



August 2012

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

The track improvements at our Ardmore Airport venue have proven worthwhile for our race days of the winter series, with the cross-tracks being very useful in the light winds.

On Sunday 5th August we are hosting all of our sponsors and supporters to an afternoon of blokart sailing. Guests include the team and families of Ardmore Airport, Frucor, Webworld, NZ Community Trust, Whitehouse Tavern Trust, Vernon Contractors, HEB Construction, and Fulton Hogan. Please come along for casual sailing and to lend a hand and show our supporters what a strong club we have.

The club's Annual General Meeting on 22nd July once again provided a full committee of 14 members. After five years in the role Rowena Lennox-Robertson stepped down as secretary but remains on the committee, and Allan Levett relinquished the post of treasurer, also after five years. Our thanks to Rowena and Allan for their support.

Special thanks to Grant Crawshay who has stepped down from the committee after seven years during which he served three years as vice president and three as president. Grant is the current president of the NZ Blokart Association and is a driving force behind the International Blokart Racing Association. Grant your mentoring of committee members and dedication to the sport, and especially to ABC, is much appreciated.

We welcome three new committee members – Nick Murray as secretary (a post he held before moving overseas), Trevor Pretty, and Peter Pablecheque.

On the social side, a mid-winter dinner was hosted by John and Pam Sherlock at their home and attended by about 30 members. I still can't figure how a massive roast for that many people was catered for. Thanks John and Pam.

The club's calendar is pretty full with racing and social events during the next five months – see the website for details. The big news is that ABC will be hosting the 2012 New Zealand Open at Ardmore from 3rd to 6th October. The airport has given approval for use of an extra 400 metres of runway for the four days and that is a big undertaking to close part of the country's busiest airport for that time. We have an organising committee working on the event but would appreciate support from members before and during the event. We will advise of areas where members might assist and look forward to your support and of course your entry into the NZ Open.

Time to fill in your annual leave requests for the NZ Open 3rd to 6th October and the 90 Mile Beach trip 22nd to 25th November.

Wherever your wind blows.

Graham

Training Day

By Russell Harray

About 20 people turned up to do an hour maintenance session on the club karts and then stay for the training and practice.

The blackboard session started with an explanation on real wind vs. apparent wind and how to make the most of this of the sailing angle to generate more speed than other competitors. There were a few who suddenly “got it” and realised it was not some magic wind that got some around the course successfully while others were stationary.

Starting was also covered and the theory was discussed on how to end up in the right place at the right time, no matter what sort of wind is blowing.

It was then out on to the track where a big start line was set up for some practice starts. As the wind was light it also meant getting the angles right to get the speed up.

Wayne started everyone with a 2 minute dial up, Russell took a video of it for later viewing and after each start a quick debrief was held. While we stopped for 30 minutes when the breeze died out, it filled in again and after about 10 starts most were getting away in clear air, right on the start gun. Great to see the improvement on the day.

The videos also showed the big improvement and this has been transferred into the starts of the last Winter Series races, with more sailors fighting for the key end of the line.

Comments afterwards were positive on the practice session and there were requests for another to be held soon.

Teams Racing

By Russell Harray

No wind all day meant no racing all day.

8 teams of five turned up for the ABC Teams Racing event but despite all the effort it just wasn't to be. We had wind in the early afternoon which allowed some sailing around the course but not enough for long enough to start the racing. Plenty of food and drinks kept every entertained and the photo session filled in about an hour as everyone lined up for the team photos. Asking everyone to then line up by sail colour created some confusion, but it did finally happen.

The next Team Racing will be the BAI event at Papamoa on 11 August.

Hopefully we will get 5 ABC teams there to defend the title.

