



January 2008 Newsletter

AutoSport

While the show is well worth a visit for everyone with an interest in motor sport the karting section continues to shrink. Major exhibitors e.g. Zip Kart and Strawberry Racing, no longer believe the show is worth attending with smaller exhibitors also giving the show a miss. The cost of stand space with additional exorbitant charges for furniture and electricity as well as accommodation for staff manning the stands make the whole event very expensive. Speaking to a number of visitors to the show the entry charges, car parking, travel costs etc etc make the whole experience an expensive exercise. To be positive it was good to see local drivers Jay Southern and Alex Austen in the Live Arena.

BSKC

The British Schools Karting Championship kicks off at Warden Law this week. We have around 40 school teams taking part in tuition and Endurance racing to find the top 3 teams to represent the North East at the final in March at Buckmore Park in London. Lewis Hamilton has generated a lot of interest in karting which has given this new annual Championship an enormous boost. KNE will be following up this event with the launch of our schools nights once the new circuit is completed at Easter. These nights will be based on the Karting for Buttons schemes already operating elsewhere allowing school pupils to experience karting at minimal cost.

Circuit Development

The refurbishment of the club house and male toilets is well underway. New results screens inside the club house will be complemented by a new huge LCD screen on the circuit informing drivers of their positions whilst racing. In addition it will enable officials to inform drivers of the reasons why they are receiving warning flags.

The new junior circuit is well on track despite the City of Sunderland being a pain! It will be ready for action by Easter. New junior karts, timing equipment and a building extension for briefing and viewing will all be in place for the opening. We are well aware of the need to keep paddock space available for Tyne & Wear Kart Club (T&WKC) race meetings but it will need help from yourselves. Heavy vehicles will not be able to park on the new tarmac but will be directed to the existing gravel areas. Ground sheets will be required by those using awnings to protect the tarmac from spilled petrol and oil and ground stakes will only be allowed on the gravel. Cars will be directed to the front carparks releasing paddock space for those that need it. This development will encourage new entrants to take up karting boosting grids for the benefit of all concerned.

Winter Series

The last round of the winter series took place last weekend with good entries in all classes. The Prokarts continue to demonstrate superb driving technique with close, clean driving. The Junior World Formula class continues to gain strength as does the newly launched junior Tkm class. This will be separated from WF once the 2008 Championship gets underway with a rolling start for the Tkm's. Once final Championship places have been calculated winners will receive their vouchers through the post for the prize of a free set of tyres. Results are attached to this newsletter.

Owner Driver Testing

As of 2008, we have introduced a standard fee for mid-week testing meaning that those of you using the circuit for a full day's testing can now enjoy this at a lower fee. Saturday testing continues to be available between hire karts races for all classes except cadets, with the aim of introducing testing for cadets from April on the new circuit. Full details of testing fees are available from reception.

Behaviour at Race Meetings

T&WKC and KNE will continue to demand good standards of behaviour from entrants and their families. Following last Sunday's meeting one driver has been sent a Final Warning letter following his rant at Peter and Bill. Any repetition will result in a permanent ban. My advice would be to compare professional football and rugby. Rugby Union has a policy of automatic and immediate punishment for players who argue with the referee. As a consequence standards of behaviour are excellent. Parents need to consider the example they set their own children when they become abusive. T&W Kart Club and KNE reserve the right to refuse entry to our Championship and premises.

KNE and T&WKC Series

Regulations are now available. Please study them for your class so that you are aware of any changes. As a result of problems of availability and costs we will now include Bridgestone wets (YGR) and slicks (YJL) for the Prokart class. If you have any comments regarding the regulations please email ian@kartingnortheast.com to bring them to my attention.

Scrutineering will be improved with T&WKC investing in tyre, fuel and engine measuring tools. No one likes cheats and there is no satisfaction from winning by cheating. While the Clerks and scrutineers do not believe that cheating is a big problem for us we will still raise our efforts to keep cheating to a minimum. Any driver who refuses to allow us to check their kart, tyres or engine (which may mean that we wish to retain the engine for 72 hours) will be excluded from the results.

Race results are made available after each heat during the meeting. As a result of people taking down the data for their own personal use and therefore preventing other drivers viewing the information, we will post all future results on the board beside our briefing room (on circuit side of shop and toilet building).

While Championship class winners will continue to receive free entry vouchers we are introducing a minimum entry requirement for each class. For example if a class has less than 5 entries averaged over the 10 rounds then the first prize of free entry to the following year's Championship will be replaced with a free set of tyres. Free entry vouchers won following the 2007 KNE Championship can be used at either the KNE or T&WKC 2008 Championship meetings. Entry fees remain at £35 for those with their own transponder or £45 for those using our transponders. Transponders are available in the Kart Shop priced at £140 + VAT.

Arks Tests

Peter Knibb will be available on Saturday 26th January for those interested in taking their ARKS test. MSA packs are available from The Kart Shop. Please contact the circuit on the usual number to book.

Dates to Remember

Sunday 3 rd February	First round of the 2008 KNE Championship
Sunday 17 th February	First round of the 2008 T&WKC Championship

