

November Meeting

Once again a fabulous turn out with just over 100 entries evenly spread across the classes. Bill and Peter did a great job as ever running the meeting which passed off without incident. They chose Chris Bancroft in Prokarts as their Driver of the Day. Chris has been racing for a number of years and he did particularly well finishing third in the final last Sunday. I suspect that Jim White also deserves a mention as he has worked with Chris for several years preparing the kart and offering advice.

Winter series.

A 3 round series will be held on Sunday 7th & 28th December then the 18th January 2009 with the regulations being the same as the 2009 regs. As a result of changes in the regs I hope that we attract a few more direct drive Tkms, a few more Prokarts in the Clubman class whilst keeping up the entries in the other classes. A set of tyres will be up for grabs for the series winner in each class.

Final Championship points

The above should be attached to this newsletter. Please study them carefully and speak to Emma re any mistakes or discrepancies before the 20th November. Please remember that we cannot discuss queries that relate to the early rounds as our memories are not that good. We need to be certain that we have got the points correct so that we can get the shields and trophies engraved prior to the Presentation night. Just to remind last year's Championship winners we do need the shields back as soon as possible. The trophies are yours to keep.

Presentation Night

Margo is in the process of finalising the Presentation night which will be early in January 2009. It is likely to be at a venue in the Durham area close to the A1. She will be in touch with the top three drivers in each class (to ask if they wish to come) once the positions have been confirmed. Trophies for the KNE Championship will be awarded to the top three drivers in the Cadet Libre, Junior TKM, Junior World Formula, Senior Libre, Biland, Senior World Formula and Prokart classes, together with trophies for the top three Mini Max and Junior Max drivers in the TWKC Championship. In addition we will be introducing a trophy for Novice of the Year and Driver of the Year. All owner drivers and their families are welcome to attend. Tickets will be available soon, with full details available in the next newsletter.

Apologies

The ponding and flooding, which was the result of heavy rain on Friday and Saturday morning, resulted in the full circuit being unusable on the grounds of safety on Saturday night for testing. The problem has been caused by a new drain KNE installed last year to prevent flooding of the Dog Leg. All we have achieved is to move the problem from the Dog Leg to the first corner close to scrutineering. By the time you are reading this newsletter a new drain will be in place taking water away from the circuit and, hopefully, preventing a recurrence of the problem. The long awaited improvements to both the male and female toilets have not been forgotten but keep getting put back (due to unexpected fires etc). They will be done soon.

MSA Racing in 2009

Bob Pope from Langbaugh / Teesside Karting has decided to introduce MSA kart racing at the Middlesbrough circuit on **the third Sunday each month**. Back in the 1980's and early 90's it was a hugely successful karting circuit. Noise complaints from local residents resulted in its closure. It is a wide, fast circuit being a very different drive to Warden Law. I wish Bob every success with this initiative and I hope that he can generate the interest and grids of the 80's. T&W Kart Club will continue to organise its own Championship on the **first Sunday each month which will be non MSA**. Clearly the current format is a success and will continue with very little change (see full notes below).

Congratulations

Paul Hardy has done exceedingly well in Super 1 (Mini Max) this year ending up in fourth place at the end of the season. With a little more luck on one or two occasions over the course of the year he may well have won the series. Another local driver that has done very well is Connor Savage who is the youngest driver at 11 yrs old competing in Super 1 in the junior TKM class. Despite being his first season he achieved a seeded place – no. 15. Anton spends a lot of time working with Alex Gill from York who ended the season in 10th place in Super 1 in the Comer Cadet class. Well done to both of them.

Christmas is Coming!

Why not encourage your work colleagues to come to the circuit as part of your Christmas celebrations? Introduce them to your hobby.....let them see how you spend your weekends! Our reception staff will be delighted to explain the various Christmas Party offers we have available. In addition we will offer free testing to the owner driver who books the event and gets the deposits organised.

The Kart Shop at Warden Law

There is a sheet attached to this newsletter with the shop's offers. The only comment I would make is that kart clothing should not be left until the last minute as the importers last year struggled to meet our requests for deliveries in the last few weeks before Christmas.

Karting North East Championship

Changes that have been requested will be trialled in the 3 meetings scheduled for December and January. They include **rolling starts** for all classes overcoming carb problems for Cadets, allowing direct drive Tkms to take part in the KNE Championship and overcoming clutch failure problems for Rotax drivers. KNE will use Timed Qualifying to determine the start position for the first heat only then use finishing positions to determine start for the next heat and final.

KNE have commissioned a report on Health & Safety matters relating to owner driver racing to be undertaken on the 28th December 2008. As KNE will not be applying for an MSA Track licence for 2009 we have employed an international consultant whose credentials are recognized within the U.K. karting industry to advise KNE on safe practice at race meetings. By having an independent report based on a visit to one of our race meetings which confirms that the format and procedures used are safe gives KNE some protection from possible claims following an accident.

The three winter series meetings will use 3 different circuit layouts.

- 7th December - no Dunlop chicane but including the chicane in front of the grid.
- 28th December - usual circuit as used throughout the year.
- 18th January - no Horseshoe but including front chicane.

The current classes will continue being Open Cadet, Junior Tkm, Junior Max, Open 2 stroke Senior, Biland (on the same grid but starting well back), World Formula (one class, one weight being 165 kg?) and Prokart. The Prokarts will be run as one race but will be split into Elite and Clubman (how about 175 kg for Elite drivers and 185 kg for Clubman?). Your feedback to finalise the above class weights would be appreciated. Please email your thoughts to ian@kartingnortheast.com. Tkm will be open to clutched and direct drive engines with similar regulations to this year. I see this class as the lower speed alternative to Junior Max at KNE for those either entering the sport or moving up from Cadet. I see little future for Mini Max nationally particularly with the introduction of the KF3 engines. However if Mini Max drivers wish to race they will start off the back of the juniors as we did in the last round of the 2008 series. The Open Senior class will be dominated by Rotax but there is still a place for lame power units. Likewise Bilands are welcome along with the Swiss Auto we saw last month.

KNE are likely to drop the hour of practice at the start of the day, shorten the circuit on the warm up lap and do away with standing starts which should ensure a finish around 4pm. Saturday evening practice will continue to take place once KNE hire karts have finished. As ever feed back is needed and appreciated. Costs are to remain the same as 2008 i.e. £35 (your transponder) & £45 (KNE txp). A Driver of the Day trophy will be awarded but the Veterans Trophy has been dropped as we are introducing an additional class within the Prokart grid.

Dates to Remember

Sunday 9th, 23rd & 30th November
Sunday 7th December

Exclusive Owner Driver testing from 8am to 2pm
First round of Winter Series