Team Racing Line-up

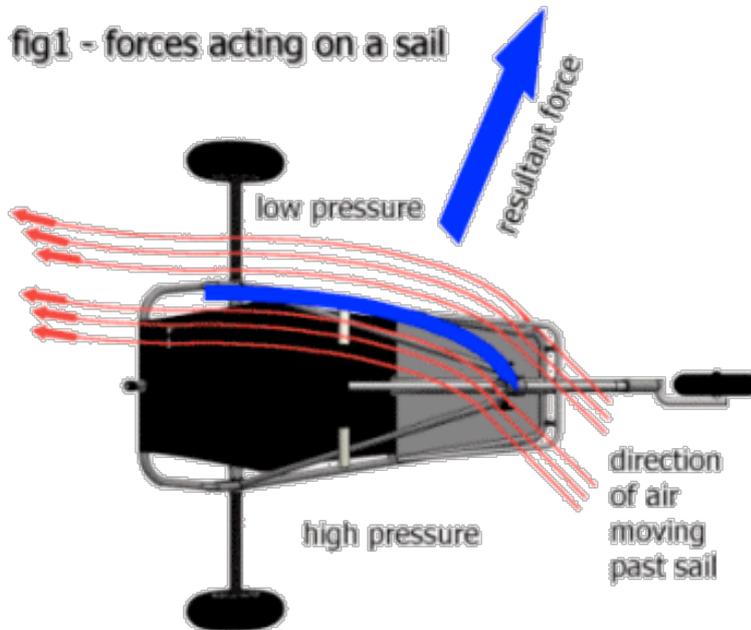


The Physics of Blokart Sailing

Source: www.capitalblokartclub.co.nz

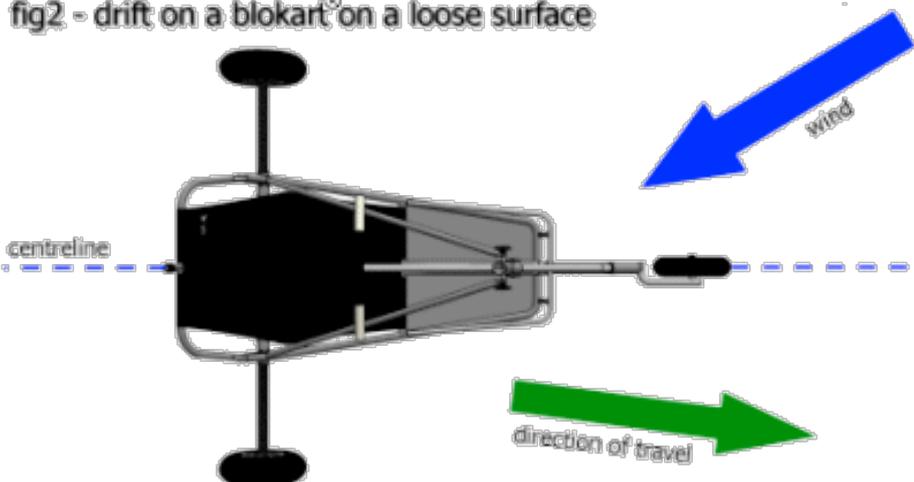
The power of a blokart®, like any other sailing vessel comes from the way in which the sail catches the wind. A sail is in fact a vertical wing. It operates in the same way as a wing on a plane. A blokart® uses this wing (the sail), and the wheels (in place of a yachts centre board) to propel it forward.

The power comes not from wind blowing on a sail but pressure difference around the sail (high pressure on the side towards the wind, and low pressure on the side away from the wind). In nature, high pressure moves towards low pressure, as a result, there is a perpendicular force exerted on the sail. This is shown in figure 1. The forces on the wheels which track the blokart® in a single direction (forward not sideways) much like the centre board on a yacht, act in combination with those on the sail to power the blokart® forward.



