

## Kart Report for SAMSC – March 2021

Like all other motorsport, karting in Scotland has come to a halt. In 2020 the West of Scotland Kart club tried to stage some permitted events, but the Scottish government and Sports Scotland forbid anything but trial events and could not award trophies or issue results of competition. As a result, WSKC ran non-regulated events, Independent Kart Racing (IKR). Not sure of the moral standpoint on this, but nevertheless they ran. Other clubs in Scotland ran similar events.

This has, of course, lead to licence holders not being able to gather signatures for upgrade. Still a problem for existing licence holders simply wishing to upgrade, but more of an issue for new drivers to the discipline trying to gain full licences. On behalf of the Association of Scottish Kart clubs I put forward a case to Motorsport UK asking them to recognise these events and grant upgrade signatures. Naturally, the request was denied. I totally understand this, but I feel rather a shame as we all want to encourage new people into our sport and karting is the natural entry point for all motorsport.

Many will have heard rumours, seen emails, or other comments about WSKC. As many will also know I was very closely associated with the club for a great number of years. As such it would be impossible for me to report fairly on what has happened. I believe the situation is that WSKC no longer exists and the Larkhall circuit is operated as Larkhall Circuits. The registrar of the ASKC, Carol Blanchard, has had conversations with Motorsport UK and as of the beginning of March WSKC was not a registered Motorsport club nor was any other club at Larkhall. For me this is such a loss as a club in the west of Scotland is vital.

The East of Scotland Kart Club, Grampian Kart Club and North of Scotland Kart club have all agreed to try to run as full a season as possible under the current situation. Dates for their Super Series and Scottish championships have been agreed.

Last Tuesday (9<sup>th</sup> March) a meeting of Kart Committee took place via Zoom. Although the minutes are not yet published, I can report that it was a very good meeting covering a variety of topics. Amongst the were reports on the progress towards “electric” karts, which seems to be progressing very quickly – not sure how they will deal with all those long extension leads around a circuit 😊 !

“Race ‘n’ Respect” and “Let’s Go Karting” are being relaunched very soon. In particular I am personally very please about the latter as I was quite involved with the original scheme. A new initiative of a national tyre recycling programme is being investigated with very positive vibes. New regulations for gearbox class starts were approved and should appear in the blue book next year. A further initiative is in hand to fast-track officials on their upgrade path. This is probably going across all disciplines.

And finally, the committee is looking at ways to encourage the currently non-regulated events (IKR) into the Motorsport UK fold. Again, being personally involved I hope we can get rid of most of the red tape and cost that exists at club level karting.

Rod Taylor – March 2021