

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of ABkC held at Donington Park Farmhouse Hotel on 9/12/14

- 1. Present:** Colin Wright (Chairman) –clubs present – Buckmore Park, Cumbria, Forest Edge, FP4K, Hunts, Lincs, Llandow, Rissington, Shenington, Trent Valley, Whilton Mill (11 clubs)
Apologies: Roger Sheffield, Steve Clayton, Cheryl Lynch, John Ryan, Keiran Crawley, Stephen Tosh, Kelvin Nicholls, Peter Catt, Mike Stackhouse, Eddie Davies, Tracey Davies, Duncan Masters, Kevin Meynell, Chris Pullman
- 2. Minutes of 2013 AGM:** The minutes were proposed by Nigel Edwards and seconded by Malcolm Fell. All in favour. There were no matters arising.
- 3. Chairman's Report:** In his annual report Colin Wright said that 2014 had been a somewhat difficult year with smaller clubs struggling to maintain profitability and more clubs expected to host IKR racing, where more seniors seem to race. He believed the ABkC should formulate a framework for IKR racing. He noted that our fantastic sport is becoming more of a children's activity and he would continue to press the MSA for relaxation on medicals before we see more circuits lost to MSA racing. He noted that Juniors held up well and gearbox is looking good for a bright future. He thought the trial of the International Steward system was a positive note. The most important thing is to bring in more participants, re-invigorate the O Plates to benefit smaller clubs. Investigations have shown that Royal Mail could target key cities by demographics for probably £500 per club. But first we need to lower entry costs to the sport, have less classes, protect drivers from commercial pressures and bring in our Drivers Association. Those round the table here have all the skills to advance these ideas. We also need to look into licencing mechanics and teams and give them value for their expertise. The MSA has a key role to play in all of those. Drivers have many choices for their karting between MSA, IKR, F100 and Historic racing.
- 4. Secretary's Report:** In his Secretary's report Graham Smith said we had 29 clubs in membership this year compared with 30 the previous year, but two new clubs have just joined – Whilton Mill rejoining and the newly MSA affiliated FP4k a brand new member. We thank the clubs for their support of the ABkC. The clubs reported a total membership of 4436 very similar to the 4489 in 2013 and licences are going to be very similar at 3900 compared with 3986 in 2013, but participation is increased and so is the number of permits issued. Pack sales are inevitably down significantly presumably because of the higher price. In his view the ABkC should be all about encouraging affordable karting, not racing for millionaires children, and to that end we had some success in encouraging the MSA to reduce the Start Karting price to £60 including the cost of one or two licences, and ARKS doing their part by reducing the test fee to £50 for 2015. We are also working with the MSA to re-launch Tyro, or Clubman racing as it is now called with no medical or ARKS test required. We have issued five newsletters throughout 2014 to keep the clubs informed of developments and proposals, also printed in the magazines. We returned to KartMania with ARKS and the MSA where we were kept very busy and will be at Autosport again. Smith said he has also project managed the new and very successful website which is getting three requests per day for brochures and DVDs every single day, that's 1000 potential new karters per annum. The new Start Karting brochure has been printed with less emphasis on karting being a route to Formula 1, for which we had some criticism. The club development fund allocated £1815 in 2014, so there will be about £5500 available for 2014/5
- 5. Treasurers Report:** Graham Smith also gave the Treasurer's Report and distributed the audited accounts through to 31 October. The tyre income for prize funds straddles accounting periods so the 2014 accounts show income at £45519.35 (£19449.30 in 2013) and expenses at £30905.23 (£29255.50 in 2013) so a profit of £14614.12 (compared with a loss of £9806.20 in 2013). It varies depending when the tyre funds are paid in. So stripping out tyre prize funding the loss on the year is £443.68 compared with a loss of £693.40 in the previous year. The cheque account stood at £24337.23 and the deposit account at £21869.43 at 31st October. The prize fund is lower due to the demise of Max 177 in the Super One. In answer to a question regarding the increase in 'Misc' it was explained this included income from O Plate fees and expenditure from the former chairman's gift, the purchase of Honda restrictors for S1, the Go To Meeting online subscription, some trophy repairs and MSA renewal fee.
The adoption of the accounts was proposed by Shenington and seconded by Cumbria with all in favour.
- 6. Nominations for 2015 Steering Group:**
The nominations for the 2015 Steering Group Chairman are:, Nigel Edwards and Colin Wright, therefore a vote is required for Chairman, each nominee gave a short presentation prior to the vote being taken which showed Colin Wright as the successful candidate.

Nominations for the following posts were as Secretary: Graham Smith; Direct Drive Technical: Keiran Crawley; Cadet Technical: Paul Klaassen; Gearbox Tech: Phil Featherstone are all unopposed, no vote was required.

For the seven general places there were ten nominations: Martin Bean (TVKC); Grahame Butterworth (Hunts); Darren Clarke (Whilton Mill); Steve Clayton (South Yorks); Rob Dodds (Forest Edge); Nigel Edwards (TVKC); Malcolm Fell (Cumbria); Colin Lipscomb (Llandow); Kelvin Nichols (Buckmore); Following the count Martin Bean, Grahame Butterworth and Darren Clarke were unsuccessful, the others duly elected.

