



# north of ireland karting association

*Keith Wilkinson*  
secretary & championship co ordinator

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**Date:-** 7<sup>th</sup> February 2008

**Venue:-** Joymont Arms, Carrickfergus

## 1.0 Introduction

### 1.1 Attendance

Keith Campbell	Bishopscourt Kart Club (Vice Chairman)
Keith Wilkinson	Coleraine DMC (Secretary)
Davy Moulden	500 MRCI (Treasurer)
Frank Weir	500 MRCI
Paul Preston	Bishopscourt Kart Club
Terry Wilkinson	Bishopscourt Kart Club
Evan Freeman	Coleraine DMC
Trison McMullan	Coleraine DMC
Gordon Duncan	Ulster Kart Club
Sam Finlay	Ulster Kart Club
Paul Fullerton	Ulster Kart Club

### 1.2 Apologies

Terry Hamill	Coleraine DMC
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### 1.3 Invited Guests

Philip Mills	Bishopscourt Kart Club
Mark Montgomery	Bishopscourt Kart Club
David Smith	Bishopscourt Kart Club
Sean Doherty	Ulster Kart Club
Gerry Magennis	Ulster Kart Club
David Richardson	Ulster Kart Club
Linda McGibbon	2&4 WMSG Development Officer

1.4 The Minutes of the last meeting were read & agreed to be accurate, proposed by Terry Wilkinson & seconded by Sean Doherty.

## 2.0 Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

- 2.1 Paul Preston enquired whether the existing Child Protection Officers within the clubs are required to attend refresher courses. Linda McGibbon advised that Sports NI would be holding both refresher courses & courses for new Child Protections officers in the coming months & details would be forwarded when available.
- 2.2 Keith Campbell commented that the clubs & NIKA had not carried out a sufficient level of promotion for the sport. He requested that everybody should take advantage of the current interest in the sport, thanks to Lewis Hamilton, in order to create greater public awareness of karting. David Smith commented that any promotion should be tailored to suit the audience that it was being presented to.

## 3.0 Chairman's Report

3.1 The Vice Chairman, Keith Campbell, welcomed all in attendance & in particular the invited guests from the Ulster Karting Club, Bishopscourt Kart Club & Linda McGibbon, to the AGM. He personally thanked the committee & the clubs for their work throughout 2007 & especially expressed thanks to Robbie Robinson, Clarke Forsythe & Norman Smith who had recently resigned from the committee.

Despite a drop in entries, which is affecting clubs all over the UK, the 2007 season was reasonably successful, with a high standard of competition. It was felt that despite a strong inaugural year of the 'Golden Helmet' series in 2006, the 2007 series had not been as successful, due to a lack of support from southern drivers.

Looking forward to the year ahead, it was hoped that the future of Nutts Corner would be resolved which would allow the planned development of the venue to commence. The continued improvements to both Bishops court & Kirkistown were highlighted & encouraged all drivers to support the venues & the clubs. The return of the Superkart UK Cup to Bishops court in June was seen as the stand out event for the year.

The importance of securing grant aid from 2&4 WMSG was highlighted & the need to up date the Strategic Plan in order to avail of this funding. In general karting has benefited very well from 2&4 WMSG, not only with grant aid but also from the training courses that are organised & the general support of the group & it was hoped that this would continue.

#### **4.0 Treasurer's Report**

- 4.1 The Treasurer, Mr David Moulden issued the balance sheet for the year ending December 2007. The treasurer highlighted the refund to Sports NI during the year, along with the two dinner dances that had taken place in 2007. Despite this the treasurer claimed the finances to be stable at the start of the new financial year.

Also included on the balance sheet was a sum for the scrutineers fund, which is administered by the association. It was proposed & agreed by all that the contribution paid by the clubs into the scrutineers fund would remain as 2007 per race for 2008.

See attached for completed balance sheet that was agreed to be an accurate account of the Association's finances, proposed by Paul Preston & seconded by Trison McMullan.

#### **5.0 Championship Report**

- 5.1 The Championship co-ordinator, Keith Wilkinson, commented that general entries throughout the year had remained similar to the previous year, although there had been an increase in number of newcomers towards the end of the year & through the Winter Series'.

The championship remained competitive, throughout all the classes, with only two of the 10 classes being decided before the final round. In particular he acknowledged the achievement of Megan McCrea in becoming the youngest female NI champion, Kyle Price for winning four consecutive titles & Liam Fox for taking his fourth title in six years. He further commented on the success of local drivers in National competitions, most notably Trevor Roberts in securing the MSA British Championship & Grand Prix.

The increase in the number of Cadets that had started recently was also highlighted, the result of the Lewis Hamilton effect, which bodes well for the future of the sport.

The development of the website has been a success, with further improvement planned in the near future. Each club was requested to forward all regulations, along with any other useful information which can be added to the site.

#### **6.0 2&4 WMSG Report**

- 6.1 Terry Wilkinson commented on the lack of attendance from the NIKA delegates at 2&4 WMSG meeting throughout the year, however this has now been resolved with the election of Gordon Duncan Sam Finlay & Keith Wilkinson.

