



November 2011

Newsletter of the Auckland Blokart Club

President's Post



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

The two months since the last newsletter have flown by with lots of blokart activity. We've:

- Run a display in the Warbirds hangar at Ardmore for their Battle of Britain Day and provided sailing experiences for visitors to our stand;
- Competed in the NZ Open gaining three first places and three thirds;
- Held a working bee to finish off sealing of the tight corners at Ardmore;
- Commenced the pre-Christmas twilight race series on Thursday nights;
- Held the Bunnings Warehouse Auckland Championships; and
- Had six members of ABC travel to Christchurch to compete in the South Island Open.

The twilight series has involved the race committee in much hand-wringing and conferring with each other to decide by 2pm each Thursday whether to call racing off as the forecasts have been for very light wind. We've gone ahead each time and have sailed races each night. In contrast, the weekend of the Auckland Championships gave us light to moderate winds all weekend, resulting in fifteen races being held in each of the three divisions.

The Ardmore track improvements have begun with the tight corners off the taxiway now rounded off and sealed. This has been paid for from club funds. The sealing has held up well through a mixture of weather and, at the Auckland Championships, stood up to more than 1500 crossings by blokarts. Applications for funding are about to be lodged to smooth out seven metres at each edge of the runway, seal off large areas at the western end, and put in two cross-tracks between the runway and taxiway. Funding applications take a few months to be approved and the committee anticipates that not all the funding will be approved this time around, which means sealing priorities will need to be decided upon.

Your committee has been busy with planning not only for upcoming events such as winter series prizegiving; a new format for one-day quick-fire races; the Ninety Mile Beach extravaganza from 24th-27th November; the Warbirds Pearl Harbour day on 4th December; the club's picnic/family day on 11th December; funding applications; sponsorship; welcome packs for new members; and club apparel selection for the world championships in USA in April, but have also grappled with assessing the club's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats in order to produce a strategic plan for the next three years. Coupled with this, the committee has also refined the mission of the club, which was crafted seven years ago when ABC was created.

The revised mission is:

To provide a friendly, well organised, and safe environment for all blokart activities.

We believe that simple statement encapsulates everything the club stands for and will guide the club's direction for many years.

Wherever your wind blows.

Graham



blo.kart

2011 Bunnings Warehouse Auckland Champs

Saturday started a bit showery but with the prediction of plenty of wind all day. Tents went up quickly, kitchen in place, food and drinks turned up and race officers set out some marks 700 metres down the runway with various length courses available.

First race was C division, a division included for those who are new to racing or are not that confident about sailing with the more serious race fleet. Graeme showed his intentions from the first race by taking the win but not without being pushed by Rowena and new sailor Ryan with only a 4 metre sail. Lucy was also pushing hard and Peter had flashes of good sailing on the first day between a couple of unexpected spinouts and a tip over. Ryan took the next race and later on Lucy also got one but Graeme dominated the division with some good tactical sailing.

Ross nailed the first light weight race with some fast 5.5 metre sailing and looked to be going to dominate if the wind stayed under 10 knts. Sarah also started well with a win in the second race and Allan came right when the fleet shifted to 4 metres sails with a win and a couple of seconds. After a bad first race Grant showed good speed with his 4 metre and was the pick of the first day with 4 firsts and other good placings. This division was extremely close with 5 different race winners.

The heavyweight division had some extremely close racing with frequent changes of placings at the front of the fleet as Wayne, Nicko and Russell shared the wins in the first 8 races on Saturday. Theo was also up there but threw in a couple of average results to be back a few points at the end of the first day.

The wind came up to finish the first days racing with speeds close to 60 km/hr being recorded heading down the runway to the gybe mark with most using the grass to slow down before the 180 degree turn. Fun to watch the approach being taken on this mark as sailors slid sideways along the grass edge.

At the end of Saturday Graeme was leading Lucy and Rowena in C- division, Grant headed Allan and Ross by a good margin with Graham 1 point adrift, and Russell was slightly ahead of Wayne and Nicko in heavies.

Sundays forecast was for more of the same but the wind only really came up mid afternoon. Most of the 6 races were completed with 5.5 metres sails

Unfortunately Ryan could not make the first 3 races which dropped him back through the field after being in contention for a podium place. Graeme easily took out the 1st prize followed by Lucy who also won the youth trophy and Peter got up ahead of Rowena for 3rd place.



Cam grits his teeth
Photo by Tony Smith



Sarah was the most consistent light weight on Sunday with some very smart sailing which brought her right up into the running. With both Grant and Allan having a dnf plus a bad result this division opened right up and it came down to the last race on who would take out the trophy. Allan just got the overall win by 1 point ahead of Sarah and then another 1 point back to Grant who was let down by a 10th in race 14. Very close racing and right down to the wire.

The heavies were much the same with some fast sailing by the front group and many changes on placings throughout the races. With Theo and John Sherlock having some good races the results were in doubt up the final couple of races where sail choice was starting to become increasingly important as the wind strength fluctuated between using 5.5 and 4 metre sails.

In the end the more consistent sailing by Russell meant he took out the trophy followed by Wayne and Nicko who was very unlucky in a couple of races in hitting some light wind while others sailed past.

Thanks to Bunnings Warehouse for the sponsorship and all the great prizes at the end and Graham and Trish for hosting the barbeque Saturday night.

Another good effort from Team ABC.

