

Minutes of the 2021 Association of British Kart Club Annual General Meeting

Held by Zoom digitally on 2nd March 2022

1 Apologies: Duncan Masters (RAFMSA), Russell Anderson, Julie Dredge (Risssington), Christian Tanner (Total Kart Zero), George Robinson, John Vigor (Club100), Donna Peat (South Yorks)

Present: Lauryn Carter (Whilton Mill), Chris Hilder (Lydd), Grahame Butterworth (Hunts), Steve Chapman (Tyro), Ian Ward (Bayford Meadows), Jim Thornsby (Fulbeck), Paul Bainbridge (Warden Law), Marion Fell (Cumbria), Lesley Allen (Shenington), Paul Sirett (NatSKA), Gary Preece (BHKC), Njal Lovell (Mansell), Bryan Murtagh (Ulster), Carol Blanchard (North of Scotland), Steve Clayton (F100), Rob Teague (FP4), Daniel Stirling (West of Scotland), Nigel Edwards (TVKC), Graham Smith (Shenington). Rob Dodds (Forest Edge) joined later. 18 clubs present.

In attendance: Dan Parker, Motorsport UK Karting Manager

2 Chairman's Address:

Nigel Edwards said it had been a difficult year in 2021 but karting now seemed to be flourishing in general, and having 30 clubs in membership is very strong. ABKC has the strength of one voice to Motorsport UK, which helps when we negotiate with them. We are given a membership of Kart Technical working group and Kart Committee and have our place at Regional as full members. There is a Kart Council meeting in March, maybe a source of duplication with us here. We look to make more progress with Teamsport graduations and are looking to progress our sustainability aspirations. Please all make use of our ABKC Facebook. Between us all we have great experience. We seem to be stable for 2022 and look to have a discussion about Kartmania later.

3 Approval of the 2020 AGM Minutes

Proposed by Shenington and seconded by Hunts all approved.

4 Secretary Report

Graham Smith said we had 30 clubs in membership and another expected soon. We have commissioned a new website.

5 Treasurer Report

The accounts were prepared by Ann Smith, and all approved with no comments. Graham Smith said we still posted out start karting brochures on request, which used significant postage cost, but this would likely stop when the new website goes live. There is £544.80 in the club development fund which does not include the £2500 loan to Kartmania for their Silverstone deposit, and we had £22416.92 at 31 October.

6 Nominations for Steering Group

Nominations received are Nigel Edwards for Chair, Graham Smith for Secretary and for the other members Grahame Butterworth (later appointed Operations Manager), Rob Dodds, Paul Skipp, Jim Thornsby so no vote was required. Nigel Edwards, on behalf of all, thanked the retiring Malcolm Fell for his expert and valued input over many years.

7 Resolutions

There were no formal resolutions put forward by clubs.

Once the formal meeting was over, there was an open Q&A

- a) Nigel asked for a quick round up from the clubs: The majority were very positive with two exceptions of Cumbria and Mansell, both struggling for Motorsport UK entries. The biggest and most critical problem was the lack of officials, especially scrutineers but also Clerks. At least one complained there were too many classes. Several reported an increase in IKR

numbers, and some difficulties with getting responses from Motorsport UK which Dan Parker said he would look into. Steve Chapman announced his retirement from his Tyro business, handing it over to another. Grahame Butterworth said he was disappointed with the lack of progress by Motorsport UK in controlling the explosion of IKR. Some welcomed the opportunity of the practice day permit. There is a demand for taster sessions like Lets Go Karting.

- b) Class Restructuring: Dan Parker said it is all on course for 2023, the biggest change being the introduction of the 950 chassis for Cadets and the introduction of the Inter class.
- c) Future of Scrutineering Trial: The default for 2022 is for full safety scrutineering but several clubs have had approval for trials to do only 25% of their entry (which must include all novices and Bambinos), and file a report on any defects to the Steward. More formal details soon and Dan Parker thanked the clubs that offered the trials.
- d) Clubman grass roots permit grade: This would enable slightly different and relaxed rules for running a race meeting with ARKS devolved to the clubs for their member only entrants. It is hoped to start trials on April.
- e) Sustainability: Grahame Butterworth said he is asking for volunteer champions to join a small working group to progress this project. It was noted that the FIA has announced changes in fuel for 2023.
- f) Kartmania: There was disappointment in the lack of support by the trade and class / tyre importers. Maybe the new Silverstone kart circuit will help to attract visitors in 2022. Some thought the layout didn't portray Motorsport UK very well, and thought IKR should all be in a separate hall. It was thought in general we were preaching to the converted, not that many newcomers. It was suggested that for instance Teamsport could offer money off vouchers to get people started. One club thought that ABKC should support IKR clubs. (It is noted that the Motorsport UK regulations do not permit this).
- g) Tyre Recycling and Re-use: After a survey of venues which showed an average spend of £2800 p.a. on tyre disposal there is a desire for a central system and a trial is planned for the British Kart Championship this year. Next Motorsport UK is planning a survey on the use of barcoding and the use of Alpha or other systems. Dan Parker noted there is a new Head of Sustainability at Motorsport UK who will make a presentation at Kart Council.
- h) Recruitment of Officials: Nigel Edwards said it is clear this is an emergency situation. Dan Parker said Motorsport UK is also short of Stewards. He promised to arrange a meeting to discuss and said the proposed Clubman grade would help. It was noted that whilst in other disciplines no fees are paid (except to scrutineers?), in karting marshals typically get £60 expenses and other officials more. It was said that one of the main difficulties is the training time is predicated around other disciplines whereas kart racing runs more often and has more racing, so there should be a faster track system for completion of training. Dan Parker said the Clerk and Scrutineers are very responsible jobs. He also finds that once trained by Motorsport UK they go off to help IKR. Whilton Mill offered help in timekeeper training on Alpha.
- i) Social Media: Grahame Butterworth noted that more clubs are making use of our Facebook which has 2500 followers.
- j) Electric karts: A emailed request for discussion was concerned at the kart weights, especially the junior and senior classes. Dan Parker said he had heard that in addition to the Bambino and Cadet versions from TKZ they were trialling a Junior version which has not yet been put forwards for approval. He isn't sure that they are ready for normal resale and use by individuals yet but the class restructure offers tendering for the Bambino class.
- k) Endurance Racing: Duncan Masters of RAFMSA asked that endurance was considered as part of the Clubman trials, as his permit fees had a more excessive increase than any others. Dan Parker confirmed his request had been noted.

- l) Russian and Belarusian licence holders: It was noted that despite FIA still allowing them that Motorsport UK has banned them in the UK. It was agreed to write to Motorsport UK asking them to urge the FIA to have a complete ban.
- m) IKR: A club representative said it appeared we were very negative towards IKR at Kartmania, he thought it would be better to get them on board with us and there could be benefits.
- n) A club asked what benefits were obtained from membership of ABKC. Graham Butterworth said they should take the long view, and for instance seek a BKC round in 2023, and try the new Clubman system to boost numbers. Another asked why clubs that had a BKC round had a higher membership fee. Graham Smith explained that a club with a round would likely get very much boosted entries and thus income, and it was fairer to the small clubs rather than have a higher flat rate for all, which would be needed to pay running costs of the association.

It is expected that the 2022 AGM will be held in December, as the financial year ends 31 October.