

Brooks pips O'Reilly

A mere 18 hundredths of a second in it

■ HILLCLIMB

IN AN action packed day for the North-West Car Club, a full field of 39 entrants contested the gravel hillclimb at Hampshire on Saturday.

Spectators enjoyed access to two prime viewing positions, which saw all but one of the competitors complete the day.

Changing weather conditions had the large crowd of spectators and competitors initially dealing with dust and then contending with persistent rain.

These conditions also gave the large field plenty to think about on the challenging 1.5km course.

Craig Brooks, driving Peter O'Reilly's Subaru, emerged the outright winner on the day by a mere 18 hundredths of a second from O'Reilly.

The competition between the two was extremely close all day and the contest thrilled the crowds with their personal battle to see who could clear the most ground over the jump.

A strong field of off-road buggies also competed and their ease at being airborne was clearly evident with some spectacular leaps being witnessed.

Darren Paine emerged victorious in his 1300cc Suzuki Hayabusa powered buggy from Luke Whelan, who had travelled from Hobart with his V8-powered machine.

Lee Marshall led the field of 2WD



RIPPING UP THE COURSE: Taking part in the North West Car Club's gravel hillclimb is Darren Paine. Picture: Stuart Wilson.

rally cars in his Datsun 200B despite stiff competition by Ray Skeggs in his Falcon XR6.

Marshall's car was clearly suited to the slippery dry conditions with his fastest time being set on his first run.

A massive field of 27 2WD street cars competed hard for class honours.

Don Stevens, a wiley veteran of many years of rallying, proved to be the class of the field with some

awesome driving in his Commodore station wagon.

Dean Howard finished only one second behind Stevens in his V8 Commodore with the Maguire brothers finishing third and fourth in their Escort.

John Hyatt had done plenty of work to his car following a rollover in his last event and gave a strong showing.

Phil House, Zach Chadwick and Rick Stones also had strong per-

formances.

David Guest debuted his paddock-bashing Holden Gemini, which ended up in the scrub just before the finish line.

Don Stevens was awarded Driver of the Day and Zach Chadwick was given the Encouragement Award, demonstrating some fine skills in his Gemini in his first event with the club.

■ The next event at Highclere will be the last for the 2008 program.