Russell Harray

Photos by Tony Smith



Auckland Champs Results

Individual divisions:

Light Weights

- 1st Allan Kearney
- 2nd Sarah Tootill
- 3rd Grant Clark

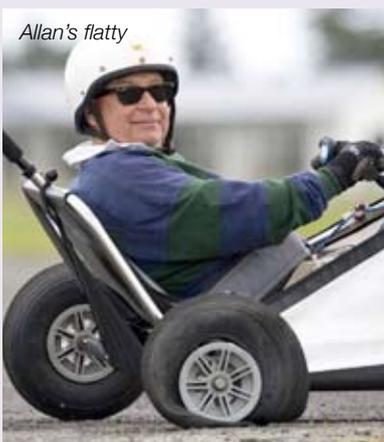
Heavy Weights

- 1st Russell Harray
- 2nd Wayne Osborne
- 3rd John Nicholson

C Division

- 1st Graeme Bertram
- 2nd Lucy Harrison
- 3rd Peter Pablecheque

Sponsored by



Wrecked Cars and Debris

During the past month there have been wrecked cars, a caravan, and a trailer as well as lots of glass and other debris on the runway. Some members have suffered quite a few punctures. This was the result of filming for a television programme about vehicle safety in which cars, caravans, and trailers were tipped and one even blown over by a Strikemaster jet. The committee has contacted the producers of the show and Ardmore Airport to express our concern over the condition in which the track was left. Ardmore has responded by sweeping our area twice and the show's producer has apologised for leaving the track in that condition and agreed to make a donation to the club.

We will purchase tyres for the club's blokarts from this money, but if you have suffered an excessive number of punctures from the glass, the committee will consider written requests for replacement tyres.



Warbirds

About three times a year the Warbirds Association based at Ardmore holds a themed day with vintage aircraft performing flying and static displays, and they have about 2000 spectators throughout the day. During the past year they have invited ABC to set up a display to promote the club and sport, and this has been tremendously successful with about 50 people each day signing our visitors' register. This rewards them with a voucher for a free trial that day at our track where we have members instructing the beginners. The club has attracted new members this way.

At the Battle of Britain Day in September, blokart International provided us with two of the silver blokarts that had been used in the opening ceremony for the Rugby World Cup just a week beforehand, and these were a huge drawcard.

The next Warbirds day is Pearl Harbor Day on Sunday 4th December at which we are hoping to be able to demonstrate blokarts in action. If you can help out either at the display or with instructing newcomers, please let Graham or Barry know.

Corporate Event in April 2012

It seems a long way off but we need to plan for events well in advance. On Sunday 22nd April, Ardmore is hosting a conference with activities for about 400 delegates and has asked ABC to provide blokart sailing as an activity for those who want an adrenaline rush. This event will provide the club with funds and exposure.

However, the event is being held just a week after the World Championships in the USA and, with thirty club members either still away or just arriving home we are looking for enthusiastic club members not going to the worlds to assist with organising and running the activity. If you can assist please contact Graham or Barry.



Auckland Champs

CALENDAR

November

- 17 Thursday night twilight series
- 20 Admore Sprints & Winter Prizegiving
- 24-27 90 Mile Beach Trip

December

- 1 Thursday night twilight series
- 4 Ardmore - Club Open day
- 11 Christmas picnic
- 15 Thursday night twilight series

2012

April

- 9-13 Blokart World Champs, Ivanpah
- 22 Ardmore Corporate Event fundraiser

Club Contacts

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Editor

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Websites

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

Committee Roles

We thought it would be helpful for members to know how the duties of the committee are divided and who your best contact may be. It's always pleasing to see club members pitching in to help. You don't need to be on the committee to make a difference to your club. If you have particular expertise, or just want to assist your club in some way, please contact one of the committee members and share your thoughts and ideas.

<u>Role</u>	<u>Responsibility</u>
President:	Graham Ingall
Vice President:	Barry Cole
Secretary:	Rowena Lennox-Robinson
Treasurer:	Allan Levett
Apparel:	Trevor Hookway, Barry Cole
Equipment:	Wayne Osborne
Events:	Russell Harray, Ross Vickers, Barry Cole, Wayne Osborne
Facility Development:	Graham Ingall, Russell Harray
Funding:	Graham Ingall
IBRA Representative:	Grant Crawshay
Membership:	Rowena Lennox-Robertson, Barry Cole
Newsletter:	Derek Miles
NZBAI Representative:	Graham Ingall, Grant Crawshay, Ross Vickers,
Promotion/Sponsorship:	Trevor Hookway, Dave Heilbron
Publicity:	Russell Harray, Derek Miles
Safety:	Wayne Osborne
Sailing Development:	Russell Harray, Ross Vickers, Barry Cole, Wayne Osborne
Social Events:	John Sherlock
Sponsorship:	Trevor Hookway, Dave Heilbron
Timing System:	Grant Crawshay, John Sherlock
Webmaster:	Tony Bourne, Derek Miles

Safety

A reminder that sailing through the gateway at the edge of the taxi-way is to be avoided, especially on race days. When exiting the taxi-way first stop your blokart head-to-wind on the grass and walk your kart through the gateway. This way we can avoid bowling over any unwary spectators. Sailing through the gateway on a race day could forfeit you the last race.

Stay Informed

Twitter

Follow us on Twitter @AKLblokart for the latest updates.



Mailing List

Subscribing to the notification service by email:

Step 1. Send an email to jiggle-join@ssn.co.nz (it does not matter what the subject line or message says)

Step 2. Reply to the join confirmation email that you will be sent after step 1.

Un-Subscribing:

Step 1. Send an email to jiggle-request@ssn.co.nz with "unsubscribe" as the subject AND the message.

Facebook

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