

Minutes of the 2022 Association of British Kart Club Annual General Meeting

Held by Zoom digitally on 8th March 2023

1 Apologies: Russell Anderson, Donna Peat (South Yorks), Steve Chapman, Jim Thornsby (Fulbeck), Gary Preece (British Historic Kart Club), Rob Dodds (Forest Edge)

Present: Daniel Rust (Whilton Mill), Daniel Whitemore (Whilton Mill), James Clarke (Lydd), Grahame Butterworth (Hunts), Ian Ward (Bayford Meadows), Paul Bainbridge (Warden Law), Lesley Allen (Shenington – joined later), Paul Sirett (Whilton Mill), Rob Teague (FP4), Nigel Edwards (TVKC), Graham Smith (Shenington). 14 clubs present.

In attendance: Dan Parker, Motorsport UK Karting Manager, Claire Kirkpatrick Head of Club & Community Development

2 Chairman's Address:

Nigel Edwards welcomed participants and invited clubs present to relay their experiences of 2022 and 2023 to date, where a majority had a good 2022 and most were continuing to have good entries in 2023, albeit some with reduced senior participation, but a minority were finding the current year very challenging, one down 50%. Other comments included the late announcement of the British Championship dates, the difficulty in securing venue dates, the huge decline in Honda Cadet, and to some extent Bambino, disagreement with the new Cadet classes. Nigel continued to say whilst ABKC has its critics he believed we clubs are stronger together and he notes the respect and credit given to us by Motorsport UK. We have strong representation on the committees and in his view the car associations are not as able to represent a kart club. Kartmania is important as a showcase for the sport and that is why we champion it. Dan Parker is working hard to get the new Kart Clubman (later renamed Super K-X) off the ground, maybe not perfect yet. Safeguarding is high on our agenda, we can feed in progress together. In summary we are better together.

3 Approval of the 2021 AGM Minutes

Proposed by Bayford Meadows and seconded by Chasewater all approved.

4 Secretary Report

Graham Smith said we had 28 clubs in membership during 2022 with the Medway and Tyro clubs being welcome newcomers. Cumbria did not rejoin despite our attempts and F100 promised but did not in the end join. So far in 2023 14 have renewed, with Manchester and Buxton being resurrected and joining up. The promised website re-commission has not been advanced due to lack of a consensus on it, and a lack of time. The website is kept reasonably up to date and sometimes we are ahead of Motorsport UK, like in publishing the 2023 Honda regulations. And easier to find. However the ABKC is clearly a respected source of information for both current club members and for newcomers given the number of queries I get. These come in by phone and email and do take up quite a lot of time especially with newcomers who are clearly not getting the correct or full information from teams and traders. As often with karting, they find it difficult to understand everything needed. This year we have stopped posting out the brochures unless there is a specific request but respond with a personalised email reply, explaining where to find their nearest member club. We attended Kartmania with a new backdrop in 2021, and again in 2022 and keep in dialogue with Martin regarding the format. We issue regular newsletters to clubs and are trying to get these up to once a month. Recently we have been emphasising and repeating Motorsport UK invites to meetings and webinars. We had dialogue with David Sera in Australia about partnering on his highly respected KartClass training scheme, but haven't yet followed through. We do keep in close dialogue with Motorsport UK personnel and are often consulted for the ABKC club opinion. Clearly there has been a new beginning this year for the new class structure which will take a little time to settle down. We are very concerned about the viability of the small clubs trying to run under permit,

and note that some larger venues like Mansell have stopped permit meetings this year, to all our regret. Thank you to all the clubs who have renewed already.

5 Treasurer Report

The annual accounts to 31st October 2022 prepared by Ann Smith were available to all clubs by a web link on the agenda notice. We continue to loan Kartmania £2500. The balance at the 31st October year end is £23364.17 compared with £22416.92 in 2021. We had one question by email about the insurance, which is vastly cheaper at £100 than the previous several thousands which protected our championships and regulations. We are now able to process bank transfers. Ann has halved her fee, other committee only take essential travel expenses. The accounts were proposed by FP4K and seconded by Clay Pigeon all in favour.

