

Minutes of the 2025 Association of British Kart Club Annual General Meeting

Held by Zoom digitally on 28th April 2025

1 Apologies: Ian Ward (Bayford Meadow), Chrissy Murray (FAT Karting), Dan Parker (Motorsport UK Karting Manager)

Present:

12 clubs represented: British Historic (Gary Preece/ Mike Topp), Chasewater (Mike Stackhouse), Jersey (Amanda Seal), TVKC (Nigel Edwards), NATSKA (Peter Atmore), Champions (Dan Ashton), Shenington (Graham Smith & Lesley Allen), Fulbeck (Jim Thornsby), Cumbria (Marion Fell), F100 & Medway (Jay Fairbrass), Rissington (Steve Chapman), Whilton Mill (Paul Sirett)

In attendance: Elise Whyte (Motorsport UK Club Development)

2 Approval of the 2024 AGM Minutes

First Nigel Edwards gave a warm welcome to all attendees and said there is good support from our clubs.

The 2024 AGM minutes were proposed by BHKC and seconded by Shenington KRC, all approved.

Action points addressed were:

From Shenington, request to reduce the age allowed trackside, MSUK did not agree

From Shenington, request to take measures to increase female participation. MSUK (and FIA-CIK) have introduced several initiatives over the past year, which are having good effect.

From Champions, to encourage more clubs to offer the Bambino class. Limited effect but Shenington noted they offered Bambino in April and at some practice days.

3 Chairman's Address:

Nigel Edwards said the ABKC has moved on from organising championships to an advisory role, saying this was a good step and benefited the club focus. We have become the central point for karting information the go to place for and to Motorsport UK. He thanked Graham Smith and Paul Sirett for their work. We are privileged to be on the kart committees and Regional, where Graham keeps karting high on the agenda. Over the course of last year our social media is well represented, and we get analytics via MSUK about our website, showing for instance 3814 views in March, so we appear to be doing a good job. Some weak spots were identified and will be addressed. Kartmania is a great standalone show and ABKC is rightly there. Financially we are not here to generate lots of money and so membership is just £75. We aim to promote our clubs and the sport.

4 Secretary Report

Graham Smith said we had 36 clubs in membership in 2024, and currently 35 as Two Counties have resigned saying they no longer organise events. Newsletters were published almost every month. The ABKC representation on the karting committees and the Regional Meeting continue, but Graham has had to leave the Safety Committee as too old. Ken Potter has taken over to represent karting. The new website was launched on 20th April and clubs are requested to let Graham know of any errors. The Kartmania stand was very successful in a good position next to ARKS and MSUK.

5 Treasurer Report

The annual accounts to 31st October 2024 prepared by Ann Smith were available to all clubs by a web link on the agenda notice. We continue to loan Kartmania £2500. The bank balance at the 31st October year end is £27573.49 compared with £25474.05 in 2023. The income was £2911.64 and expenditure £812.20 compared with £1587.84 in 2023. So we end up with a profit of £2099.44 compared with £2030.86 in 2023, which enabled the Steering Group to recommend to continue with a flat subscription fee of £75. So far the 2025 subscriptions have raised £2625 with one club still to pay.

Nigel asked if the Kartmania loan should be make permanent, to refer to **Steering Group ACTION**

The accounts were proposed by Shenington and seconded by Chasewater with all in favour. And update to 24.4.25 was given by the Treasurer for information, Income since 1 November was £2466.26 and expenditure of £2367.57, and bank balance of £27672.18.

6 Nominations for Steering Group

Nominations received are Nigel Edwards for Chair, Graham Smith for Secretary and for the other members Rob Dodds, Paul Skipp, Jim Thornsby, Ian Ward and Dan Ashton with Paul Sirett for Operations Manager and Ann Smith for Treasurer. Proposed by Rissington and seconded by Jersey, motion carried.

7 Resolutions

There were no formal resolutions put forward by clubs. The formal meeting was closed.

Informal Q&A

Once the formal meeting was over, there was an open Q&A but first Nigel asked all the clubs to give a quick resume of current challenges and successes.

Cumbria KC – club going well, numbers pretty much the same, helped vastly by various good sizes travelling championships coming, unhappy not getting a British Championship round.

Shenington – Good entries around 200. Big challenge is fitting in the number of classes, exacerbated by not being able to mix the two Interclub classes, as Rotax inter is far too fast and dangerous.

Lesley would like ABKC to have MSUK address this problem. Also the lack of sufficient officials and the time taken to train them, the sport is also too complicated.

Jersey – looking forward to their Festival in June and recruiting more members.

Fulbeck – They are not one of the bigger clubs but have the benefit of Rookie Racing on site. Many of the drivers that do take their ARKS test still compete in IKR.

F100 & Medway – Medway had a successful season but the entries are lower than needed. F100 will be opening entries next month and Jay has come back as Chairman. It is really hard to find officials with the right skill set. Once trained up they leave for elsewhere.

Operations Manager – Paul would encourage clubs to use the ABKC social media (going via an approval process) which has 3000 followers. For Kartmania, if the club doesn't have a stand, send us your leaflets to display. He asked what material the ABKC could produce would be best to benefit clubs. ABKC had a very good meeting with MSUK regarding our Regional Development and jointly will issue a club survey, encouraging clubs to complete.

Whilton Mill – entries were good in 2024 but Cadet classes weak and have to be mixed. There is great difficulty in finding enough officials and marshals. For 2025 entries have been less predictable.

BHKC – currently have 115 members and quite good at attracting new members at the many classic and other shows where they display. The club is now using Alpha for demonstration entries.

NatSKA – they are pretty upbeat, concentrating on grass roots. Most officials are in-house except for Clerks. They struggle to get dates at venues, finding clubs are often waiting for the BKC to decide on their calendar first. Pete was appreciative of the support given by MSUK except that he is having difficulty in getting responses about his 2025 regulations handbook and they are having to use 2024. Elise promised to look into the matter.

Champions – Just had Round 2 at Shenington, fantastic weekend, good entry nearly 180, 2 grids of MightE Bambino and David Richards visited on the Saturday. Karun Chandhok's son was racing MightE. But driving standards were very poor.

Rissington – RAF/MOD make life very difficult, with no overnights allowed, fuel cans cannot be left on the ground (which makes them more likely to spill), no pegs in the ground etc.

Motorsport UK – Elise Whyte introduced herself and admitted her karting knowledge is a bit limited. She is loving hearing about the social media side from ABKC. She said we are not the only organisation having difficulties finding officials.. She hoped clubs would engage with the forthcoming

survey. Nigel agreed to have a dedicated discussion about marshal and official recruitment. **ACTION STEERING GROUP.**

Jay asked that all clubs listed on the website had their circuit name mentioned, there was some missing. Graham agreed to correct.

There was a discussion about the British Kart Championship. Some views put forward said the BKC appeared to favour a small number of clubs and venues and the choice is not transparent, and choices seem to be team-led.

Mike Topp said it appeared that the big teams were controlling the sport, but Dan Ashton disagreed and said the sport is evolving and we must move with the times. 60% at CKC were not with big teams.