



## January 2011 Newsletter

---

At the start of a New Year everyone at Karting North East would like to wish you all good luck, be it at home, in your work place or on the circuit sat in the kart!

### Safety on the Circuit

The Warden Law circuit has an excellent record regarding the safety of both customers and staff with no injuries sustained on the circuit once again in the last 12 months. Procedures affecting owner drivers, hire kart customers and staff are in place which have served us well over recent years. However it must be pointed out that health and safety must be constantly reviewed and improved where possible. We take advice and listen to comments from various sources including our customers so please let us know if you wish to raise any concerns.

Owner drivers need to be aware of the circuit's "Code of Conduct at Warden Law". A copy is included in the Tyne & Wear Kart Club's 2011 membership pack. It is also available from reception and is also on the notice board and on the club website. Please make sure that you have read it and comply with its content. The senior member of KNE staff on duty when you visit is responsible for operating a safe circuit. Please follow his instructions at all times and seek his advice if you are unsure of anything at all.

### The 2011 Championship

We get under way on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2011 with the first round of the 10 round Championship. As last year it will be your highest scoring 8 results out of the 10 rounds. There are bonus points for those drivers who take part in all 10 rounds. The T&WKC Regulations 2011 are also in the membership pack and on the website. We are delighted to welcome back Peter Knibb and Bill Routledge to run the meetings as, between them, they have many years of kart racing experience. Peter started at Warden Law 15 years ago as the first circuit manager progressing to become the ARKS instructor and examiner on behalf of the MSA kart club. Bill was once a parent supporting two sons racing at club level before training as an MSA Clerk of the Course. Bill Elliot from over the border will be returning as our scrutineer being well known around the MSA clubs as an experienced MSA scrutineer. Finally first aid / paramedic cover for race meetings will be supplied by Medics UK Ltd.

Tyres have been changed for at least two classes (Rotax & Tkm) by the MSA for the coming year. T&WKC will allow those of you who wish to use last year's specified tyres to do so for the first three rounds to get them used up before investing in new rubber. Tyres are increasingly an issue for "The Kart Shop at Warden Law". As some of you are well aware tyres that have been stored too long lose performance so Anton avoids stock piling them. He can always get them for you prior to every race meeting but he does need 7-10 days notice. Please order them from Anton with plenty of notice and they will be waiting for you on race day.

Entry fees for the 2011 Championship have increased for all classes to £40 (using own transponder) and £50 (using KNE transponder). Lost transponders will be charged to the entrant at full replacement cost. Non-members fees are £45 (using own transponder) & £55 (using KNE transponder).

### The 2010 Presentation Night

This annual event was held once again at the Chester le Street Cricket Club and was oversubscribed making some tables a little crowded. Peter and Bill presented the annual trophies along with their thoughts about the drivers receiving them.

On behalf of all club members I would like to thank Peter, the two Bills and all the circuit staff who volunteer to attend race meetings allowing the meetings to take place in a safe and enjoyable manner.

### Changes for 2011

Following a review of the Management Agreement that exists between the circuit operators and the City of Sunderland council we have tweaked the restrictions on the use of privately owned karts. The agreement was put in place following a court appearance after the council served a Noise Abatement Order (NAO) on the circuit operators in 1996. Since then noise has been managed to the council's satisfaction with few complaints from neighbours. However as a NAO is never dropped it can be reinstated at any time by the council. So Karting North East monitor noise daily using a noise meter that records noise over 12 hours every day.

Sundays are where we need to be careful. Race days are not a problem. We have agreed with the council that kart noise from race karts will be restricted to the hours of 9 am until 1 pm on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday free of 2 stroke noise. So Sunday morning practice remains except for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday. Get up early and be ready for a 9 am start to get full value for your money. We have also agreed to run the practice in 10 or 15 minute sessions to manage noise to the council's satisfaction. Cadets are quieter than the Rotax / Tkms as are the Prokarts. So on a busy Sunday there will be 3 sessions for Cadet, all 2 strokes and then Prokarts. The senior member of KNE circuit staff will use his discretion regarding numbers on the circuit and the management of noise.

Midweek 2 strokes can practice Monday to Friday 9 am until 5 pm. Cadets until 7 pm if hire kart bookings permit. No owner drivers can practice on a Saturday as hire kart bookings take us very close (or occasionally over) the permitted maximum noise level averaged over 12 hours.

### The Kart Shop at Warden Law

Across the UK 2010 was a difficult year for all suppliers to kart racing competitors. The onsite kart shop was no exception with turnover down significantly on 2009. Consequently the kart shop will now be open Thursday from 4pm onwards, Friday 9am until 5.30pm and Sundays from 8am. Anton will be available at other times during the week to deal with enquiries by phone. The reception is open 7 days a week and will arrange for Anton to call you back to discuss your enquiry should he be unavailable when you call. Please support the shop as much as possible if you want it to remain as a service to owner drivers. I believe that the shop and Anton are an invaluable service to our club members, it needs your support.

### Trials Bikes Only

Following the review of noise management and safety concerns the decision has been made to make the off-road area a dedicated trials bike only area. Users will be encouraged to join the Warden Law Trials Club with organised trials and training days planned. Improvement work is ongoing to create a venue that caters for novice and experienced riders alike.

### KNE Staff Changes

Due to Ian Lawson's decision to step down from full time involvement from the circuit Emma Hodges is now the overall manager of the business. Dave Glynn is the senior member of circuit staff working alongside Emma to run the business on a day to day basis. A third member of the management team will be appointed as soon as possible. Please accept any decision made by Emma or Dave as final.

### Dates to Avoid & Remember

Sunday 23 <sup>rd</sup> January	Exclusive owner driver practice 9am to 1pm.
Sunday 30 <sup>th</sup> January	Exclusive owner driver practice 9am to 1pm.
Sunday 6 <sup>th</sup> February	First round of 2011 Championship.
Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup> February	Exclusive owner driver practice 9am to 1pm.
Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup> February	No owner driver practice (hire kart race day)