



President's Report 23 July 2017

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

The last 12 months has been yet another busy year...

- A varied mix of serious racing and social events has been offered to meet the needs of members
- A successful NZ Open was hosted by the club.
- We have seen continued high attendance and success from ABC members at regional, national and international blokart events.
- Uncertainty over our tenure at Ardmore has pushed us to start looking at alternative venues in the region
- We use our online newsletter to communicate weekly to our members and beyond...
- A strong health and safety culture has ensured our members safety and well-being during blokart events.
- New Mylaps race management software has now been fully bedded down
- We have had key involvement from our members driving the national and world administration of the sport

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;

Objectives	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	Yes
To ensure that a range of safe venues are available within the Auckland region for blokart activities	?
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. To ensure that is the case we sought feedback from all members in an online survey back in May. The main themes coming through in the feedback were;

- 90MB and our organised race series were peoples' favourite 2 events. Less structured social sailing days at Ardmore and at the Beach were the least popular.
- 82% of people thought we had the right amount of organised events – only 2 people thought we had far too few...

We maintain a full social calendar 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. Thanks to John and the "Rosies" for continuing to pull together these fun social events.

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.

Thanks must go Russell, Grant and Wayne who along with myself make up Events Management team. We work hard behind the scenes to ensure ABC events run like clock-work.

The ABC club has continued to provide strong support to external blokart events. We had strong representation at the Aussie Open, SIO, Nationals, Masters and NIO held in NZ in the last year.

In last year's NZ Open ABC members won all 4 divisions.

Membership

While we are able to attract in new members, we also lose a significant number of members each year. Overall our membership numbers have been stable over the last 12 months. The recent members' survey highlighted that 80% of respondents were 56 or older. Everyone is now 13 or 14 years older from when the club was started with a few showing some signs of wear and tear. People are spending more time travelling particularly once they reach retirement age. Therefore we do need to continually refresh our numbers with new members.

We have added monthly "have a go" days to our program. This is an opportunity to bring your family, friends, work colleague and neighbours for a "free" try at blokarting.

We also open to the public when Ardmore is available and we don't have racing scheduled. This has been a 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 a few times each year.

We continue to offer a Cruiser division at all ABC racing events, and this is a base for encouraging members during their initial development and for those who are less competitive.

Health & Safety

I believe the ABC continues to lead the way for blokart clubs around the world with our focus on health and safety.

At last year's NZ Open we were required by Ardmore Airport to prepare a comprehensive risk management plan to allow us to run the event at the busiest active airport in NZ. The fact that this document could be quickly developed from our existing H&S policies shows the benefit of the work done in this area.

While not all racing has been incident free, it is pleasing to see proper reviews on safety being performed after incidents to ensure problems are address and mistakes aren't repeated

Thanks, again, goes to Wayne O for the considerable time and effort he has put into developing and maintaining this system.

Communication

The club uses a number of ways to try and keep our members fully updated, including; our website, facebook, txts and email. But the recent members' survey confirmed that most people prefer to receive their news via the weekly newsletter. This newsletter is being viewed and copied around the world.

A big thanks to Nick for keeping the website updated and operating throughout the year with a lot of work gone into developing a new shop, and to Peter for ensuring a newsletter is compiled and sent out on time each week.

Facilities

The biggest concern raised by members in our survey was the on-going access to Ardmore for Blokart sailing.

We believe we currently have the best permanent blokart sailing facility in the country. However we are seeing increased use of "our" track by car clubs and driver training, which is reducing the track availability and leading to increased track wear and damage.

After pointing out the damage to Ardmore, they have completed thousands of dollars' worth of repairs in the last few months. This has allowed us to make some considerable savings in this years budgeted maintenance.

The license fee we pay Ardmore for use of the track has increased from \$200 to \$300 per month in the last year. But this was our first increase in 6 years, and we are still only paying a fraction of the cost of other commercial users. Our monthly payments are less than other commercial users are charged for a single day.

Ardmore Airport have upgraded their Airport Certification in the last 12months. Under these requirements airport security was meant to become a lot tighter. Fortunately plans for a security fence around the whole airport haven't eventuated (yet). ABC may now be required to pay for security and sweeping during use of the extended track during special events, however these costs weren't enforced during the NZ Open last year.

The land on which our track is situated is zoned for commercial development and Ardmore Airport's current owner has a history in property development. But at the moment there are no plans to push ahead with this development, and Ardmore have offered to discuss alternative locations for sailing at the airport if this was to occur.

We cannot rely on Ardmore remaining available forever, and we must continue to keep our eyes open for opportunities to develop blokarting facilities beyond Ardmore.

In this regard we have commenced some discussions with the Auckland Council about a permanent long term venue for blokart sailing in Auckland. The council have been very supportive in this quest with a number potential future venues being discussed. Watch this space. Thanks to Russell for the work he is doing in this area.

As you have seen in our Financial report we have quite a bit of cash sitting in the bank. A move to new venue will need a substantial investment to develop hard surface for blokart sailing. If our tenancy at Ardmore becomes more secure then the money can be used to extend the sailing surface there.

Resources

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

After many years of being declined Ardmore have eventually agreed to allow us to build a larger more permanent storage shed at Ardmore. Given the uncertain tenure at Ardmore the ABC committee have elected to use a shipping container for gear storage that could eventually be transported off site at minimal cost in the future. The intention is to fund this using a grant from a charitable foundation.

Thanks to Ray and his team for developing the storage design for the container, and for Trevor for preparation of the grant application.

Payment for the use of our timing system at other Blokart events both within NZ and overseas has been a major source of income for the club, but now less likely as other clubs have their own timing systems.