It was confirmed that Sports Minister, Edwin Poots MLA, had released grant aid for safety in motorsport, which would be discussed at the next board meeting. It was further advised that circuit plans had been submitted, which would be reviewed at the forthcoming Strategy Day, ahead of submitting full proposals for the development of motorsport in the province to Minister Poots.

Terry Wilkinson commented on the recent media-training course, which had been organised by 2&4 WMSG, which was extremely informative & recommended senior club officials attend the upcoming course, which was being planned.

#### **7.0 Election of Officers**

- 7.1 With the completion of the annual reports the Keith Campbell thanked everyone for the hard work throughout the previous year & invited Linda McGibbon to oversee the election of officers & stood down.

**Secretary:-** Keith Wilkinson

Proposed by Paul Preston & seconded by Sean Doherty, was re-elected, unopposed.

**Chairman:-** Keith Campbell

Proposed by Terry Wilkinson & seconded by Trison McMullan, was elected, unopposed.

**Treasurer:-** David Moulden

Proposed by Sean Doherty & seconded by Paul Preston, was re-elected, unopposed.

- Vice Chairman:-** Sam Finlay  
Proposed by Terry Wilkinson & seconded by David Moulden, was elected, unopposed.
- Funding Officer:-** Paul Fullerton  
Proposed by Gordon Duncan & seconded by Terry Wilkinson, was elected, unopposed.
- Champ. Co-Ord:-** Keith Wilkinson  
Proposed by Keith Campbell & seconded by David Moulden, was re-elected, unopposed.
- Child Protection:-** Evan Freeman  
Proposed by Paul Preston & seconded by Trison McMullan, was re-elected, unopposed.
- 2&4 WMSG:-** Terry Wilkinson & Gordon Duncan, were proposed as delegates.  
Keith Wilkinson & Sam Finlay, were proposed as alternates.  
Proposed as a group by Keith Campbell & seconded by Paul Preston & re-elected unopposed.

7.2 Keith Wilkinson agreed to contact Sports NI to advise them of the recent changes to the committee.

## **8.0 2&4 WMSG Matters**

8.1 Linda McGibbon commented that the current 2&4 WMSG funding programme was coming to an end in April 2009 & the programme for funding beyond this was currently being developed. It was also likely that from 2009 that 'match' funding would be likely, due to the reduction in available funding as a result of London 2012.

It was advised that Access NI was now responsible for the vetting of child protection officers, however Sports NI would still be arranging the training. Any additional vetting that was required for motorsport that was not covered by the MSA would be covered by 2&4 WMSG.

## **9.0 Correspondence**

9.1 Keith Wilkinson presented a letter from BishopsCourt KC advising that Paul Preston would be replacing John Wilson as their NIKA delegate for the incoming year.

## **10.0 Constitution Review**

10.1 Keith Wilkinson distributed an updated of the constitution, taking into account recent proposals for the secretary to become an Honorary, non-voting member & to allow circuit owners to become non-voting members.

Minor amendments were proposed by Gordon Duncan & seconded by Sean Doherty & it was agreed to that the revised constitution be adopted at the next committee meeting.

## **11.0 Any Other Business**

### **11.1 Shackleton Motorsport Festival**

Gerry Magennis confirmed that the UKC had reached an agreement with the Maiden City Motor Club to run the karting event at the Shackleton Motorsport Festival in July.

The event would be on a temporary circuit & would be open to call classes, including the superkarts & the winners would receive the 'NC' plate. The format for the racing was yet to be agreed.

Although the UKC would be promoting the event, support from all clubs was requested, as it was envisaged that this would be on of the biggest events karting had been involved with.

### **11.2 Nutts Corner**

Sean Doherty advised that the UKC had fulfilled all it's obligations, in trying to complete the purchase of Nutts Corner from Antrim Borough Council, however the council seemed to be dragging their heels.

It was hoped that the purchase, in conjunction with John Eastwood would be completed by the end of March.

In the meantime work had commenced to improve the circuit, which includes the removal of the earth bank, which would allow long circuit racing to return to the venue.

### **11.3 Strategic Plan**

Keith Campbell commented that the Strategic Plan had been up dated as far as possible without additional input from the other clubs.

Linda McGibbon highlighted the importance of having a plan in place in order for the association to able to draw funds from both 2&4 WMSG & Sports NI.

Paul Preston proposed that one member from each club form a sub committee. Gordon Duncan, Trison McMullan, David Moulden & Paul Preston all agreed to meet Keith Campbell, to further develop the plan.

- 11.4 It was agreed by all that due to a general lack of support from Southern drivers, NIKA would not be supporting the Golden Helmet series in 2008.
- 11.5 Frank Weir advised that the race meeting scheduled for 17<sup>th</sup> May had now been moved to the 24<sup>th</sup> May, to avoid a clash with the NW200, which was restricting the available marshals.
- 11.6 Gerry Magennis confirmed that the Ulster Championships would take place on Easter Monday & Tuesday. Pending agreement to purchase the circuit it was still the clubs intention to hold the Irish Gran' Prix on Saturday & Sunday the 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> August.

## **12.0 Next Meeting**

- 12.1 To be agreed after the completion of the 2008 financial year.
- 12.2 Signed by Chairman:
- 12.3 Signed by Secretary:
- 12.4 Date: