

Welcome to the March 2023 Newsletter

A positive start to the year with signs of a real determination from Motorsport UK to tackle some of the key elements currently affecting the sport.

ABKC Annual General Meeting

A well-attended meeting saw the straight renewal of all steering group members and exec committee of Nigel Edwards, Graham Smith and Grahame Butterworth.

Please make sure your club has paid the renewal and thank you to those clubs who have.

Unlicensed championships are a significant cause for concern, and agreement from the meeting that a major review was needed.

Lack of officials and marshals are still a key concern. MSUK have suggested any club needing help for a MSUK event should send an appeal to marshals@motorsportuk asking for a local post code search for available marshals.

Prime kart class stakeholders are to be allowed to make use of the ABKC Facebook and other channels to help reach drivers and clubs but only for MSUK events.

The role of Regional Associations, of which we are one, has had new terms of reference agreed which will be published on the MSUK website.

Kart Committee

First meeting of the revised committee now under the chairmanship of **John Vigor** who has lots of karting experience in the commercial sector as boss of Club 100 and is sure to help us move forward.

The Karting Pathway website is being updated and will make it much easier to find information about karting.

Motorsport UK TV, hosted on Youtube, will soon be unveiled, with lots of potential for karting to display itself via video clips. Full details soon but it does sound like an excellent opportunity for clubs to benefit. So an open request to us all to have some fresh thinking about presentation of our sport. We need to arrange a zoom for us all to pool ideas very soon.

Motorsport UK confirmed they are working hard to encourage venues to move from IKR to MSUK licenced racing. And good news here that the new Kart Club permit grade offering venues a credible alternative to IKR has resulted in Warden Law and Scotland to replace their IKR with licenced events. These events use the free RS Clubman digital licence and can cover practice days as well. If you are interested for your club then Dan Parker, Karting Manager is your contact.

It has been confirmed that the **structure of championships** (as raised at our AGM) was already under review which could open the country to a fresh structure better reflecting what drivers want in this age.

Consultation on changes to regs has been reduced to 21 days to speed things up but does make it very important for all licence holders to keep a close eye on the MSUK website. You can register to be advised.

Tightening of track limits has recently caused a storm of protest in car racing which would also have affected kart racing. It is agreed that there must be a different structure on this for kart racing. Proposals being drawn up. Circuit markings and kerbs a key element here. Watch out for the consultation document.

The Battery Location regulation regulation have been amended after consultation to ensure data batteries are not mounted near the petrol tank.

ARKS Handover to Clubs

ARKS is undergoing a major change which will see most of the admin passed onto clubs. The voucher system will be dropped and clubs will become responsible for purchasing the test forms from ARKS and setting their charges. Arrangements will be down to individual clubs. Full details in due course.

Pole Position

A change in regs is about to go out which would give pole position driver the option to swap sides for just them and the other front position kart. If you have strong feelings on this watch out for the consultation.

The Suspension Register listing those not permitted to participate in events has been published on the MSUK website. Comp Secs should check the list when there is a non production of licence. The list is to be refined showing who on that list is actually banned from attendance.

Carbon Footprint

A webinar is coming up on a newly created application which will enable clubs to work out their carbon footprint. This takes place on 20th April, invite to follow.

Kart Council will be held in person at Bicester on 4th May. Please ensure you have nominated a representative to attend.

And Finally...

So a positive start to the year, lots of changes in kart classes requiring fresh thought for clubs. And a request on your thoughts for the future, something every club should be discussing at their next committee meeting.