



**MARCH 2013**

**Newsletter of the Auckland Blokart Club**

### President's Post



ABC's Mission: To provide a friendly, well organised, and safe environment for all blokart activities

We've had a busy summer with the post-Christmas twilight series, some fun sailing nights at the Royal Akarana Yacht Club, and the world famous (in several countries) Ninety Mile Beach extended weekend. We are attempting to run the Great Race 100km at Muriwai but this event is dependent on the wind and is scheduled every second weekend from 6-7 April to catch the low tide. The Winter Series kicks off on Sunday 28 April and is run on the 4th Sunday every month until September. This series offers Performance and C Divisions, and newcomers to sailing are most welcome to join in - all skill levels are catered for.

What a great job Nick Murray has done with the new website - it's modern and very professionally done. Thanks young Nick.

While we have a magnificent sailing facility at Ardmore, we pay minimal rent and this comes at the price that occasionally we must sacrifice our weekends for other groups. February and March have been very frustrating for us as many other events have been held. The hump is now over and there are no other events for three months and that means ABC has use of the facility on Saturdays and Sundays. We will be open from 1pm no matter the weather, but if no members turn up by 2pm the duty committee member may close it. We did have use of Ardmore every day during Easter.

You may have noticed that our storage trailer has been removed. We are very grateful to Nick Simmonds of SD Motorsports in East Tamaki for lending us his trailer for the past year, but he is now back racing his stock-car and needed his trailer returned. I am really impressed with the response from our club members who, with a day's notice, pitched in with trailers and vans to clear all our equipment out of the trailer on Christmas Eve and have stored it and dragged it along to Ardmore every weekend since. Thank you very much everybody. We really don't know how we coped before we had the trailer. So what are doing? Ardmore will not permit a container or shed on the premises so your committee just purchased a replacement trailer. It needs a little work with waterproofing, shelving, and painting - if you can help in any way please contact Dave Heilbron.

For last year's NZ Open we removed a section of fence at Ardmore. Many thanks again to Dave Heilbron for manufacturing and galvanising the fence and others for helping put it in place to make exiting the track safer.

Are you wondering what the auction of new sails and mast sections was about? A few months ago the club was offered an unused Blokart complete with all the gear for minimal cost and the committee made a wise decision to purchase it. The base will be used for training but as the new sails are not suitable for that purpose, they have been auctioned to raise funds for other club equipment.

The Australian Champs are being run at Yeppoon in Queensland from 5-8 April and several ABC members are competing. All the best guys.

The NZ Blokart Association has accepted ABC's offer to host the 2013 New



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Zealand Open at Ardmore from 9-13 October. This was a fantastic event last year and will be even greater this year with more time to organise it and for competitors to book their holidays. This is New Zealand's premier Blokart racing event and offers world class racing in Performance and Production Divisions. The Notice of Race will be issued shortly and we really would like early entries to ensure we can again put on a world class event.

A great practice for the NZ Open and for the World Championships in Perth in January 2014 is the North Island Championships to be held during Queens Birthday weekend – venue to be decided. This event is open for Performance, Production, and C Divisions. Remember, C Division is for any configuration of Blokart and is intended for new comers to racing and those who have been sailing for a while but are not all that confident racing in the open divisions. Finally thanks to Derek Miles for publishing our newsletter.

May your wind blow freely.

Graham



### **90 Mile Beach Trip – March 2013**

By Russell Harray

Another good one, with great sailing conditions and all the normal social activities. We had Bill join us for the first time and new members Craig, Kevin and Jon R all making it up. Great to see more people enjoying this event.

The trip started with a few making it up on Wednesday guaranteeing a relaxed start on Thursday without the early morning rush to get in a sail. With Tony, Len and Ian already there and the wind blowing onshore at the ramp we decided on an evening sail, starting from the camp. 3 of us set off about 7 pm, sailing down the road and onto the beach. We stayed on the beach for about 45 minutes with the wind dropping slightly. The wind also shifted more along the beach so there was plenty of tacking and gybing to make progress. All good fun.

Thursday was a 90 MB day. There was a steady stream of arrivals and the numbers quickly grew to over 20 karts hooning along in a good breeze. 4 metre sails were mostly used, a couple tried the 3s. We were about 10 km north of the ramp, a wide beach with the sand hard and smooth. Ran plenty of short and long races with Grant Clark taking out the honours overall for the day. There were plenty of happy faces at the Pot Luck dinner that night after four hours of great sailing.

Friday was predicted to start of easterly so we packed up and headed for Tokerau. It was light winds to start and only a few races. With the wind swing back to the south we headed back to 90 MB for 12-15 knts, perfect sailing conditions. After a couple of warm up races, one short and one long, the course was set for the Orca Memorial trophy race. The mark was set 4 km down the beach and a briefing held. Everyone does 2 laps with the top 10 racing a final lap to decide the overall winner.

