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Russell's Rave

It's coming up to the end of the year and the club is as busy as ever. With the Auckland Champs, the 90 mile beach trip and Tairua trip over the weekends and then the Thursday night twilight series we got good use out of our blokarts when the wind cooperated.

The Winter Series had a couple of months that were cancelled through lack of wind but we also got in some good days as well. Who will forget the first race day in April when it blew a gale and we were visited by the BoP sailors with a bit of resulting damage but lots of blokart grins. It must have been the windiest competition day we have had. Luckily this winter we have also had some great beach events, a couple during the week when high winds enticed a few to exit work very early and also some weekends when cleaning up the kart afterwards was well worthwhile for the fun blasts down the beach, either at Omaha, Muriwai or Kariotahi.

The club hosted the first ever (worldwide?) 100 km race earlier in the year and this brought competitors out of the closet from all over. A very "testing" event and out of 40 starters we only got 8 finishers as competitors fought the incoming tide and sweepers to get along the beach. This race is a "must do". Everyone had positive comments about this race.

Auckland had its biggest team ever this year at the NZ Open with 15 making the trip to Blokart Heaven to test their skill on a very different track to BPP. Good winds meant 15 races for the 4 divisions over the first 2 days and then light winds on the Sunday meant we packed up a bit earlier than expected and after prize giving headed back to Auckland. Well done to the Auckland team on making the effort and we ended with some good results in each division.

A new committee was voted in at the AGM mid year and they have set some new goals to achieve for the coming 12 months. There will be more effort on encouraging membership and

making sure our new members are welcomed into the club and looked after. Existing members may be asked to help new members over the first couple of months get to grips with their blokart and if they want to race maybe give a helping hand with set up.

We are also looking at a safety plan to make our club a lot more compliant with some of the regulations.

The committee also put in a submission on the use of Kariotahi Beach. It is a designated road and now has a 50 km/hr speed limit so be aware of this as in good windy conditions you could be breaking the law. In saying that blokart sailors are not the problem and the speed limit is to give a level of protection out there against the hoons who roar along the beach in their cars and motorbikes. We have been asked to use our blokarts south of the surf club and when moving past this area sail slowly and safely because of the other beach users. If we follow this rule then we should have no problems using this beach.

I hope everyone has a safe summer in their blokarts and I look forward to seeing everyone at our blokart and social events.

Smokin'



Auckland Blokart Club Inc.

www.abc.gen.nz

Auckland Blokart
Club Inc.

President:

Russell Harray

Vice President:

Grant Crawshay

Secretary:

Rowena Lennox-Robertson

Treasurer

Allan Levett

Committee:

Nicholas Murray
Graham Ingall
Derek Miles
Dave 'Orca' Bush
Brian Neal
Wayne Osborne

The committee has also
co-opted John Sheriff who
wanted to help.

Thanks to everyone who
attended the AGM, and the
members who donate their
time.

IBRA Update

IBRA – International Blokart Racing Association

At the 2006 Professionals National Blokart Championships I was approached by representatives of Australia, Japan and the USA to form the IBRA - an international body that would promote blokart sailing using an internationally agreed set of sailing and equipment rules based on the blokart "1-design". As President of the NZ Blokart Association Inc. I was nominated as the de-facto International Chairman and set about the task of "herding cats" to establish a set of rules for the 4 founding countries. This proved to be a tricky job with some strongly held views about what would be good for the sport, and by Christmas 2006 we had agreement.

Then, taking advantage of the European winter where everyone is available, we brought into the fold Spain, The Netherlands, Belgium, Denmark and the UK, and by the end of January (with a few minor modifications) we had agreement. France and Germany have also expressed an interest in joining. The set of equipment and sailing rules was ratified by the NZBAI and in March 2007 the first international event using the new rules was run in Yeppoon in Australia. The 2007 Professionals NZ Blokart Open also used these rules, as will the 2007 European events in Belgium and France, and in 2008 Japan and USA. There is now an international calendar of events.

The essence of these internationally agreed rules is to foster blokart racing using a standard design where the winner is determined by sailing skills not who has the deepest pockets to buy the fanciest gear. This championship status is within the reach of the ordinary sailor.



My thanks go to BAI committee member Ross Vickers who tirelessly worked behind the scenes drafting the documents and making changes as requested by the members to come up with this internationally agreed set of rules in 6 months. Now anyone in the world can sail at an international event and expect to be competitive (based on sailing skills).

Grant Crawshay

President NZBAI

Vice President ABC



Wayne O's Safety Tips

As a new member to the committee this year I have offered to assist with club safety. Over the next year or so we will be implementing a new safety management plan. As Safety is such a big part of our Club's operation we should all do our bit to promote safety on the track and surrounding areas.

In our last newsletter Tony gave us some great tips for safety and I will try to follow up on these and also bring in some new ideas.



1. **All Club Members Must Wear an Approved Safety Helmet and Wear Your Seat Belt at All Times.**
2. Please park vehicles well back from track and also keep your blokart well back when not in use.
3. Always be aware of other blokarts around you before turning or making sudden changes to course, this is particularly important during dial up starts.
4. The club has just purchased 10 nice new orange road cones for use at our events.
5. We have made 6 new sandwich boards to put up around the surrounding roads and car park areas to warn local traffic of our presence.
6. We have also identified two or three members with first aid training and plan to provide a first aid kit at all events.

Big thanks to our unsung hero's Todd and Russell. Over the last year or two these guys have been putting out all the Cones, Signs and locking the gate etc for our race days and when we all take off home they are left packing them all up again. Big thanks Todd and Russell from the whole club your efforts are very much appreciated.

Safe Blokart Sailing - Wayne Osborne

Thanks:

Russell, Wayne O and Grant for their columns.

Nick Murray for putting it together.

Club Sponsors:

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It's a cruel wind that doesn't blow on a race day.

- Anon Blokart Sailor

Auckland Blokart Club Polo Shirts \$25.00

We now have limited stock of these great Polo Shirts. They come in dark blue with nice club logo embroidery. I intend to bring these to club days so please come and see me or phone Wayne Osborne 416-9515 or 0274 943-887.



Winter Series Results

Due to an event at the BPP, the last race of the winter series had to be cancelled, however the winners in each division had a lead that would have been hard to beat. In all we got in 16 races in each division. There were 15 entries in the over 85kg class with Russell Harray winning, John Nicholson 2nd and Wayne Osborne 3rd. In the handicap results Wayne Chamberlain took the honors with Trevor Pretty 2nd and Alex Stol 3rd.

Out of 16 entries in the under 85kg class the winner was Haydn Ingall, with Ross Vickers 2nd and Ross Ludwig from the Bay Club 3rd. In the handicap results David Heilbron won, with Tony Frischer 2nd and Derek Miles 3rd.

Membership

The Club currently has 63 financial members. The committee is also organising a buddy system for new members so they know someone who can give them help and advice to get up to speed, clarify rules and gain confidence for the pre-start – which with 20 experienced club members speeding around can be a bit daunting for a new member. If you would like to buddy a new member or want a buddy please let Graham Ingall know.

Nationals

The Professionals NZ Blokart Open 2007 was held during the first weekend of October at Blokart Heaven in Papamoa. The Auckland Club had the following members participating: Allan Levet, Barry Cole, Brian Neal, Bruce and Jenny

Hales, David Heilbron, Derek Miles, Graham Ingall, Grant Clark, Haydn Ingall, Nick Murray, Russell Harray, Tony Frischer, Trevor Hookway and Wayne Osborne. Regular club members Alex Stol and John Nicholson represented the Hamilton Club.

Wayne Osborne was the only Aucklander in the super heavyweight class and was just beaten by Richard Harrison. Russell Harray won the Heavyweight class. Allen Levet was 2nd in the Middleweight class and David Heilbron did well to come 4th. Haydn Ingall was unable to defend his title in the lightweight class, beaten by Gabe Young who was 15kg lighter.



Our winners – Wayne Osborne, Russell Harray, Allan Levet & Haydn Ingall.

We also had Zoe Pipes race in the Tearaway Youth Champs.

Blokarts Online

With the demise of Smartgroups and coolist, Jiglu has filled the gap nicely and provides an easy way to communicate. Register now at www.jiglu.com. The group is Blokart-NZ. As it can get quite busy at times it is recommend you set your email preferences to digest, so you get one email every couple of days rather than an email per post.

Other sites to check out on a regular basis:

1. www.abc.gen.nz
2. www.blokart.com
3. www.youtube.com
4. www.classactionracing.com
5. www.hiwinz.com
6. www.blokartforum.eu
7. www.jiglu.com



Even the new 5.5 meter sails couldn't get going in the light winds on the Tairua mudflats...

Auckland Blokart Club

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Auckland Blokart Club Inc.

Calendar

Wow – we have had a busy time in the lead up to Christmas since the Nationals!

The Twilight series will be raced at Bruce Pulman Park. Briefing at 6pm with racing to start soon after.

Sailing every Sunday as usual – venues to be advised.

Here is what we have been upto:

October

18
Twilight Series – Race 1
25
Twilight sailing - BPP or beach
27, 28
Auckland Championships

November

1
Twilight Series - Race 2
8
Twilight sailing - BPP or beach
9, 10, 11
90 Mile Beach Club Trip
15
Twilight Series – Race 3
22
Winter and ABC Prize Giving at Thai Flame Restaurant
24, 25
Tairua Club trip, ABC, BBC, Hamilton
29
Twilight Series - Race 4

December

6
Twilight sailing - BPP or beach
13
Twilight Series - Race 5
16
Christmas Picnic and Naked Day (We mean the karts not you! No pods or Carbon mast sections.)

2008

Pencil these dates into your calendar!

February 90-Mile Beach.

2008 Ivanpah Blokart Open and Rally

Ivanpah dry lake bed in Primm Valley Nevada, 35 miles south of Las Vegas on the Nevada/California border. March 29-31 and April 1-3, 2008 Ivanpa USA.

Tairua Trip

17 members checked out the mud flats in Tairua in late November. On Saturday the weather was poor with drizzle and under 8 knots of wind. Sunday morning the sun was out, but the sea breeze started fighting the SW, so with not much hope of getting up, we headed back to BPP, which was a good call.

For this venue to work, we need plenty of wind since the mud is a bit sticky, and plenty of time for the mud to dry out after the tide goes out. It was great to meet some of the locals.



90-Mile Beach

Friday saw a decent SW with karts reaching speeds of 70km/hr up the beach and about ½ that with the occasional tack on the way back to make it interesting. Russell organised a variety of races (Handicap, reverse order, relay, short and long courses).

Sunday saw us head over to Tokerau on the east coast on Ocra's advice to find him racing along the beach in 15–16 knts of wind 90 degrees to the beach. Perfect!

Thanks goes to Rosie, Rosemary and Trish for somehow organising everyone's food into a banquet on Friday night and then turning what was left into a great lunch Saturday. And Angela on the quad bike in case anything went wrong.

A trip not to be missed in February! (We had such a good time no one had time to take photos!)

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