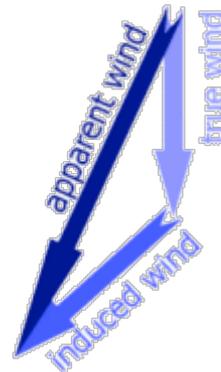
The combination of the wheels and sail do result in a forward motion, but there can be some slipping depending on the surface being sailed upon. The term for this slipping is “drift”. On a loose surface, as shown in figure 2, the blokart® will not travel in the exact direction in which it is pointing. The looser the surface, the more drift the blokart® will experience. This is an important concept to be aware of, especially if there are hazards nearby.

fig2 - drift on a blokart® on a loose surface



The last aspect of the physics of sailing that we will discuss is the concept of true and apparent wind. These terms refer to the wind and its changes due to the wind direction and the speed of the blokart® in relation to its direction. True wind is defined as the direction of the wind to a stationary observer. Induced wind is the wind experienced due to the forward movement of the blokart®. A good analogy is riding a bike. When riding a bike on a day with no wind, the rider still feels a wind. This wind is induced by riding the bike through the air. A blokart® experiences wind in the same manner. The combination of these two winds is the actual wind experienced by the blokart®. This wind is called apparent wind. Figure 3 outlines the three winds and how they relate to one another.

fig3 - three forms of wind



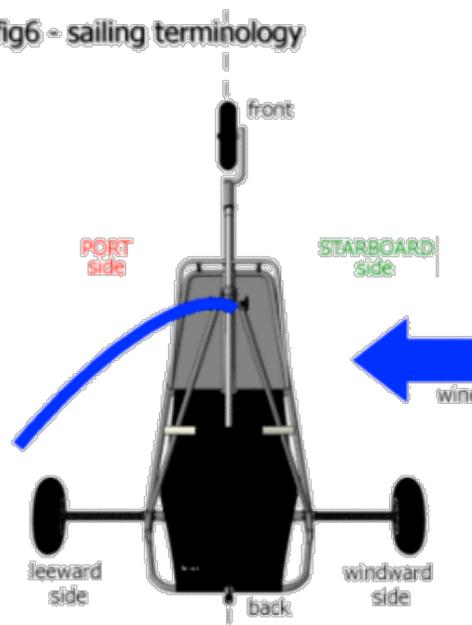
As mentioned earlier, the knowledge of these basic physical principles are not needed to be a proficient sailor. They do, however, help sailors understand how the wind conditions affect a blokart®.

Basic Sailing Terminology

Source: www.capitalblokartclub.co.nz

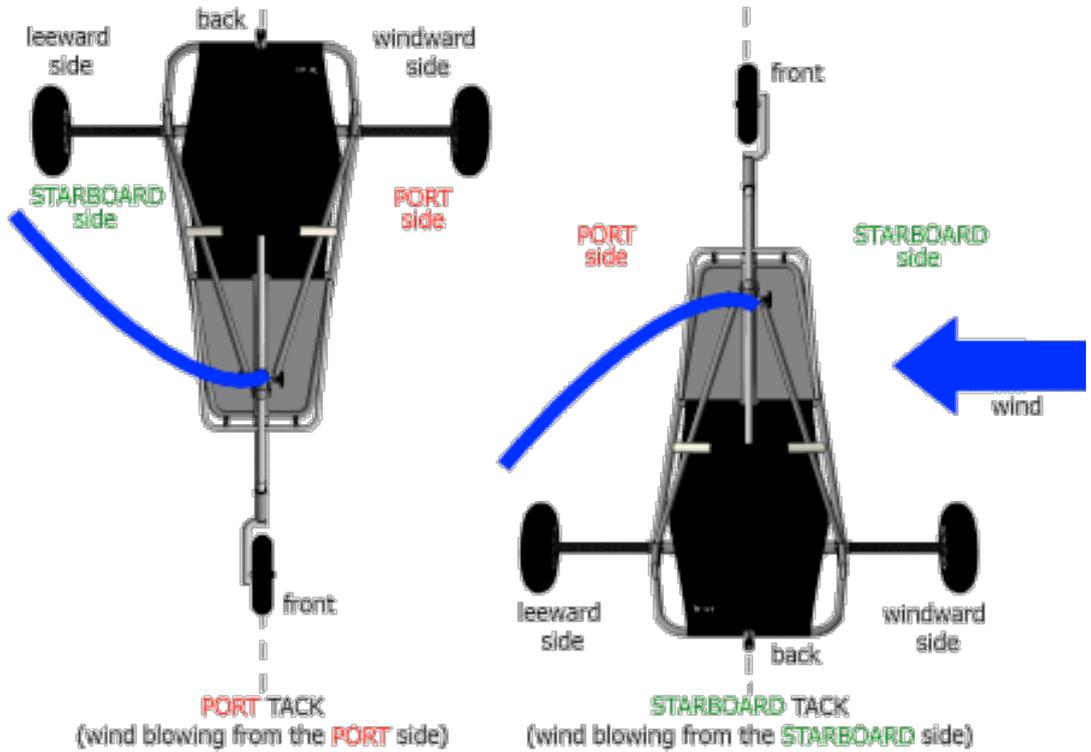
Unlike the physics of sailing the terminology of sailing is something which blokart® sailors should be familiar with. Most sailing terminology refers to the position of your blokart® in relation to the wind. Figure 6 identifies four sailing terms that refer to locations on the blokart®. To identify the left side of the blokart® sailors use the term port. Conversely, to refer to the right side of the blokart® sailors use the term starboard. Figure 6 also indicates the terms leeward and windward. These two terms refer to the sides of the blokart® in relation to the wind. The side towards the wind is called the windward side, and the side which is away from the wind is called the leeward side.