The formal meeting closed and an informal Q&A commenced.

Informal Q&A – chaired by Colin Wright

- 1. Go To Meeting** – Colin Wright has purchased on behalf of the Association the 'Go To Meeting' application so that steering group members can have on line meetings. He said it is available to all clubs if they wish to use it.
- 2. ABkC Drivers Association** - John Pike gave a run down on his Drivers Association feedback, the drivers mainly concerned with contact driving and Honda engine regulations. He is about to complete a new website for the Drivers and envisages every club having a nominated driver representative to feed back views to him. The new CIK drooping front fairing is not finding favour amongst drivers, neither is the discrepancy between large budget teams and club drivers. He

investigated why drivers choose IKR and it seems mainly due to entry costs and the cost of tyres. It was agreed that the Steering Group would put forward an amendment to the Constitution so the Drivers Representative would be a voicing member of the Steering Group. **Action Graham Smith**

3. **Competitors as Customers** - A club representative felt that competitors were not being treated properly as customers, he queried whether Clerks of the Course were trained in customer relations. He thought the ABkC should run its own seminars. It was noted that the MSA is planning 'anger management' modules at the 2015 seminars for Scrutineers. Another thought it was too easy for someone to call themselves a 'team', did they have insurance or DBS checks. It was said that Seniors have so much more choice of leisure activities these days. It was considered that the Constitution could be changed to give voting rights to a Drivers Association representative. Some were sceptical of the MSA Clerk's training seminars, concentrating on the wrong things.
4. **Marketing of the ABkC** - The Chairman felt we should be spending more of our money on this subject. Another added most people don't perceive karting as a professional sport until they get involved. Some clubs have tried mail shots to schools but get an adverse reaction from Mums who perceive motorsport as dangerous, yet will allow their children to play rugby for instance. It was thought demonstrations of fast karts at the Schools and University championships might help. It was noted that the MSA is again behind on the use of the IAME funds for Cadet promotion. Other ideas put forward were for promotion to older persons, short videos for each age group, safe driving using Bambino karts at schools or tracks, facebook promotions, employment of a social media professional.
5. **Representation on the Steering Group** – Debbie Sellers for Whilton Mill said she thought that every member club ought to have the right to have a representative on the Steering Group. She complained that two of the biggest clubs were excluded from the Steering Group because their nominations were unsuccessful in the earlier vote. The Chairman replied that we could not possibly have another 20 – 30 people potentially round the table. Russell Anderson said that Whilton Mill could always propose a change to the Constitution and another suggested the unsuccessful nominee could be co-opted to the group.
6. **Register of Teams and Traders** - Noting that the MSA are discussing more use of team entrant licences and that the BKIA seem to be less engaged, it was mooted that the ABkC should licence mechanics. Parents seem to entrust their children to team personnel who are probably not DBS checked. Team managers and mechanics should be made accountable for their actions so there was a large majority in favour of licencing mechanics. The ABkC could be a DBS issuing authority and could source insurance cover for the mechanics. John Hoyle was concerned about the ABkC potentially taking on a legal responsibility for their competence and if something goes wrong. It was agreed to form a sub group to investigate and Colin would look into insurance and DBS authority. **Action Colin Wright**. Also Nigel Edwards agreed to ensure the compulsory Entrants Licence for teams was on the next Kart Committee agenda. **Action Nigel Edwards**
7. **Senior Clubman Racing** – It was proposed that the ABkC offer to pay 50% of new senior (over 16) Clubman /Tyro) licences if the MSA would cover the other half. New guidelines and draft generic clubman regulations have been drafted in conjunction with the MSA. The proposal was agreed for the steering group to progress. **Action Nigel Edwards**
8. **Organising Body for IKR** - The RAFMSA asked if there could be an organising body for IKR racing that had similar authority to the ABkC and MSA and would be recognised by the forces. The ABkC did not know of any such plans.
9. **Code of Practice for Families and Teams** – Dragon Kart Club complained bitterly about how families treat the facilities at kart circuits eg leaving rubbish, not picking up dog fouling, abusing the toilets by putting even tin cans down, leaving tyres behind and bad behaviour in local hotels and hostels. Some felt the arrogance comes from teams, others said the clubs could charge a deposit, refundable on leaving a clean pit area.
10. **Decisions of Official** - Llandow asked if the ABkC could produce a leaflet for competitors to explain how to put forward a protest or appeal. It was pointed out that if information was incorrect or misinterpreted it could be fraught with difficulty and therefore there was no support to proceed.
11. **Kartmania**- Martin Capenhurst said most comments from this year's show were favourable but partly due to the lack of support from the largest trade companies (quoting Tal-Ko, IAME, Dartford and Easykart as examples), teams and promoters it is hard to continue and to give clubs free stands. At the moment he subsidises the free stands for clubs which cost him £300 each. The income for the traders that attend is £24k and the cost of the show is over £28k. One of the traders who did attend was critical of the lack of support by the BKIA. It was agreed to consider at the Steering Group Meeting. **Action Colin Wright**.

The meeting ended with Chairman thanking everyone for their attendance and for voting for him.