick trio led by the Cape's Johan Engelbrecht who was at the wheel of a similar Porsche GT2R, Jonathan du Toit (Ferrari 430) and Anton Cronje in his all-wheel-drive Subaru WRX. However, the order changed in the second event when Cronje managed to grab third ahead of the Ferrari and the Porsche. He then



STYLING: Killarney stalwart Johan Engelbrecht was in fine form in his Porsche GT2R during the most recent round of the national Extreme Series at the Zwartkops Raceway near Pretoria.

PICTURE: COLLIN BROWN

retained his place on the lower rung of the podium in the final, with Engelbrecht and Du Toit finishing close behind him in that order.

The bike racing was also particularly exciting, with BMW rider Garrick Vlok winning both Thunderbike events. Graeme van Breda's two second place finishes in the Kawasaki Master's Cup category were enough for him to be declared the overall winner.

But while the racing will be the main attraction, there will also be a host of fantastic events and sideshows.

One of the highlights of the live entertainment at the clubhouse is likely to be a hamburger-eating competition. The large screen televisions there will be tuned to the first semi-final of the Rugby World Cup, at Twickenham, where the Boks – if they were to beat Wales this weekend – could face either New Zealand, or France.