David and Russell had tried out the 3 metre and decided to stay with it as the wind puffed up a bit. Everything started well with the dial up sorting a few out. Ian, Jenny and Duncan were all fast out of the start followed by Russell in the 3 metre. Ian got to the turn first, just ahead of Russell with Wayne and Bruce coming through to be back a few metres. And so the battle with these 4 continued over the 3 laps. Bruce had good speed and hit the front after lap 1, Russell dropped off a bit in lap 2 with a drop in the wind, Ian and Wayne were crossing tacks with Ian holding off the challenge. Bruce thought he had finished after the 2nd lap and did a circle before he realised and rejoined the race, putting him back in 3rd. Ian held the lead until Bruce came through again, Russell rejoined the fight as the wind came up and so it went until the finish. Bruce held on, Wayne passed Ian in the last half km to take 2nd and all 4 finished within about 30 seconds of each other. A close battle. The barbeque that night was a festive affair with many reliving this race.

Saturday did not have a great forecast. We started at Tokerau but didn't get the karts out, instead using the Kubb sets to pass the time. Lunch was at a vineyard for some before the call went out "wind on 90 MB" with a 1.30 start. 5.5s were pulled out and we had plenty of time on the beach with some short and long races. We ran the relay which Wayne and David took out easily, therefore getting their name engraved first on the new relay trophy.

We tried a "slalom" for the first time and this will become a race in future events, wind permitting as everyone enjoyed the close sailing and drifting around all the corners. It was a bit hairy at times with downward sailors head to head with upwind sailors but it's something that can be worked out easily in the future.

Prize giving night was a festive affair, the theme being "cool but casual" and there were some very cool dudes and dudettes dressed for the occasion. Wayne and Liz took out the best dressed contest, Russell took the Tall Tale contest, since Pam didn't make it, and all other prizes were presented with Jenny taking the 90 Mile Beach Trophy for overall best sailor on Friday and Saturday.

Next trip is 14 - 17 November. Be in early to get a cabin.

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Results

Thursday

- 1st Grant Clark
- 2nd Craig Tillson
- 3rd Len Webb

Friday

- 1st Graham Ingall
- 2nd Bruce Hales
- 3rd Jenny Hales

Saturday

- 1st Craig Tillson
- 2nd Tony Bourne
- 3rd Duncan Wiggins

Relay

- 1st Wayne Osborne/  
David Heilbron
- 2nd Grant Clark/  
Brian Neale
- 3rd Bruce Hales/  
Bill Dickson

Orca Memorial Trophy

- 1st Bruce Hales
- 2nd Wayne Osborne
- 3rd Ian Timperly

90 Mile Beach Trophy

- 1st Jenny Hales
- 2nd Wayne Osborne
- 3rd= Graham Ingall,  
John Sherlock

Best Dressed

- 1st= Wayne Osborne,  
Liz Elstob

Tall Tale Trophy

- 1st Russell Harray



Bruce Hales – Orca Memorial Trophy

Relay Winners - Wayne & 'The Stig' or is it Frogman Helbron





Jenny Hales



Best Dressed  
- Wayne O' and Liz Elstob



The Three Rosies – all glammed up.



Best Dressed Competition

## CALENDAR

### 2013

#### April

1 Easter Monday  
5-8 Australian Chmps, Yappoon  
6/7 The Great 100 km race  
7 Daylight saving finishes  
9 RAYC Twilight Racing 'under lights'  
12 Summer series prize giving  
25 Anzac Day  
29 Winter Series

#### May

4/5 The Great 100 km race  
26 Winter Series

#### June

1/2/3 Nth Island Champs,  
venue to be decided.  
21 Mid winter Xmas dinner  
23 Winter Series

#### July

7 ABC Teams Racing regatta  
28 AGM & Winter Series

#### September

22 Winter series  
29 Daylight saving starts

#### October

9/10/11 NZ Champs, Ardmore

#### November

3/4 Auckland Champs

Check the club web site for any further dates past here.

### Club Contacts

president@abc.gen.nz  
secretary@abc.gen.nz

#### Editor

d.miles@xtra.co.nz

### Websites

Club: [www.abc.gen.nz](http://www.abc.gen.nz)  
Social Media: [facebook](https://www.facebook.com/abc.gen.nz)  
Blokart: [www.blokart.com](http://www.blokart.com)  
Blokart Assoc. Inc.:  
[www.bai.co.nz](http://www.bai.co.nz)

## New Members

A very warm welcome to our new members: Brad Davies, Mark Buchanan, Kevin Wright, Jon Revill and Alex Barclay. We hope you enjoy using your blokart at the club's facilities and that you join in the many racing and social activities we hold throughout the year.

Wherever your wind blows.

## Track Fees

Track fees of \$5 per day are to be paid by all users of the Ardmore track. This modest amount helps pay our rent to the airport and maintenance of the sealed area. On non-race days there will usually be an honesty container on the fence post, but if not, please pay to a committee member. For just \$75 a year (or \$37.50 from 1st October) you can purchase a season pass which entitles you to use the track whenever it is open for ABC use (that's up to 110 days per year). Please pay via the ABC Shop.

## Blokart Worlds 2014

The next world championships will be held in January 2014 on Lake Walyungup, 20 minutes south of Perth, Western Australia. Start saving now! For more information visit [www.blokartworlds.com](http://www.blokartworlds.com)

## Stay Informed

### Twitter

Follow us on Twitter @AKLblokart for the latest updates.



### Mailing List

Sign up to the mailing list on the home page of the club's website, bottom of the side bar on the right.

### Facebook

Visit our facebook page where you will find the friendly banter from our members.



Rosie Davies, 90MB – just cruising