



February 2008 Newsletter

T & W Kart Club Championship

The first round of the Tyne & Wear Kart Club Championship will take place on Sunday 17th February, and is open to Comer Cadets, Mini, Junior and Senior Max. The championship is being sponsored by KNE with £1000 first place prize for the comer class (provided an average minimum entry of 10 karts take part). The Kart Club is in the process of applying for MSA recognition, however the championship for 2008 will not require a race license. Simply turn up on the day and race.

Karting NE Championship

Last Sunday's meeting was a great start to the season despite the weather. While the forecasts inevitably put those off who travel from further afield the turnout was excellent in the circumstances.

The small Cadet grid is an area of concern. However KNE's efforts will benefit the Cadet grid with school visits underway with the aim of generating more interest in karting from 8 – 10 year olds. The new junior circuit is on target for an Easter opening allowing far more time for young drivers to get a taste of kart racing. If your son / daughter attends a school which may welcome a visit (which will demo karts and include a DVD presentation) and where children will receive cut price tickets for karting please let us know the contact name and details of the school.

The Tkm class got off to a tremendous start being the second largest grid of the day. I am aware of two or three more Tkm's which will be present in March. My apologies for the problems with the starts. It is clear that each karter needs his own starter as we must avoid oiling up the engines of those karts that are running when karts that fail to start need to be left on the grid. Having discussed the starts we will return to standing starts only. No direct drive karts will be allowed to take part as accommodating them interfered with the clutched engine karts. KNE will continue with an 84 tooth rear sprocket for March and April dropping to 83 teeth in May. We may introduce control over the use of wet tyres as prolonged use of wets (in drying conditions) becomes expensive and undermines the restricted use of only 2 sets of slicks. Any feedback on this class would be appreciated to ian@kartingnortheast.com.

Junior World Formula is looking good as are the Prokart grids. Congratulations to Sam Lane (junior WF) for winning the driver of the day chosen by Bill Routledge. The combined Senior 2 stroke class worked well with some very competitive racing. Harry Cramer was back to his normal cheerful self on Monday following his high speed incident on the main straight when leading Senior Max.

Race Result Info

You can now view all your race statistics for the 2008 championships on www.karting.co.uk. Simply follow the links to the results pages to see data for all the heats and finals, plus a breakdown of each driver's performance throughout the day. We hope that the investment we have made in the new timing software and monitors, enabling you to view more in depth race information following the event, will be of use to all owner drivers. In addition, a huge circuit side display screen will be installed shortly near the end of the straight, which will display data for drivers during each race.

Scrutineering

Following gossip in the paddock regarding a Cadet engine I asked the scrutineer to strip it completely so that all measurements could be checked. 28 separate measurements were taken including bore and stroke, gasket thickness, valve inlets etc etc. Everything was as it should be. The exercise demonstrates two things being:

- a. The MSA ask for a protest fee of £120 from the person asking for the check to be done with that person losing the protest fee if everything is as it should be! Maybe they have a point as sadly the cost of a rebuild is not paid by the person who complained last Sunday.
- b. Drivers at the front deserve credit for their dedication and attention to detail. Practice, testing and kart preparation have all been a big part of the success I have seen at Warden Law over the years by successful drivers.

As mentioned in last month's newsletter, checks will be made during race days to ensure all drivers are competing in line with the Tyne & Wear Kart Club regulations. Fuel samples were taken during the first KNE Championship round with all found to be legitimate.

Shop Opening Hours

Anton has now received his GP's blessing to return to work on a restricted basis i.e. 4 hours a day. We are delighted to have him back as staffing the shop has been a nightmare for the last three months where our service has been less than perfect. The shop is now open mid-week from 12pm except on a Tuesday, with late night opening on Mondays and Thursdays. In addition, the shop will be available every weekend offering on site support and advice.

Monday	- Noon till 7 pm	Tuesday – Closed	Wednesday	- Noon till 4pm
Thursday	- Noon till 7 pm		Friday	- Noon till 4 pm
Saturday	- 9 am till 5 pm		Sunday	- 8 am till 5 pm

Next Race Dates

Sunday 17 th February	T&W Kart Club Championship – 1 st Round
Sunday 2 nd March	KNE Championship – 2 nd Round

Next Exclusive Practice Dates

Sunday 10th and 24th February, from 8am to 12pm

As always, testing is available between hire kart session mid-week to all drivers and on Saturdays to all except cadets.

