



January 2009 Newsletter

From everyone at Karting North East may we wish you a successful and happy New Year without, hopefully, the recession having a negative impact on your life. The Christmas and New Year period has been kind to us as the weather has been dry enabling us to keep the circuit open and reasonably busy.....so we are off to a good start!

The Winter Series has finished with some positive feedback re the different circuit layouts. Should we use two or three different layouts through the summer Championship? We return to the first Sunday every month for a 10 round Championship all of which will be bathed in sunshine! Understandably entries for the winter series were below what we normally expect during the summer but we have been happy with the turnout. Prices remain the same (for the 3rd year running) for both the entry on the day (£ 35) and for the club membership (£ 50). Please take note that we will NOT include your results in the Championship table unless you are a paid up member of the T&WKC.

Circuit Improvements

The entire circuit has been re lined in brilliant white to define the edges of usable tarmac. The point to understand is that no driver should cross the solid white lines either at the start or at any time during the race. As all kerbs are outside the white lines any kart making contact with the kerb and bouncing back into another kart will always be blamed for any contact. In addition the male toilets are being re furnished this week being long overdue.

The Junior Circuit

KNE have decided to re design the circuit creating a faster, easy flowing circuit with far more opportunity to overtake. We are now able to organise Bambino races once a month for those who would like to take part. Please let our reception know if you would like your "bambino" to take part and we will let you know the first date. What about a Sunday morning when we run the Thunderkart Challenge?

Sodikart

As many of you know we use Sodi karts as our hire kart fleet. Sodi believe that there are some owner drivers for whom the normal practice of buying your own kart, maintaining it, transporting it and paying all the costs of racing it is not what they want. They have launched an entirely new product which is an exceeding fast 22 / 28 hp kart based on the Swiss Auto 250cc four stroke engine. The proposal is that they will organise a series of race meetings around the U.K. where you can turn up and race on these hire karts in one of a series of Race Days. Their proposal is similar to the highly successful Club 100 which uses Tkm engines bolted onto a Birrell race chassis. We have one of these karts available for 30 minutes "arrive and drive" but its use is restricted to MSA licence holders or those drivers who are known to us as experienced drivers e.g. participants in our Thunderkart Challenge. Sodi believe, in launching this kart, that there are many people who want to race high powered karts but are put off by the fact that the running costs of buying their own kart may turn out to be higher than they expected.

The Summer Series

The following classes are included being Open Cadets (but not electric start WTP), Junior Tkm (including push start and electric start), Junior Max, Senior Open running with Biland, Prokarts (in two sections being Elite & Clubman) and World Formula. The regulations are on the website www.kartingnortheast.com and were also posted out last month. If you would like a copy please contact KNE reception. Please talk to, or email, Ian Lawson re any queries regarding the regulations.

Circuit Safety

KNE commissioned an independent report regarding the safety standards of our race meeting. A director of Protrain, Mr Steve Chapman, was asked to review our procedures and provide a written report. Steve is an MSA Clerk, has been Chairman of both the MSA Kart Committee and AbKC and works now as an international consultant with new build kart circuits. He pointed out three areas of concern – one of which involved karts being driven through the pits. As a result all karts except Prokarts must be on trolleys when moving through the paddock. His other concerns were the safety of the Grid Marshal and the Clerk on the start line. As a consequence of his report we have altered our procedures accordingly. However his last comments are worth repeating.

"I could see no difference in the way KNE run their unlicensed race meetings compared with the way a MSA licence race meeting is organised" and "I do not know how one could further improve the circuit' safety and race organisation procedures". While Steve Chapman's comments are appreciated KNE will always review and discuss with anyone any query to do with safety with the aim of raising safety standards. In addition the report is available to anyone who wishes to read it.

New Hours at The Kart Shop

KNE have decided to restrict the opening of the Kart Shop at Warden Law to Thursday 1 – 7pm, Saturdays 10 – 4 pm and Sundays 8 – 2 pm. Outside of these hours you can ring an order through to KNE reception for collection later that day. However we will not open the shop on demand during the week as Anton has other commitments.

Please assist Anton by pre ordering tyres prior to race weekends so that we have sufficient stock. He is also quite willing to check and prepare karts in the week prior to our race weekend. Why not talk to him regarding costs etc.

Help! Teach is Coming To Stay

On Sunday 1st March Ben Mills will be featured on the above programme at 10 am which can be seen on CBBC. Ben and his head teacher spent quite some time filming at the circuit in the autumn. Ben had the unusual task of teaching his teacher all about his favourite pastime. She proved to be an excellent pupil and quickly got to grips with Karting being quite competitive on the circuit. Ben and his class are returning to the circuit shortly to experience karting for themselves. Please ask your mum to record the programme as you will be here at Warden Law for the second round of the KNE Championship.

- And finally **the British Schools Karting Championship** is underway with 37 school teams from the north east entered at KNE. We will have three teams going forward to the Final at Daytona Milton Keynes in March with every chance of being on the top step of the podium. I am well aware that three schools (Berwick, Royal Grammar school and Richmond) have a trio of excellent drivers with Berwick having been placed third last year. Seaham have also risen to the challenge so I am hoping that we may get a result!

Dates to Remember

Sunday 1 st February	KNE Championship 1st Round
Sunday 8 th February	Exclusive Owner Driver testing from 8am to 2pm
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 February	No Owner Driver Testing
Sunday 15 th March	No Owner Driver Testing

