

Benefits of ABkC Membership

The Association of British Kart Clubs (ABkC) was formed in 1990 to act as an interface between kart clubs and the sports governing body, the MSA, with whom there is a high degree of discussion and co-operation. The clubs are represented by a Steering Group which is elected each year during the ABkC AGM which is held in the Autumn, from nominations by the member clubs, each has two votes. The Steering Group comprises elected members from clubs, representing direct-drive or gearbox interests as well as specialist technical representatives, Chairman and Secretary. The Treasurer is elected by the Steering Group at its first meeting. All ABkC and British championship organisers, other sub-regional kart associations and ABkC affiliated class administrators or co-ordinators also have a seat on the steering group, most have one vote, some observer status only. This body fairly represents the whole cross-section of sprint kart racing in the U.K. and through the clubs, the competing drivers.

The class and meeting regulations are contained in the MSA Kart Race Yearbook and referred to as ABkC affiliations and/or ABkC rules which represent the class structure being used by the Association in its direct drive and gearbox national championships. All clubs affiliated to ABkC have agreed to use these regulations for their race meetings. Without this co-operation it would be impossible for drivers to move from club to club during the racing season and find the same race classes.

To summarise, the benefits of membership include:

- An input to the MSA and ABkC regulations, with a strong and recognised representation to the MSA. Close co-operation in drafting the MSA Kart Race Yearbook regulations.
- Common regulations and tyre choice throughout the U.K. for all the popular classes avoiding damaging regional or local vested interests.
- 'Owner' of the Honda Cadet class with the help of the Honda Cadet group and its representative on the Steering Group, managing the regulations. 'Class owner' of the KZ UK and 250 National classes, Honda Junior / Senior, World Formula, helps with 210.
- Recognition by the MSA that ABkC represents karting in the U.K. through membership of the Regional Committee alongside other disciplines and Regional Associations.
- Club members have the opportunity to enter the ABkC National Championships held within the Super 1 or Super 4 and the annual 'O' Plate meetings, offering recognised cherished number-plates.
- Clubs having the opportunity to bid to hold ABkC national championship meetings, O Plates, Super 1 or Super 4 rounds.
- Member drivers knowing their seeded numbers will be recognised (now enshrined in the MSA Regulations)
- Regular newsletters offering advice, seeking comment on proposals, giving early warning of changes in regulations to pass on to their own members and seeking feedback from clubs.
- Annually updated publication of a Start Karting colour brochure to give to potential new members, with advice on classes and how to get started.
- Provision to clubs of a brochure to promote karting for distribution to local hotels and tourist information centres.
- Advice and help to clubs from expert sources. Occasional financial assistance and opportunity to apply for club development grants (usually up to a maximum of £500). The top up for the Development Fund comes with support from affiliated class owners like Tal-Ko and JAG.
- Seminars to assist in training Clerks, Scrutineers, Timekeepers etc
- Purchase and loan to clubs or championships of expensive scrutineering equipment, arrangements for preferential purchasing of scrutineering tools.
- A website full of information on current matters, and present and past seeded drivers and champions, and a Facebook page for immediate dissemination of information.