Our new Mylaps software has performed relatively flawlessly over the last 12months. The days of race delays due to software issues are well and truly over.

Special thanks to Kirsty, Julie and John for the smooth processing of race results in all our events.

There are further opportunities with this software with instant online publishing of results that can be investigated.

Committee

Much of the success of the club is down to the co-operative spirit and dedication of the committee and key members. Fortunately we are only losing 1 key member of our committee this year.

Peter has decided to take a year off after finally graduating from the Kindergarten, and his new job will require quite a lot of travelling. I would like to thank Peter for his considerable involvement in the development of our club over the last 5years, and particularly for his work on putting out the weekly newsletter

My 3 year term as President is up this year, and so I will be handing over the reins to someone else. I am lucky with the support from the committee and members that it has not been too hard a role.

The final feedback from survey people were asked their main reasons for belonging to the club. For most people it seemed to be a combination of meeting friendly people, and the well organised racing that attracts people to the club.

So special thanks to you all for making this the best blokart club in the world.

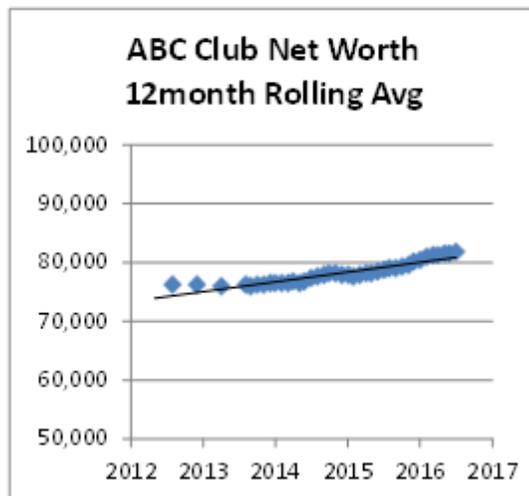
Best Regards

Barry Cole
President
Auckland Blokart Club

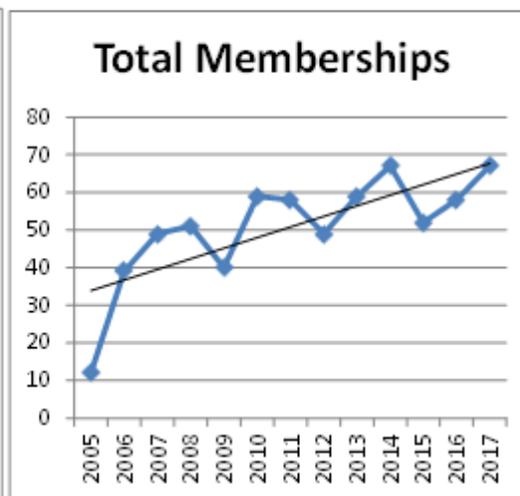
AUCKLAND BLOKART CLUB - KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS



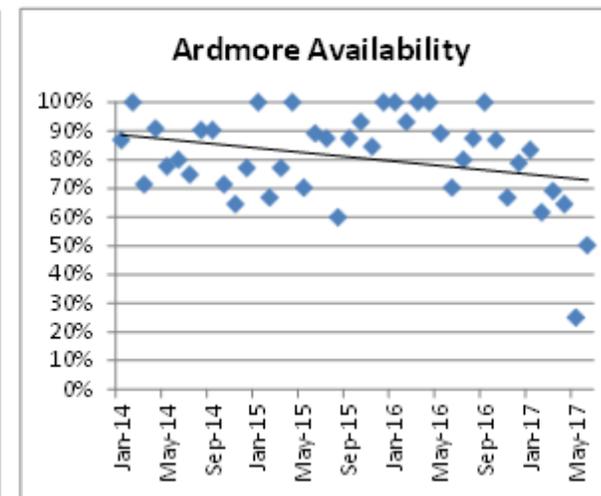
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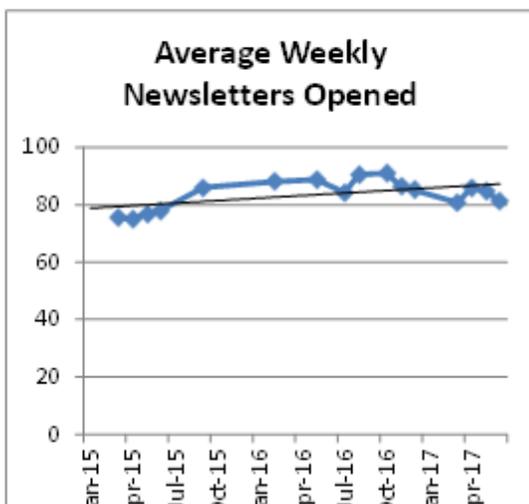
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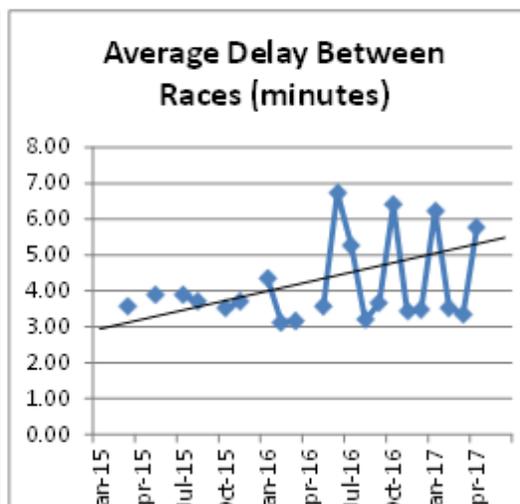
FACILITIES



COMMUNICATION



RACE MANAGEMENT



SAFETY

