

TRENDE'S COMEBACK IS SUPER'SONIC' 30.4.2007

Australian GT Championship competitor Jon Trende is confident that his beloved Berwick Insurance Group / Cooks Construction 996 Porsche will be ready in time for a crucial test session at the Winton Motor Raceway on May 10 – just one week prior to the GT round at Queensland Raceway.

Trende extensively damaged his car at Round 2 Clipsal 500 when his cornering technique in turn ten took an unexpected turn for the worst.

"The organic component (driver) in the car was responsible for the mistake," Trende conceded, "I came into turn ten a bit hot and had to check up where things got out of control and unfortunately I was struck by Mark Cini from behind. I wound up in the wall with a lot of damage. I've got no-one to blame but myself unfortunately."

The crash cost him more than just the replacement figures for a new body shell for the Porsche, it cost him valuable seat time where he missed Round Three at the iconic Mt. Panorama Bathurst where his WTF team-mate Sven Burchartz ran riot with the round win in the Porsche Drivers Challenge.

"It's been disappointing on a number of levels to miss that track time but what's done is done unfortunately," Trende conceded, "I need to look forward to the test session at Winton and the following weekend at Queensland Raceway and try and make up for lost time."

It could be argued the casual Trende (pardon the expression) will be up against the eight ball somewhat when he takes on Queensland Raceway with no previous racing experience at the circuit known as 'the paperclip'.

"Yeah, it might be a bit of a struggle early but I'm sure the Sonic boys will have us on the pace, there's not much those guys can't do."

Indeed, Trende believes now even more than ever, having had to fly a new Porsche body shell out from Germany, that Michael Ritter and his dedicated Sonic Motor Racing Services are an item he couldn't do without.

"There's no doubt in my mind that I couldn't go racing any other way than helmet bag race it with Sonic," he concedes, "my work load during the week is far too intensive. The amount of travel alone this week precludes me from having any more involvement in our race team than showing up on race day and taking the wheel."

Trende is determined to put in a good showing at the Winton Test Session and then the weekend after at QR.

"I'd like to thank Michael Ritter and all the team at Sonic for the effort they've put into building the new car. I hope to reward everyone with a couple of strong performances in May