



February 2009 Newsletter

First Round of Karting North East Championship

What a fantastic turn out and great day's racing. Whilst the weather was cold and the "open" conditions difficult to call we did see some excellent racing across all classes. With close to 80 entries all classes were well supported with Cadets and Tkm particularly strong. Sadly the driver of the day, chosen by Bill and Peter, went home before the presentation due to mechanical failure in the final. However Denholm Smith in the Tkm class was chosen due to his excellent results in the heats and also to his honesty in front of the Clerks when involved in a racing incident in heat 2.

Safety in Tkm Class

This year's Championship does allow for direct drive Tkms to enter, however I feel the need to remind both drivers and parents of the risks involved in choosing direct driver over clutched engines. Push starting karts within a grid of 20 or more karts places the pusher at risk of being hit by a kart as they leave the grid. If the kart is slow to fire then the drivers behind the direct drive kart become agitated as they do not want to lose position at the start. If you choose direct drive the pusher is NOT covered for any injury incurred when starting the kart. Likewise a driver who spins on the circuit will stall and is not allowed to attempt to re start the engine nor may he be restarted by any member of staff.

Senior Tkm Is Coming

Interest is growing due to the success of the junior class. Using the more powerful 115cc Extreme engine we are going to encourage this class over the next few months. Reducing the cost of Karting is surely in everyone's interest. Talk to Anton or Ian if you are interested in this class.

New Weighing Platform

May I apologise for problems with the scales last month. Questions were asked of me (in the clubhouse) re the accuracy of the scales. Having just paid £300.00 for the scales to be calibrated and checked I was confident that the scales were right. However I did ask the scrutineers by radio if there was a problem. Their answer was that, yes, there had been a problem early on but it had been "sorted". I took that to mean that racing could continue with confidence in the scales. Not so!

A new platform and weigh head is being made as I write this and will be in place for the 1st March 09.

Storage

For those of you with lockers can I remind you that the first quarter (Jan – March) rent is now overdue. Kart lockers that are unpaid after 3 months will result in the kart being moved to a place of safety allowing the locker to be used by someone else. One or two lockers are now empty if you would like to hire one. The charge is £25 – £35 per month depending on your preference for top, middle or bottom row.

Drivers Briefing

Peter Knibb has asked me to remind you of the need to attend the drivers briefing. It is important for reasons of safety. Over the years I am aware that issues that arise during Race Day could have been avoided if parents as well as drivers attended the drivers briefing.

Prokarts

I had to laugh when a driver of some 6 – 8 years experience asked to be dropped from the Elite class to the Clubman class as, after two heats, he realised that he was not going to win! The driver concerned ended the day well but he may have to take the challenge a little more seriously if he intends winning the Elite class championship. The aim in introducing Clubman is to encourage new and inexperienced drivers by giving them a chance of winning a trophy. It seemed to work well from our point of view with Lewis Dodsworth, Aly Worrall and Stacey Metcalf being the top three in the Clubman class.

Please help the officials on the circuit by having the correct number boards on your kart. As a reminder Elite are white boards with red numbers and Clubman is white with black numbers.

Tyne & Wear Kart Club

T&WKC membership is required if we are to include your results in the club Championship. Please join as soon as possible. One member per household is fine covering all karts within the family.

Dates to Remember

| | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Sunday 22 nd February | Exclusive Owner Driver testing from 8am to 2pm |
| Sunday 1 st March | KNE Championship 2nd Round |
| Sunday 8 th March | Exclusive Owner Driver testing from 8am to 2pm |
| Sunday 22 nd March | Exclusive Owner Driver testing from 8am to 2pm |

Dates to Avoid

| | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Sunday 15 th March | No Owner Driver Testing (hire kart race day – 3 rd Sunday of month) |
|-------------------------------|--|



Tyne & Wear Kart Club, Warden Law Motorsport Centre, Sunderland, Tyne and Wear, SR3 2PR Tel: 0191 5214050

www.twkartclub.com