



May 2008 Newsletter

My apologies for the lateness of this newsletter.

Tyne & Wear Kart Club

Changeable conditions made for an interesting day's racing with tyre choice being decisive. With Rowland's eyesight failing he, apparently, misread the fische for Comer engines mistaking a 6 for a zero. As a result he disqualified a Cadet driver. As the driver and parents are well known to us we realised that there was probably some mistake and asked Rowland to check his measurements (with his glasses on). The engine was fine. Sadly one or two drivers were quick to verbally condemn the driver / parent with their comments being overheard by others. Please think before you have a go at others.....in my opinion there is little cheating going on at (our) club level.

Our application to the MSA for recognition for the T & W Kart Club was posted to the MSA immediately after the Autosport Show in January. On 24th April the MSA wrote to me to confirm that they were processing our application. It will apparently take a further 6 weeks assuming no further hiccups. The process takes a further 6 weeks to obtain MSA permits to run meetings i.e. August or September at the earliest. My feeling is that we will now wait until February 2009 before recommencing MSA meetings. I have to say that the refusal of the WLKC director to allow Karting North East to take over WLKC has prevented MSA racing from taking place here at Warden Law throughout 2008.

Two issues have arisen recently at T & W K Club meetings. A kart started practice last Sunday without being scrutineered. The brake disc came loose in practice causing the driver to lose control. Obviously it makes sense to follow the correct procedure and scrutineer before going onto the circuit. The system works if you follow it! The other point is the confusion that arose last month with a back marker who slowed so much that those overtaking him were unsure what to do once a yellow flag was waved. My logic is that the back marker was no longer at (his) racing speed so it was acceptable for him to be passed despite the waved yellow. Clearly interpretation by the officials on the circuit is always going to be the decision on the day but I would hope that, in future, the marshals and clerk would see it this way.

The **Tyro class** (so named by the MSA) is raced on the third Sunday each month. It is intended to allow those thinking of buying a kart to race in hire karts with all equipment provided. It has got off to a great start being fully booked two weeks before the date. So if you are interested the minimum age is 17, the cost is £60 per kart, and you must have had previous karting experience at the circuit.

The **Comer class** is slowly growing with some first class racing. There is a £1,000 first prize up for grabs at the end of the season so please encourage other Comers that you know to come and boost the grid. Anton is always ready to assist with new entrants to the Comer class. One of Anton's protégés whose engines Anton looks after took 3rd place at PF International last Sunday.

Karting North East Championship

Congratulations to Driver of the Day Ben Dickson (Biland).....last month he was in trouble with the Clerks....this month Ben was clean and precise when overtaking without contact to win the Biland class and pass most of the Senior Max. Surprisingly the class with, arguably, the best standard of driving over a season received the most warning flags last month. The **Prokarts and World Formula (senior)** need to get back to the normal high standard of driving to avoid damage and possible injury.

Tkm continues to be a success with several drivers all neck and neck for the Championship. Remember to take into account dropped rounds when studying the Championship positions. Be aware of the tyre rules and also the restriction on the rear sprocket. It is now a max of 83 teeth for the summer months. While we have allowed any chassis this year to launch the class we will be introducing the complete Tkm regulations from Jan 2009. These rules only allow a two bearing chassis complete with a 30 mm axles. For a complete explanation of the regulations talk to Anton.

The School holidays are coming up soon – Emma has suggested we offer a pass where drivers who intend doing a lot of testing can buy a pass to keep costs down. A weekly pass at £50 or a monthly pass at £120 are the figures we have in mind. As ever your feedback is welcome.

Great North Air Ambulance

On Sunday 25th May (this Sunday) we are hosting a fund raising event for the air ambulance. They provide an invaluable service to both karters who suffer injury on the circuit and to all of us who may be involved in a serious road traffic accident. As some of you may know we had a head on collision last October which resulted in two unconscious drivers on the circuit. The crew are excellent with a doctor and paramedic on board which was hugely reassuring when they arrived. If anyone would like to enter a team or provide a donation please speak to Margo for further details. Incidentally KNE is sponsoring a Northern Ladies team into this event who I fancy will do well.

Finally we are in the middle of a programme of work to improve the circuit run off areas. Some additional tyre stacks are on the track edge for about a month. This should allow the seeds and turf to get established. My apologies if it causes a problem.

Dates to Remember

- Sunday 25th May – Exclusive o/d testing 8am to 2pm (followed by charity event)
- Monday 26th May – Bank holiday Monday. Open for testing between hire karts from 9am.
- Sunday 1st June – KNE Championship Round
- Sunday 8th June – Exclusive o/d testing 8am to 2pm
- Sunday 15th June – Tyne & Wear Kart Club Championship Round

