



President's Report 25 July 2015

The last 12 months has seen another busy year of blokarting at the Auckland Blokart Club. This has included;

- a full calendar of well-attended racing and social events
- on-going output of a weekly newsletter and other medium to communicate with members and a worldwide body of club followers;
- Development of written health and safety policies and procedures for the club
- Key involvement from our members in developing the updated IBRA rules as well as helping to drive national and world administration of the sport

The mission of our club is ***to provide a friendly, well organised and safe environment for all blokart activities***. We believe the club continues to meet this overall objective.

The committee has developed a strategic plan with objectives aligned with its mission ensuring the on-going success of the club. The following objectives are included in our strategic plan;

Objective	Have we Achieved?
To provide effective and positive management of the ABC	Yes
To provide effective financial management of the club and resources	Yes
To ensure stable membership which guarantees the long term viability of the club	Partly
To ensure that a range of safe venues are available within the Auckland region for blokart activities	Partly
To ensure that the health safety and well-being of both club members and members of the public is being considered at all times	Yes
To run a variety of fun and competitive events that suit all club members	Yes
To build resources necessary to run an effective club	Yes
To effectively communicate with club members at least once a month	Yes

Events

We endeavour to tailor the mix of social and serious racing to suit the wants and needs of our members. We request (but rarely receive) feedback from members after each event. We are therefore assuming that our members are largely happy with the range and style of racing being offered?

One example of a change from member feedback was the change to scoring for twilight racing this summer. Previously only competitors who had attended all of the race nights in the series were in contention. A new scoring system was devised that allows each competitor to drop 1 or 2 nights.

Our social calendar is pretty full with dinners, fun days, and barbecues held throughout the year, as well as the ever popular 90 Mile Beach trips which are run twice a year. We also found time to “celebrate” the departure of a couple of our long time club members.

On top of that we also have time for our regular season of blokart racing including winter series, club champs, twilight racing, team racing and a couple of sprints days.

The ABC club has continued to provide strong support to external blokart events. We had strong representation at the SIO, Nationals, Masters Games and NIO in NZ, as well as 6 members attending the European Blokart Champs in Denmark in May.

Thanks must go to my fellow committee members – Russell, Wayne and Graham who along with myself make up Events Management team. We work hard behind the scenes to ensure ABC events run like clock work.

Membership

Retention of members has been one of the challenges facing ABC and all blokart clubs in New Zealand for some years as we see more and more activities competing for people’s limited leisure time. While we are able to attract in new members, we also lose a significant number of members each year. In the last 12 months we have added 12 new members, while 19 members have not yet renewed their membership resulting in an overall drop in our official membership from 65 to 58 members.

(It is expected however that up to a third of the currently uncommitted members will eventually renew their membership which will result in similar overall membership numbers to last year.)

Non-race weekend days are open for the public to trial the sport in the club’s six blokarts. This is a very successful strategy and is a key source of new members. But it does require considerable input from members and it is a credit to the club that so many members step up to assist with kart setup and supervision of beginners.

If you are interested in assisting as part of our duty roster with casual weekend sailing then let me know today. Currently this means opening up and managing visitors for 1 day every couple of months.

The Cruiser division continues to be popular at ABC, and this is a base for encouraging members during their initial development and for those who are less competitive.

Special thanks to Ray and Trevor for their on-going efforts in developing youth members of our club.

Health & Safety

The ABC has again led the way for blokart clubs around the world by this year developing and implementing a comprehensive health and safety policy for use during general sailing and events.

The implementation of this policy has shown that some simple steps can be taken to minimise risk of injury and damage without detracting from the thrill of racing.

Thanks go to Wayne O for the considerable time and effort he has put into developing this system.

Communication

The club uses a number of ways to try and keep members fully updated;

- Website is used for posting of upcoming events, results and general club information
- Facebook for updates and messages to members and other “friends”
- Txt system for quick and important updates to members
- A Weekly newsletter for regular updates on club news and events

A big thanks to Nick for keeping the website updated and operating through the year, and to Peter for taking responsibility for ensuring a newsletter is compiled and sent out on time each week.

Facilities

While we believe we have the best permanent blokart sailing facility in the country, there is a cost in rent and continual maintenance to keep the track in good condition. Our Licence to Occupy Ardmore has two more years to run. We are seeing increased use of “our” track by car clubs and driver training, which is leading to increased track wear and damage.

Regular maintenance is required to keep the track in good condition, and I thank the large contingent of members who roll up a great “let’s do it” attitude whenever we have a working bee. We have learnt that road maintenance is very expensive. The club relies completely on all members helping to keep the track in great condition.

Ardmore Airport are applying for an upgrade to their Airport Certification. Under these requirements airport security will become a lot tighter including plans for a security fence around the whole airport.

ABC will now be required to pay for airport security during use of the extended track during special events.

Ardmore have plans to subdivide part of their land close to our track.

It is not given that Ardmore will remain available forever, and we must continue to keep our eyes open for opportunities to develop blokarting facilities beyond Ardmore.

Resources

The club is well resourced with six blokarts, a timing system, a timing trailer, a storage trailer and access to the world-class facility at Ardmore.

Unfortunately we are prevented by the Ardmore Management from building a larger more permanent storage shed at Ardmore.

Payment for the use of our timing system at other Blokart events both within NZ and overseas remains a major source of income for the club.

Our current raceday software has served us remarkably well over the last 7 or 8 years. Special thanks to Trish, Julie and John for the smooth processing of race results in all our events. Lack of accuracy from the software during starting has forced us into using manual starts in recent years. There are now a number of new software options available which use the same AMB loop and transponder system. So a new timing software may be justified in the coming years.

Committee

The tremendous co-operative spirit and dedication of past and present ABC committees is one of the main reasons the club is the success it is today. Most of the current committee members have committed for another year. The two exceptions are Ross Vickers and Trevor Pretty. Ross has moved overseas to Hong Kong, and while he has resigned from the committee he will continue to maintain his club membership along with his key roles with the website and shop development. Trevor has a new job and has therefore decided to take a rest from the committee for the coming year.

One resource you won't see in the balance sheet is the asset the club has in its members, families, and the committee. Whenever something needs to be done, our members step up. There are so many tasks to make the club a success, and our members are always there, both behind the scenes making things happen and mucking in doing the work. So special thanks to you all for making our club the best blokart club in the world.

Regards

Barry Cole
President
Auckland Blokart Club