fig6 - sailing terminology



When sailors use the term tack, they are referring to the side of the blokart® on which the sail is positioned. Figure 7, shows the two different tacks; port tack and starboard tack.

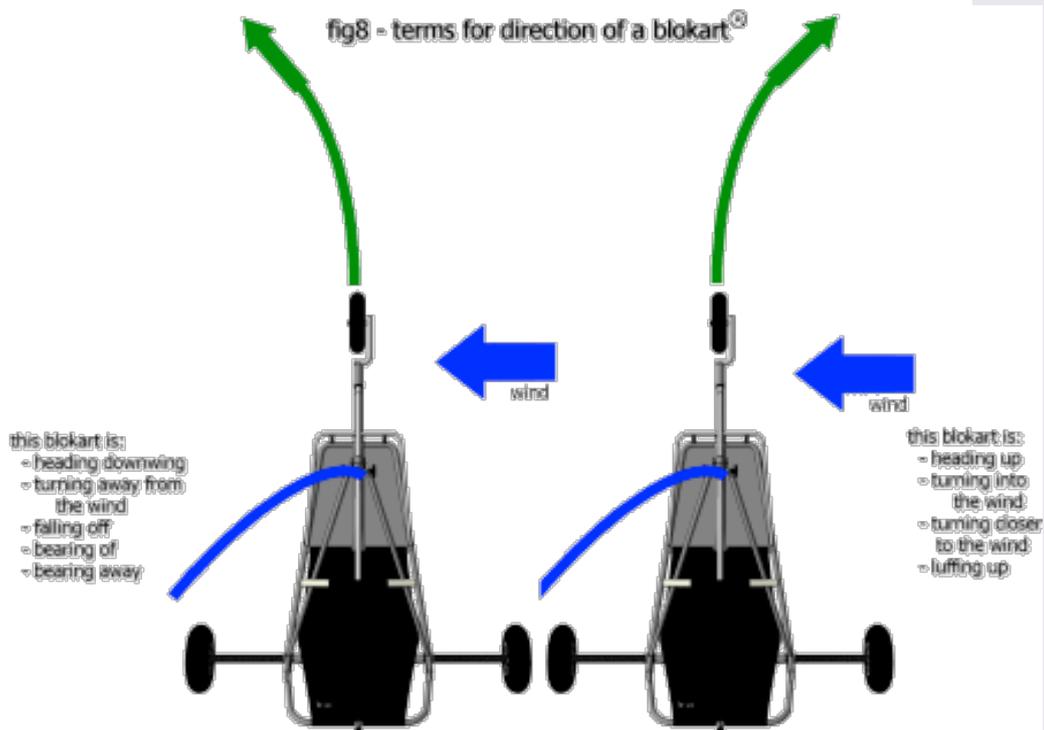
fig7 - sailing terminology



A blokart® is on a port tack when the wind flows over the port side of the blokart® first, and then hits the sail. A blokart® is on a starboard tack when the opposite occurs.

tip Are you struggling with the Port & Starboard thing? Try to remember this...
 "There is a little bit of port left in the bottle"

The terms used to describe a the movement of a blokart® in relation to the wind are outlined in figure 8. It is a good idea to be familiar with all of these terms, as there is no standard term used.



