

An excellent turn out, another dry and sunny day! All five grids have good entries with no class struggling for entries. Congratulations to the Driver of the Day....Jack Walshaw who was chosen as he is a newcomer to kart racing yet performed well on the day.

Scrutineering

The May meeting caused the scrutineers to get more involved than usual. Bill Elliot and Mark Nicolson are both MSA scrutineers and try their best to ensure compliance with the regulations in a fair and customer friendly manner. While they do check all karts regarding safety issues they cannot check each and every kart to ensure compliance with the rules at each race meeting. What they do with help from the Clerks (Peter Knibb and Bill Routledge) is observe the races AND listen to the comments made by competitors. By doing this they can identify karts that need more in depth checking as well as the heat top three. Please understand that all officials are human (honest!) and they get stressed at times particularly when there are problems to resolve. If they appear grumpy or "have an attitude" it may well mean that they have been / are involved with a situation that is stressful. Please give them time/space then return if necessary to speak to them later.

In the same way I would ask that you all reflect on your first few months in Karting and recall how difficult it is to comply with all the rules and regulations involved. If you believe that someone is racing outside of the regulations why jump to the conclusion that he is cheating? Why not have a **quiet word** with the Clerks, scrutineers or myself to get the problem addressed. There is no need to start a witch hunt in the paddock which is upsetting to the new karter involved and can lead to friction, aggravation etc. We have a friendly, pleasant atmosphere in the paddock..... Let's keep it that way.

A sensible suggestion was made to me re the Prokart Class being that we start all Elite Prokarts ahead of Clubman in the same way that we start the Rotax ahead of the Bilands. This would allow the Elite drivers who have a problem in Timed Qualifying to still be amongst their own class members. The suggestion seems good to me but, as ever, the decision needs to come from the drivers. Feedback needed please.

Championship Tables

Now we have four rounds completed the front runners are starting to emerge. Tom Maddison's lead in Cadet looks impressive but dropped rounds will close the gap later in the year. With Alex Taylor having switched to Junior Max and James Buckton (winner 2008) not taking part the Tkm class is wide open. Obviously Stephen Mottram is now the one to beat. Sam Lane has Scott Mackrell in his sights in a very competitive Junior Max grid. The senior Max has the very real threat of Rachel Elliott challenging for top spot being one of two girls competing at Warden Law this year. Splitting the Prokart Grid has been a success with newcomers to Karting featuring well in the Clubman section. Lewis Dodsworth, Adam Harrison and Aly Worrall are going well but Stacey Metcalf will be consistent to the end as she benefits from the experience of her Dad and brother in the prokart class. As for the Elite class one thing is certain.... Steven Welsh will not be the winner this year!

Senior TKM

Following several attempts we will now be welcoming entries from Senior TKM drivers from now until the end of the Championship year, initially we will be running this class off the back of the Senior Max grid.

The Kart Shop at Warden Law

Alan McLean is starting to make an impact in the shop with the new layout working well. KNE are now the Northern distributor for Tal-ko (Tkm), CRG chassis's and Simon Wright Prokarts with chassis spares held for all three. In addition the display area, display board and KNE web site are starting to move pre owned karts on behalf of customers. If you have a kart to sell why not give it a try?

Anton continues to have success with KNE customers using his engines. Tom Maddison in Comer and Antonio Gagliasso in Tkm demonstrate that "out of the box" engines can be competitive yet relatively inexpensive. Anton also provides a Race Day support service where he is available to you working adjacent to the kart shop. Those drivers who have tried it out tell me that his assistance is wonderful!

Speedball Comes to Warden Law

If you want to shoot your boss or colleagues from work why not organise to bring a group to the north east's first Speedball arena. KNE are just completing a clean, safe playing arena at the back of the site upon which two teams will compete at a high speed version of Paintball. Teamwork and trust in your colleagues is essential if you are to succeed in winning the game. While most of our business will be with Stag Parties visiting KNE to race then play Speedball, we can organise Speedball on its own! We are targeting adults with this activity i.e. over 16 years old.....it's not for girls!

If you have any comments, complaints or suggestions please email them to ian@kartingnortheast.com. You will always get a response to any point raised regarding KNE, its staff or events. Thanks for your continued support.

Dates to Remember

Sunday 24 th May	Exclusive Owner Driver testing from 8am to 2pm
Sunday 31 st May	Exclusive Owner Driver testing from 8am to 2pm
Sunday 7 th June	KNE Championship 5th Round
Sunday 14 th June	Exclusive Owner Driver testing from 8am to 2pm
Sunday 28 th June	Exclusive Owner Driver testing from 8am to 2pm

Dates to Avoid

Sunday 21 st June	No Owner Driver Testing (hire kart race day – 3 rd Sunday of month)
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