



NEWS

December 2009

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

Secretary - Graham Smith:

“Stoneycroft” Godsons Lane Napton Southam Warks CV47 8LX Tel & Fax 01926 812177

The 2009 Annual General Meeting

By popular demand the 2009 AGM was held at the KartMania show, but the meeting still did not attract more than about 35 attendees, representing 14 clubs out of the total of 31 in membership. This was despite the attractions of the MSA's Joe Hickerton and George Robinson available to answer any questions.

Chairman's Report

In his Chairman's report, Russell Anderson noted that 2009 had been quite a torrid year for the ABkC and karting with many last minute changes in regulations. This has resulted in a firm understanding with BRP Rotax that there will be a 6-month warning of changes (which applies to all the commercial classes). The committee studied very thoroughly the request for a change to Mojo tyres in the Rotax classes but in the end decided it was not in the competitors best interests to have effectively two tyre changes in two years as Mojo will be bringing out a PCA-free tyre for 2011. He said we need to reflect on the difficult financial situation and he congratulated clubs on keeping karting going so well in the circumstances. 2010 could become a pivotal year for the sport, with George Robinson's proposals for the future governance and promised that if necessary he would call an Extraordinary General Meeting to debate them, noting that the ABkC role is to represent the clubs and drivers. He concluded by thanking the committee and said if re-elected he would do his utmost for the good of the sport in 2010.

Secretary's Report

Graham Smith, in his Secretary's report, recapped the role of the ABkC, highlighting the many committees where it had a presence in the governance of the sport and asked clubs and drivers not to hesitate in coming forward with feedback. He thanked the specialist sub-groups, the Direct Drive led by Nigel Edwards, the Gearbox led by Mike Coombs and the Club group led by Sue Fairless. They study any proposals and put forward recommendations for the full steering committee to debate. Then the proposals are circulated to clubs, as well as being publicised on the website and Karting Magazine, usually in July each year so that feedback can be used to modify any regulation changes in September in time for the following year's publications. He highlighted some of the membership benefits:

- The same classes and the same tyres at each club, including tyre deals which result in attractive prizes for drivers



The AGM Top Table (kartpix.net)

From left: Joe Hickerton, Graham Smith, Russell Anderson, Colin Wright, George Robinson

- The top drivers can be recognised by using their seeded numbers everywhere
- The drivers can all enter the national championships, and only one championship is recognised for the seeded numbers
- The benefit of the How to Start Kart racing brochure, and the secretary's contact number and email for assistance
- The organisation which maintains the regulations for the classes, and is the only sponsor or class owner for such as the Honda classes.
- Acting in concert with the commercial class owners for effective agreed regulation change

The 2010 'How to Start Karting' has had a make-over with two extra pages devoted to the BKIA, and has been printed in time for KartMania. Three newsletters were posted during the year, with numerous updates on the website. Clubs have reported membership of 5234 this year, compared with 5163 last year. We have 31 clubs in membership, only the BRDC has not rejoined in its new guise as 'Stars' club. NATSKA and East of Scotland have applied for membership for 2010 as well. He thanked the clubs for their support.

As well as the Rotax issues, the Cadet front fairing, bodywork regulations, crash helmets, Bambino, Super Cadet, discussions on slowing down the Cadet class, aligned age limits for KF3 and Junior Max, KF tyres, KF1 engine regulations, KF Clubman, TKM TAG engines, the TKM new chassis regulations and the proposal for a new TKM slick tyre which has not been independently tested on assurance that it will only be about half a second faster have all been debated. Sadly the premier KZ1 championship did not attract sufficient entries in the FKS series, and was placed with the NKF. The other championships have

maintained good entries despite the recession, especially Cadets and Juniors. Senior karting is an area for concern which is being addressed. Graham's plea to the club representatives is to please read the newsletters, and bring them to the attention of your drivers and committee.



Graham & Ann Smith manning the ABkC Stand

Treasurer's Report

The treasurer Colin Wright circulated the annual accounts, showing an income of £7016, one club less than in 2008 with O Plate meeting income increasing to £2620. We have a reconciled current account balance of £17,468.02 along with a deposit account balance of £21,760.45 giving the Association total funds of £39,228.47. There is £24,690 due to come in, most of which is for the tyre contract prize fund and is passed directly to the leading drivers in prize money, totalling approximately £27,000.

New membership fee structure

The new membership fee structure, to take effect from 2011, was approved by a majority vote, which enlarges the scales so that big clubs pay more, and small clubs less, on a membership basis. An amendment to strike the top tier was rejected on a majority vote.

2010 Steering Group

No election was required for the 2010 Steering Group, with Neil Hann not being nominated this year, and Alistair Parker from South Yorkshire KC taking his place. Nigel Edwards is the Direct Drive representative, Paul Klassen the Cadet technical and Phil Featherstone the Gearbox technical member. Russell Anderson and Graham Smith were re-elected as Chairman and Secretary and the other elected members are Steve Clayton, Mike Coombs, Keiran Crawley, Malcolm Fell, Bob Shipman and Colin Wright. With the formal part of the meeting concluded, the floor was open for Q&A.

The Kart Regional Committee Open Meeting Q&A

The RAFMSA sought a relaxation on the light levels for flood-lit endurance racing, as they normally run a 2-hour endurance race on Saturday nights when they are visiting a club with their championship. Joe Hickerton advised them to put forward a proposal to the MSA, which the ABkC would support.

Trent Valley Kart Club sought increased voting power for representatives of the largest clubs on the steering group. This would require a change in constitution which could only take place at next year's AGM or an EGM. The Cumbrian representative suggested clubs

should be limited in how many members could be nominated for the steering group.

The Clay Pigeon representative asked about the use of the tyre prize fund and whether it would be better employed to help clubs directly. It was explained that all the tyre money goes directly to drivers, none is withheld, and this provides a worthwhile prize structure at very little extra cost, one tyre supplier estimating this at no more than 50p on a tyre.

The TVKC representative asked what could be done financially to help clubs attract more senior drivers. George Robinson said that that MSA karting is in serious decline whilst non-MSA racing is healthy. He said new karts have nearly doubled in price since 2006 and the principal issue is reducing costs and barriers in MSA racing. The Secretary said that proposals for using some of the ABkC funds will always be seriously considered by the steering group. Others suggested using funds for continuing Lets Go Karting if and when the MSA funds ran out, and also suggested encouraging more prokart racing. The Chairman thought that prokart drivers cannot easily be given the number of laps they like within normal club meetings. He also asked if clubs are getting enough communications from the ABkC, and another present said some of the clubs present at the show have not even sent along a representative to the this meeting. The Clay Pigeon representative highlighted their club's efforts in taking karting to the high street with worthwhile results and it was noted that Cumbria now have added senior karts for their taster sessions. Their representative was disappointed that their new MSA regional representative has no apparent interest in promoting karting. The NATSKA reps felt that haven't got a good record of forging links with local clubs and this is something that could be addressed. Concern was expressed at how the Bambino class was developing with telemetry, tuned engines, one to one karting coaches employed and so on when it should be fun. Joe Hickerton said that karts and engines will have to be registered with the MSA and if engines are deemed too powerful they will be restricted. The Chairman noted that in Italy the Delfino Bambino karts are used in playgrounds to teach the elements of road driving.



The new Super One Series stand at Kartmania

(Images courtesy TSR Productions & kartpix.net)
(Editor Graham Smith, email secretary@abkc.org.uk)