CALENDAR

August

- 11 Team Racing at Blokart Heaven
- 12 NZ BAI AGM at Blokart Heaven
- 19 Club Open Day
- 26 Winter Series - Race Day

September

- 2 Club Open Day
- 9 Club Open Day
- 16 Ardmore closed to ABC
- 22 Bay Blokart Charity Event
Bay Park, Mt Maunganui
- 23 Winter Series - Race Day
- 30 Daylight saving starts

October

- 3- 6 NZ Open hosted by ABC
Ardmore
- 7 Club Open Day
Auckland Champs, Ardmore
- 18 Twilight series - Thursday night
- 21 Club Open Day
- 28 Club Open Day

November

- 9/10 Sth Island Open, Nelson
- 11 50km Beach Race, Rabbit Island
- 22- 25 90 Mile Beach club trip

December

- 2 Ardmore closed to ABC
- 6 Twilight series - Thursday night
- 9 Christmas Picnic
- 13 Twilight series - Thursday night
- 16 Club Open Day - Final

Check the club website for any further dates past here.

Club Contacts

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Websites

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

2012 New Zealand Open at Ardmore

Auckland Blokart Club is hosting the 2012 New Zealand Open, on behalf of the New Zealand Blokart Association, at Ardmore from 3rd to 6th October. There is much to organise and we have a core group comprising Barry, Ross, Russell, Wayne, and Graham coordinating the event. There are many tasks involved and we would like non-racing members and /or their families and friends to assist where they can, particularly with on-course duties during the racing days. Key positions are for marshals on the corners and the grid, organising orderly parking first thing in the morning, erecting flags and signs each morning and taking them down at night, serving drinks/ snacks after racing, collecting ice and filling chilly bins during the afternoon, and cleaning the building and tent at the end of each day. Training and assistance will be provided for the roles, particularly for marshalling duties. This is a great opportunity to learn lots about race and event management.

Of course there are plenty of ways racers can assist before, during, and after the event – arranging rosters for cleaning and catering, arranging accommodation options for visitors from out of town, publicity, erecting tents on the 2nd October and dismantling after the event (Ardmore is booked for a car club on the Sunday), assembling entry packs, transporting tables, chairs, tents, and other equipment, organising drinks, or operating the barbecue at night ... Perhaps you have or can borrow a tent or two (ideally one of about 60-80m³). Can you provide chilly bins? We already have a small group organising meals and on-site catering, but if you know of a caterer or a group who might assist us (eg school fundraiser, service club etc), please let us know.

If you, or somebody you know, can assist for even a short time before, during, or after racing, please contact Graham (0272 466374). Let's make this the best NZ Open ever, and that's a big ask considering the quality of the last six that have been held at Blokart Heaven.

In the News

Student ABC member Ryan Tennent has been named one of 12 winners of the Emirates Team NZ Buddies competition. His prize was to attend the launch of the AC 72 craft alongside a crew member at the team's Viaduct Harbour base, and later on he will be going on board the boat onshore, watching the crew training on the outer harbour from a chase boat, and taking a tour of the base. Congratulations Ryan.

World champion lightweight blokart sailor Sarah Tootill made a 10-15 minute appearance on national television (the Erin Simpson Show) talking about sailing in the world championships and giving the show's hosts a ride in a blokart. Well done, Sarah.

Subscriptions

Membership subscription notices were sent by email to all members on 23rd March. If you did not receive this or a follow-up notice, or have yet to pay your subscription for the year beginning 1st April, please go to the ABC Shop on the website www.abc.gen.nz and become a financial member. Membership is only \$60 pa for an adult and has many advantages including access to our Ardmore facility, tuition, maintenance workshops, racing and social events, and public liability insurance cover when participating in a club-organised blokart activity.

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 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.

Please support
our sponsors:

