



Auckland Blokart Club Inc.
President's Report 27 July 2014

Our mission:

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

- 2014 marks the tenth anniversary of the founding of the club which is a momentous achievement. Many of those founding members are still active in the club – Russell Harray, Marg Murray, Grant and Lu Clark, Bruce and Jenny Hales, Grant Crawshay, Peter Cunningham, Ray Kelly, and Tony Frischer. They started with a couple of blokarts but nowhere to sail, although they soon took over the carparks and roads at Bruce Pullman Park. That venue honed our sailing skills for 5-6 years until it became too busy and the club secured the Ardmore facility. Congratulations and thank you to the founders of the club and of blokart sailing in the Auckland region.
- 2013/14 has again been very successful for your club with a full calendar of well-attended racing and social events held; club members driving national and world administration of the sport; the development of a weekly newsletter to communicate with members and a worldwide body of club followers; and continual improvements made to our timing system and other assets.
- A contingent of 17 ABC members participated in the 2014 Blokart World Championships held near Perth and eight featured on the podium including two world champions – congratulations Theo Vondervoort and Haydn Ingall.

The committee has a strategic plan and works toward achieving the objectives of that plan.

How did we perform?:

Objective	Achieved
To provide effective and positive management of the ABC	√
To provide effective financial management of the club and resources	√
To grow membership by at least 10% per year	X
To provide members with facilities for safe blokart sailing	√
To run a variety of events that suit all club members	√
To gain sponsorship/funding for events and facilities	~
To build resources necessary to run an effective club	√

Events

2013/14 has been another busy year for your club with a full calendar of successful racing and social events held, including hosting the 2013 New Zealand Open at our Ardmore facility. The feedback from national and international visitors was positive. Thank you everybody who made that happen.

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 extended weekends twice a year.

Membership

Retention of members has been one of the challenges facing ABC and all blokart clubs in New Zealand for some years. We have little trouble attracting new members but we do lose a few each year. It is pleasing that ABC has turned the trend around this year and we welcome new members to the club. As at last week the club had 70 members, comprising 60 adults and 10 juniors, a modest increase from 67 members last year.

Growing our membership has been our focus during the past year and we have many keen new members joining in the activities. Our challenge is to retain new and existing members.

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 the key source of new members. I urge all club members to introduce yourselves to visitors and help the duty committee member give them an enjoyable sailing experience.

Special thanks again to Ray Kelly for his dedication in getting students along and coaching them, assisted by Trevor Pretty. This has resulted in a core of juniors participating in training on Saturdays and several students joining the club and racing in club events. Watch out as these juniors rapidly get up to speed and start challenging the older hands.

The Cruiser division, for those new to the sport or those who have sailed for a while but are less confident racing in the open divisions, continues to be popular, and we see this as a base for encouraging members to stay on board. During the year NZBAI surveyed members to determine the format for future national events, and there was considerable support around the country for production class to be included. ABC supported this and now offers production class in all ABC events. This is another positive move to encourage sailors who want to race competitively without the expense of buying all the "go fast" extras.

Facilities

We have the best permanent blokart sailing facility in the world, but there is a cost in rent and continual maintenance to keep the track in good condition. Our Licence to Occupy Ardmore has been renewed for three years. The committee is reviewing the \$5 fee for track use as there is considerable expense for materials to keep the track in good condition. The club relies on members chipping in to maintain the track and I thank all those who readily help whenever we have a working bee.

For the past three years we have enjoyed the use of the 700 metre extended runway for special events but the airport has recently advised that our use of the grass to slow down spreads debris over the runway and, if we continue to do so, we will incur a \$500 fee for sweeping the runway to prevent damage to aircraft propellers. The race committee is reviewing alternatives.

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.

Our club blokarts are for use by students and the public who can have a go for a fee to see what our sport is all about. Some of the blokarts are getting to replacement stage and we will seek funding to buy new blokarts.

The timing system provides a source of income for the club as it is frequently hired out for national and international events. We are fortunate to have some very competent club members who understand electronics and are able to continually refine the system. The piece that does wear out is the loop across the track with about 30,000 wheels crossing it just for our club events each year. A bright new orange loop has been made for just the cost of materials with Jon Davies donating his expertise and time to manufacture it. Thank you, Jon and to Wayne Osborne who lent much assistance to Jon.

Club Service

I was pleased to present the Russell Harray Cup for Outstanding Service to Nick Murray. Nick is the club secretary as well as the keeper of our website and technical guru who keeps our timing system running. Congratulations Nick, you are a deserved recipient of that valued and important trophy.

At the tenth anniversary dinner recently, I was honoured to confer life membership upon Russell Harray for his role in founding the club and its continued development. Congratulations Russell.

Committee

The tremendous spirit and dedication of past and present ABC committees has made the club the success it is today. Each committee member has at least one role to ensure ABC provides a friendly, well organised, and safe environment for all blokart activities.

At this AGM, nearly all the current committee members are willing to commit for another year, but we do have provision for more. I urge members to stand for a place on the committee and help make your club even better. New committee members bring fresh, new ideas and experiences to guide the club into the future.

Last Word

It has been extremely rewarding during my three years as president to guide the club through many great experiences, and a few challenges, but with the support of the most diligent committees I have ever worked with, the role has been a breeze. Thank you very much to the committees during the past three years for your support and dedication.

I look forward to the next decade of the club being just as exciting and progressive as the last.

Regards

Graham Ingall
President
Auckland Blokart Club