

Welcome to the March 2022 Newsletter

We have come a long way in a year and lots on the agenda for 2022, which looks like being a year of change.

Annual Meeting

Thanks to all those who joined our zoom AGM. We had 18 clubs attending and good discussion. The executive trio was re confirmed with Nigel Edwards as Chairman, Graham Smith as Secretary and Grahame Butterworth as Operations.

The Steering Group was re-elected with Rob Dodds, Paul Skipp, Jim Thornsby being joined by Ian Ward who replaces the retiring Malcolm Fell. Malcolm was thanked for his input over many years.

The good news was that while a couple of clubs reported problems with numbers, most reported a good 2021 despite the late start to the season.

The meeting passed a resolution asking Motorsport UK to put pressure on the FIA to ban Russian licensed drivers from all motorsport worldwide.

The draft minutes are here: [News Archive | Association of British Kart Clubs \(abkc.org.uk\)](#)

Officials Shortage

All clubs attending the AGM reported a serious shortage of officials – in particular scrutineers. We will be discussing this problem with MSUK who have the same problem within car events. We will try to seek ways of making it easier to gain certification to become qualified.

And in the meantime if anyone at your club is showing interest then please get them in touch with Graham Smith and we will do our best to push through their paperwork. If we don't get the numbers then before too long a club is going to have to cancel a race meeting – it is that serious.

Scrutineering Trial

The system for scrutineering a limited number of entries is now in place. Effectively it means checking manually 25% of the entry which must include Bambinos and Cadets. You must apply to Dan Parker at MSUK to put it into action.

Kartmania

There was significant discussion on the show at the AGM. Differing views on the event and its use by ABKC members as opposed to giving unlicensed championship a promotional platform. We will be having further discussion with Martin Capenhurst on the show which ABKC has helped finance.

Weight Survey

The full details of the 2023 class changes will be sent out very soon, and there will be need for careful analysis of class weights. So all clubs are being asked to carry out weight surveys. The details are quite complex so if you are willing to carry out then please contact Graham Smith on secretary@abkc.org.uk and he can send you exact details and format.

Sustainability

We will shortly be holding a specific zoom meeting on sustainability in karting. MSUK now has a specialist in this field – Jessica Runicles -who may well be in touch with your club. We are keen to get on board karters who show a genuine interest in helping this green movement. If you have anyone interested in joining a meeting then please let us know.

Let's Go Karting

Clubs have expressed their desire to get this campaign up and running again to bring more newcomers to our sport. We want to work with MSUK on this and see if there are ways we can all pull together.

Grass Roots Events Trial

The format for these events is being finalised and are aimed at making it easier and cheaper to enter at grass roots level and less expensive for clubs to operate. It looks like some trial events will start to take place later in the Spring and certainly a number of smaller clubs are very keen on the opportunity

Appointments

Congratulations to Motorsport UK's John Ryan who has been appointed as vice-president of the CIK International Karting Commission. Dan Parker is also a member. In other MSUK moves Ian Smith has been appointed as Director of Technical, Daniel Smith as Director of Marketing and Communications, Matt Johnson as Head of People, Jessica Runicles as Head of Sustainability and Paul Crawford as E-Sports Manager.

Membership

The AGM agreed we continue at the reduced membership fee level set last year - £95 as a standard membership and £175 for those clubs hosting British Kart Championship rounds. Forms have been sent out and thanks to those that have paid. Please make sure you have paid by the end of March.

And Finally

With many club and national championships about to fall into action over the next few weeks it looks like we are in for a busy year hopefully free from the Covid dramas of the past 2 years!