6 Nominations for Steering Group

Nominations received are Nigel Edwards for Chair, Graham Smith for Secretary and for the other members Grahame Butterworth (appointed Operations Manager), Rob Dodds, Paul Skipp, Jim Thornsby and Ian Ward so no vote was required.

7 Operations Manager Report

Grahame Butterworth said everyone was in a difficult situation at the year end not knowing which classes were going to be popular and he hopes the bottom end class numbers will improve. We held back on our website changes waiting for Motorsport UK updates. We now need to fill gaps in the information and look at the ways of running championship as the unlicensed championships keep getting more and bigger.

8 Resolutions

There were no formal resolutions put forward by clubs.

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

- a) Dan Parker said the new Kart Clubman events are designed to be more flexible on the equipment and kart classes used, with reduced fees. There is also a review of ARKS requirements at these events. There will be a digital licence but still the need for a PG Entrant for under 18's. So designed to be a credible alternative for IKR and looking to licence the IKR regulars to run at their usual venue. He thinks the 'hole' in Honda Cadet racing is only temporary. Regarding the British Championship venues, there are constraints but he does want to try new clubs and venues but sometimes still has to go to a venue twice. He said he tries to get the dates out as soon as possible.
- b) On request from Nigel, Claire Kirkpatrick said she is presenting a new Regional Association strategy to the Board next week, and noted that ABKC is a unique discipline specific Association rather than regionally based.
- c) Ian Berry for Total Kart Zero said he was in discussions to run under permit, and has brought in more licenced officials but needs more help (from ABKC) to cover his events.
- d) NATSKA asked why there were so long a period required to upgrade officials, some have been waiting for 8 months for an initial assessment, others to get their final assessment. Claire said the Motorsport UK Vision 2030 is majored in recruitment and retention of officials. Clay Pigeon is short of a Clerk for this coming weekend, Dan Parker offered to help perhaps by a temporary upgrade.
- e) NatSKA asked how clubs would know if a licence was suspended due to the concussion policy. For Action by ABKC. Graham Smith said Motorsport UK are publishing a list of revoked and suspended licences on their website. On that Grahame Butterworth said it is not clear who is just suspended and who should be banned from attending an event. Some

have limitations on working with children. The venue owner can always ban someone from attending. More discussions and clarifications will take place at Kart Committee.

- f) Lydd wondered if the reduction of the age for Juniors is safe.
- g) IKR championship growth – Dan Parker said some clearly have a large following and a desire from drivers to race in them. He suggested that our championship regulations, which currently only allow the British to be national, might need change. Nigel Edwards and Lesley Allen for Shenington said this must be balanced by the possible effect on small club championships. Others said it must come down to market forces and to move with the way the sport is evolving.
- h) Event Statistics – the collection of class data has been moved to be the responsibility of the MSUK Steward to gather, rather than clubs where many did not return the forms.
- i) The increase in form filling was alleged to put off venues coming under Motorsport UK.
- j) Inflation costs are hitting clubs and participants, for instance tyre costs are major.
- k) Social Media: Grahame Butterworth asked if it would be useful to offer class stakeholders a news item on the ABKC socials to keep clubs informed about their class and events. This was generally welcomed although Dan Parker said he would want nothing controversial printed and it must only be about licenced events.
- l) On the role of the ABKC, Clay Pigeon said it is important that ABKC respond with answers to club's questions and what is raised at Kart Committee. Dan Parker said he thought the ABKC News gave out much of this information but social media could move faster, perhaps too fast. Whilton Mill said the ABKC should be putting more pressure on those who can make change.
- m) In other topics raised, committees spent too much time going over the same topics, the concern over a lack of officials, the need for a relaxation of officials on pre-ARKS practice days, the need to recruit more female and younger officials and noted the "Girls on Track" facebook.
- n) John Vigor said as incoming chair of Kart Committee, he came with no preconceptions and expects to make changes. He will strongly promote the benefits of licenced racing and said with BIKC, Club100, Teamsport and now TKZ all on board the message is really getting out there for grass roots karting. Dan Parker added that he is doing a survey on the new classes and will report back to an upcoming stakeholder meeting.
- o) Nigel Edwards thanked everyone for their attendance and comments and said whilst many were positive he feared for some of the smaller clubs.