



NEWS

March 2012

Chairman – Russell Anderson, Unit 2/3, Sterling Ind Est, Carwood, Castleford, WF10 4PS

Secretary - Graham Smith:

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The March Steering Group Meeting – CIK Update

The March steering group meeting was arranged after the Kart Sporting sub-committee and Kart Technical group but before the MSA Kart Committee so that the group could give their valued advice to the members of that committee. Chairman Russell Anderson started by giving an update on CIK matters, such as the plan to drop the maximum speed during the start phase; not giving exclusions for such as underweight, merely last in results; eliminating the CIK soft tyre from 2013 so that KZ2 would use a hard tyre and KZ1 a medium; and having single file restarts like the UK after a red flag instead of a two part race. He concluded by saying Vincent Caro would be greatly missed as he leaves his post of CIK General Secretary for a new posting in the FIA. He noted that Monaco and Luxembourg have obtained waivers for their youngest drivers to race in France.

Kart Committee / Championships / Tyre Contracts

For Kart Committee Russell Anderson reported that Kart Sporting have dropped the earlier requirement to only allow a maximum of 30 drivers on a championship grid, thanks to all the letters they received during the consultation period. It was agreed that MSA definitions of a ‘championship round’ was needed, to supplement ‘event’ and ‘meeting’ and that has been actioned but definitions are needed. Russell Anderson was given approval to set up a small sub-committee to move forward with the ABkC part in the new championship tendering, following further discussions with the MSA on the subject. Similarly Graham Smith was tasked with setting up a sub-group to deal with new tyre contracts where bar-codes are being required on slicks at any rate to help championships control tyre issue and useage, and maybe in future at club level also. RFID chips have also been considered by the CIK but the system is reported as being very expensive compared to bar-coding.



Podium at BSKC Finals, supported by ABkC & ARKS

Sub-Group reports

Mike Coombs was re-elected the vice-chairman of the group, and leads the Gearbox sub-group whereas Nigel Edwards

leads the direct drive class sub-group and Steve Clayton the club issues. The KartMania TKM 4-stroke championship was given permission to be the ABkC official championship and issue the seeded numbers to be recognised by all clubs. This is NOT the case for the Kartmania Honda Senior series, and clubs must note that only ABkC seeded numbers are allowed at club meetings, not those from KartMania. They will have the opportunity to bid for the Super Two for next year.

Mike Coombs will be holding a meeting of gearbox interested parties to discuss a framework for the introduction of new engines in the 250 National class. The direct drive group turned down a request to use the plastic rear bumpers on Honda senior and junior, where a much stronger rear bumper is currently specified. The club group will work on issuing a criteria for the 2013 ABkC O Plate meetings, to be ratified and publicised at the next meeting.

Shows & Publicity



ABkC Stand at the 2012 Autosport Show

ABkC have re-booked a stand at the 2013 Autosport Show and plans to be on hand at the BSKC final on 1st April, being of course a British Schools Karting Championship partner. ‘Come Karting’ DVD’s and 2012 Start Karting leaflets are available to clubs now and authority was given to produce a large quantity of fliers for clubs to put in local hotels, advertising their local meetings. Club grants will soon be available and applications will likely follow the same type of form used by the MSA. If any club has ideas on this subject please contact the secretary. The BKIA and Super One both reported that team insurance packages will soon be publicised, so that no commercial team can plead it is too difficult to find suitable public liability insurance cover for attending meetings. Clubs are still urged to continue asking teams visiting their tracks to complete the form confirming they

do have insurance. Perhaps by next year this could become compulsory..

Funding & Stats

Licence statistics for 2011 were reported as being 606 new drivers out of a total of 4520 kart licences issued, compared with 4609 in 2010. A World Formula prize fund has been started, thanks to RPM, and a grant was given to Ulster Kart Club from it.

On-line Entries for club websites

Peter Snape gave a presentation on the on-line entry and membership system he developed for Super One, which is now on offer to all clubs for a modest fee. So far three clubs have confirmed, and funds are already flowing into clubs running Super One events this year. An admin fee is added to cover the PayPal costs so the club receives exactly the same amount if paid by cheque, and practice fees etc can also be paid this way. Clubs have been sent an email with details.

MSA Matters

The MSA representative noted that an RPS rear bumper from Freeline has now been approved by the MSA for use in Cadet and Super Cadet. There was a discussion about the merits or otherwise on allowing Bambino racing in the future, and noted that the MSA will be introducing a mandatory restrictor and sprocket size on the Comer C50 class regulations in the near future. The use of axle tethers is being studied as a short term solution to keeping wheels under control when axles break, although in the longer term the CIK is considering homologated axles or thicker axles. The CIK has issued an immediate regulation on positioning of batteries – beside or behind the seat only – and only allowing certain types of batteries marked EC & ROHS. This is because of the fear of fire adjacent to fuel tanks. The MSA will need to consider if this is to be introduced in the non-CIK classes. Proposals for reducing the minimum age of seniors, and maximum age of juniors is being considered to align with CIK rules and give a boost to the senior classes, and if ratified would go out for consultation, but no changes are likely until 2014 now. It is not likely to happen for gearbox classes though. Driving standards, the new MSA penalty sheet and the continuation of not awarding points for driving penalties came in for a long discussion with mixed feelings but a general conclusion that Clerks should have more discretion, and to include the awarding of penalty points when deemed appropriate.

Championship Reports

Super One reported a 5% increase in registrations, and said their new website is getting a huge number of hits. For the Rotax/Honda series bar-coding will be used for tyres, passes, chassis and engine seals. Formula Kart Stars also has a new website with Facebook and Twitter feeds and announced a stupendous prize for 20 senior Max drivers of an all-expenses trip to Nassau in the Bahamas to commemorate the first World Championship in 1960/61. Also Channel 4 TV will be following some of the Cadets this year for a programme to be aired in September. James Kelleit was congratulated on his KF3 O Plate win, the first of those for 2012. Sadly no KF2 O Plate was run, the Winter Cup getting disappointing entries and the last round cancelled. Cumbria Kart Club have obtained the rights to the short circuit gearbox GP plates which will be televised and run during their big O Plate meeting on the 3/4th June. Peter Catt was welcomed as the new BKIA chairman and administrator, he said his priorities were to finalise the insurance packages then go forward with a recruitment drive. At the BKIA AGM it was again requested that clubs only permit BKIA members as their official traders at race meetings. The next steering group meeting will be held in mid-July.

(Editor Graham Smith, email secretary@abkc.org.uk)