



December 2009 Newsletter

As the year comes to an end, everyone involved with the management of the Tyne & Wear Kart Club thanks you for your support in 2009 and Good Luck next year.

Presentation Night

The presentation evening is at the same venue as last year being the Cricket Club in Chester le Street. We will be presenting the trophies to the top 3 drivers in each class in the 2009 Championship along with their vouchers for free entry next year. Tickets are available from KNE reception priced at £20.00 for adults and £12.50 for children under 12 years old.

Winter Series

The first round was blighted by the weather forecasters with the weather turning out far better than expected. As always the prokart grid was excellent with a reasonable grid across all classes. Congratulations to Andy Baxter, who was chosen as Driver of the Day who only started racing in August of this year. He finished in the top three in every race except the final when he threw himself off the circuit on the last lap.

Having completed the first round can I make the point that it should be seen as a "fun" series of three meetings all on different circuits allowing those who want to get in some Karting over the winter period. Some drivers will see it as a way of keeping "their hand in", some to set up and test new equipment, some to run in new engines and some just to get in some track time. While 2009 regulations should be used as a reference clearly 2010 regulations should not be ignored particularly where there are significant changes. Contact me if you have any queries on this.

The next round, on the Monday 28th December after Christmas will be on the circuit cutting out the Horseshoe but including the chicane in front of the grid.

MSA Racing

I have nothing but regret that MSA racing at Teesside has ceased as I strongly believe that the North / North East needs all levels of kart racing to allow a new entrant to Karting to progress to British Championship level. Unlike some I do not believe that the blame lies with the committee members of the D&Y Kart Club OR with Bob Pope at Langbaugh. The future of kart racing is dominated by those employed by the MSA and those who sit on its various committees. In my view they have consistently failed to understand the blindingly obvious link between hire Karting, entry level karting for owner drivers, club racing and the British Championships. Their attempts to understand and address the link resulted in the introduction of the Tyro class some 3 years ago which has been, in my view, a complete fiasco. In our part of the world Racelands (Edinburgh), Langbaugh (Teesside) and Warden Law have all tried to introduce MSA kart racing over the last 10 years. Other commercial circuits in the U.K. keep MSA racing as the owners have a personal interest in MSA racing. How long will that last? Suggestions made to the MSA by circuit operators to make meetings more attractive to entry level owner drivers have been ignored. If the north of England has a large number of Prokart drivers a way forward should be found for financial reasons to make MSA Club racing attractive to them. If the MSA continues to ignore this sector of Karting the circuit operators will fill the void. When Steve Chapman was on the MSA Kart sporting committee and Chairman of the ABKC he tried to move control of Karting away from the MSA. Sadly he failed to get the support of kart club representatives on the ABKC. I guess you reap what you sow!

The debate on the www.karting.co.uk website regarding DYKC has resulted in considerable discussion. One point raised with me is the question of acceptable contact. One argument put forward to me is that the T&WKC series discourages contact which is wrong as contact is part and parcel of kart racing the further you

progress in the sport. I accept the point that there is more contact. However I have talked to many parents and drivers over the 12 years I have been at Warden Law who have been lost from the sport completely as a result of the consequences of contact driving. Expensive repairs and injury results in many dropping out of Super One etc mid season NOT to return to club racing but giving up karting altogether. As a result the circuit loses customers, the clubs lose entries and occasionally a driver is scarred for life. I prefer the way we operate at T&WKC and, judging by the entries over the last year, I guess others do as well.

AutoSport

What used to be a first class event for karters has lost its way, in my opinion, in recent years. Kartmania for owner drivers and the NKA Trade show for circuit operators have meant that many exhibitors in the Karting sector no longer attend. However if you like motorsport in general then it is an excellent day out.

Dates: 14th - 17th January 2010 **NEC Birmingham.**

The Kart Shop at Warden Law

We are in the last 10 days of the current offer.....a free months testing for every £ 250 spent in the shop between 1st October and Christmas. If you buy a Karting present for someone he gets the bonus of free testing as well as the present from you. As we have everything that a karter could possibly need, why not take advantage of this offer before it ends. Free testing vouchers will be calculated and available by the 28th December at the Race Meeting.

T&W Kart Club Membership

The membership will remain at £50 for the year. The benefits include entry to the T&WKC 2010 Championship, a saving of £5.00 every time you practice or race and the monthly newsletter and Championship points. Application forms are available in reception.

I believe that we will not be increasing practice or race fees for 2010.

Bambinos

Next Sunday 20th December at 11 am, we will be organising time trials then races for Bambino owner drivers. Please let us know in advance if you intend coming along. All drivers will receive a trophy

Dates to Remember:

20th Dec 09 – Exclusive Owner Driver Testing 8am – 2pm

27th Dec 09 – Exclusive Owner Driver Testing 8am – 2pm

28th Dec 09 – 2nd Round Winter Series Championship

3rd Jan 2010 – Exclusive Owner Driver Testing 8am -2pm.

