

July 2010 Newsletter

July Championship Round

Last weekend was once again an interesting day being declared "Open" for tyres late morning. A couple of dry heats were followed by the lottery of tyre choice which made for a fascinating Junior Max final as well as two or three other races where the choice of slicks , intermediates or wets made a big difference.

Starting with good news the incident on the first lap of the first race of the day saw Steve Martin taken to hospital following an unplanned, quick exit from his Prokart through St John's (so now you know how that corner got its name!). Steve was treated for possible neck and chest injuries before being transported to hospital where he was fully checked out. Steve was discharged in the afternoon feeling battered and bruised but otherwise OK. We all hope to see him back in a kart soon!

Bill Routledge was away at Larkhall getting his final signature for an upgrade to an MSA Nat A Clerk of the Course. Peter and I struggled to cope without Bill but, due possibly to the sobering impact of the ambulance on the circuit at the start of the day, the event ran well with a high standard of driving through all classes.

Summer Holidays

The summer holidays are coming. Karting North East are going to attempt to manage the holiday period in a way that guarantees owner drivers more track time providing they plan to come on specific days. During the summer holidays (being Friday 23rd July to 5th September) owner driver testing will be as follows:

Sundays – Exclusive owner driver testing will continue on Sundays from 8am to 2pm (except race day on first Sunday and Thunderkart Challenge on third Sunday). Kart shop open.

Tuesdays – Practice may be available between hire kart sessions. Subject to availability. Please check with circuit prior to arrival.

Wednesdays - Exclusive Practice 10:30am to 4pm. Kart shop open.

Thursdays – Exclusive Practice 4pm to 9pm. Kart shop open.

Saturdays – Will continue with 10 minute sessions per hour between hire kart races. No cadets.

No practice will be available on Mondays or Fridays.

We will trial this format over the summer to see how it works. As always your feedback will be appreciated.

Other Karting News

Bob Pope experienced the best and worst aspects of kart racing last week starting with a fatality on the circuit at Langbaugh. Sadly an 18 year old male died of a heart defect whilst racing on the circuit early on the Saturday morning. Inevitably the circuit was closed for the day whilst the police carried out the necessary checks but everything regarding the circuit was as it should be, it was just a case of death by natural causes. Bob then went to Le Mans with an entry of 43 Prokarts for the annual 24 hour endurance race.

Congratulations to Howard at MS Lucas as his team took first place easily. Local drivers Steven White, Steven Welsh along with Paul Wilkins and Jamie Stubbs did the business with Steven Welsh putting the kart on pole. Other local drivers did well but maybe need to remain anonymous. Qualifying in 5th place was great but failing scrutineering by being underweight started them at the back of the grid. Brilliant driving got them back into the top 10 only to run out of fuel on the circuit dropping them well down the results table. However despite all their inexperience / mistakes they (Triple 777) finished in 9th place. Well done to Tim Oliver, Ryan Watson and Scott Brown.

Congratulations also to Michael Kew who won tickets to the Grand Prix at Silverstone by winning the SUN FM karting race on Monday. Enjoy your weekend Michael!

Business for Sale

Some of you will have seen the adverts in the motorsport press advertising the Karting North East business for sale. As many of you will know my wife and I have two young grandchildren living permanently with us following the death of my son in law in Afganistan and my daughter's decision to stay in the army where she is now serving with the dog section. My own health has deteriorated over the last couple of years with stomach and knee operations so the decision has been made to advertise the business for sale. In these difficult times it may or may not sell but, either way, it will continue to be run as a successful business where both the customer and the staff are highly valued. I do not envisage any changes that would have a negative impact on owner driver access and racing at the circuit. If any of you have an interest in finding out more re the sale please contact marksimpson@unw.co.uk. No information is available from any member of staff so please do not add to their concerns by badgering them.

Bambino Time Trials

Due to lack of numbers we will no longer be arranging time trials. Bambinos may continue to practice on the paddock circuit between hire kart bookings (subject to availability, please check with circuit before arrival).

Dates to Remember

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| Sunday 11 th July | Exclusive Owner Driver Testing 8am to 2pm. |
| Sunday 18 th July | Exclusive Owner Driver Testing 8am to 11am, then in sessions from 11am to 2pm due to Thunderkart Challenge. |
| Sunday 25 th July | Exclusive Owner Driver Testing 8am to 2pm. |
| Sunday 1 st August | KNE Championship 7th Round. |
| Sunday 8 th August | Exclusive Owner Driver Testing 8am to 2pm. |

Plus exclusive practice sessions during the summer holidays (please see Summer Holidays section above for details).

