

## MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING HELD 18 February 2016

Held at the state office, CAMS, Unit 3, 43 King Williams Street, Kent Town

AKASA Executive	Peter Fritz, Eddy Spear, Simone Lake and Melissa Rees		
AKASA Elected Officials	Rod Clee, Jim Gorman, David Harris and Michael Yeo		
BGKC	Simon Granfield	BHKC	Mick Stott
DGKC	Simon Rees	GKCSA	David Rinaldi
MGKC	Brain Sparrow (via phone)	SGKC	Jim Gorman
WGKC	David Boorman	Apologies	NA
Visitors	Dave Dowson (GKCSA), Brett Fortanier (SGKC), Warren Mitchell (SGKC), Darren Nicolson (SGKC), Stephen Nicolson (SGKC), Matt Hutchins (SGKC), Ben Lake (BHKC), Keith Bartlett (DGKC), Colin Moat (SGKC), Craig Denton (KA) and Kelvin O'Reilly (KA).		

Meeting opened with 7.40pm with Peter Fritz in the Chair.

Welcome to everyone and our visitors.

**January Minutes** – PF motion to accept January Minutes – BHKC / 2<sup>nd</sup> BGKC – unanimous vote passed

*Business Arising from minutes*

KA returned draft state regulations with some revisions. Delegates to look at the amendments, discuss with their exec and return to MR within a week. Interim approval received for BGKC to run Master 125 Restricted Light Class – 160kg's.

Hot Weather Policy – no progress as meeting time to be confirmed.

### **Correspondence**

Technical Rule Interpretations:

TRI 16-01 Unless the rules say you can, you can't

TRI 16-02 CIK FIA Homologated Rear Protection Impact Devices

AKC Grid Capacity cut off – awaiting response (27.01.16)

Homologation and Technical Specification Update Bulletins:

78H-2 X30 Starter Button

106H-3 Additional Earth Position

106H-4 Clutch Cover (Chain Guard) Permitted Modifications

General Rule Clarifications:

GRC 16-02 Junior Licence Criteria

State Championship Round One Supplementary Regulations Approved

2016 State Regulations Amended Draft

Interim approval for TAG 125 Restricted Masters Light Division at Club Level Meetings

Licence Review Panel

Michael Yeo – Upgrade licence - Approved

Blake Mooney – Recognised previous motorsport experience – Approved

Daniel Bowden – early progression to Masters – Awaiting decision

Sports Med

Still liaising with Sports Medicine Association regarding Hot Weather Policy

KA Questions

Two members have provided questions to MR for KA CEO to respond.

### **Finance Report**

Up to date with outstanding accounts – only a couple of current accounts outstanding.

Account balance - \$69,500.

Outstanding drivers levies and affiliation fees have been invoiced to clubs – please ask club treasurer to look at asap

### **Presidents Report**

Addressed comments made by a club vice president regarding SKC not representing karters requirements. Reminder SKC delegates represent clubs, motions are passed and failed on that basis. It is only the club delegates making decisions not any one member of SKC Executive. If there is an issue with the delegates not representing clubs correctly, the issue needs to be discussed with the club. All decisions are minuted and open for all clubs. Personal disparaging comments regarding the SKC and delegates who are volunteers is not appreciated.

Caution regarding social media use - recent multiple instances where comments made by various folks on political karting issues, including publishing of personal mobile numbers will not help karting move forward. Boundaries are being crossed and the protections available to people around slander will be used.

State titles coming up – acknowledgment and thank you to the committee who put their time into getting things ready for the series. Looking forward to the first race at WGKC in a few weeks time.

### **Executive Commissioner Report**

State regulations are coming together with assistance from Michael Masi and Jim Gorman.

### **Secretary Report**

#### **Licences Processed**

	Senior			Junior			Cadet 12			Cadet 9		
	Nov	Dec	Jan	Nov	Dec	Jan	Nov	Dec	Jan	Nov	Dec	Jan
New Licences	4	1	5	2	1	0	1	0	0	2	0	0
Licence Renewals	8	4	18	2	0	2	0	1	4	3	2	2
Late Licence Renewals	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Practice Licences	7	1	6	Vintage Licences	0	0	0
Transponders	2	2	0	Restrictors	1	0	1

#### **Meeting Statistics**

23-Jan	SGKC	Australia Day Classic	107 (2016)	111 (2015)	101 (2014)
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#### **State Technical Adviser**

State tool kit has been received. A reasonable sum of money will need to be spent to get the kit back to standard. Motion to spend up to \$2K to get required equipment – BGKC/WGKC – unanimous vote passed.

Engine checking to be provided at WGKC State Championship

Club to provide representative for technical training course. BHKC (Ben and Simone Lake) completed at Mildura. SGKC – Danny Miller, GKCSA – Brandon Stillwell. Other clubs to supply names to MR asap.

#### **State Stewards Co-ordinator**

Minor infringement notices to continue to be used until supply situation rectified. Expectation relatively short term issue but mounting kits and rear bars are still in short supply. KA to advise when situation rectified.

#### **Track Safety**

No Report

#### **Tribunals**

No Report

#### **State Titles Sub Committee**

Verbal confirmation of \$16K sponsorship deal with Alpha Industries. This is to be spent on TV ad run to run in lead up to each round. MY to supply SL with details to invoice them. TV ad to cost 4K production and \$10K advertising.

MH working with minor sponsors to provide prizes for round and series winners. Paul Feeney committed to supplying set of tyres per round.

Weeks Group to confirm Tues, Wed re final figure. Modbury Press to provide 500 free posters. Call for someone to approach Remo and Dunlop regarding additional sponsorship opportunities.

Class sponsorship left to each hosting clubs. WGKC confirmed 10 sponsors at the moment for 1<sup>st</sup> round.

Trophy quote received from Brian Sparrow \$66 per set. Motion to accept quote of 198 units – BGKC / DGKC – unanimous vote – passed.

SR produced budget for state rounds. Motion to accept interim budget - PF / BGKC – unanimous – passed.

MY requested KA to help state asking for \$5K to provide branded tents and banners. KA have advised State Assistance Allowance – PF to confirm and forward email to MR.

#### **Supplementary Regulations.**

All up to date with 2<sup>nd</sup> State Championship deadline for draft 28<sup>th</sup> February.

#### **General Items**

BGKC – no report

BHKC – no report

DGKC – no report

SGKC – no report

WGKC – no report

MGKC – no report

GKCSA – no report

#### **Summary**

Encourage clubs to provide agenda items at least one week prior to meeting so agenda can be sent prior to SKC meeting. This will further allow delegates to make an informed decision rather than have things dropping things in their laps.

#### **KA CEO – Kelvin O'Reilly**

PF thanked KO'R for attending SKC meeting and asked for overview of KA.

KO'R initially offered to attend in Feb 2014, and was thankful to attend this meeting. KA has achieved a significant number of things in past two years and have set the foundations to continue to grow our sport into the future. Unfortunately some ground work goes largely unnoticed but hard work has seen the trend of previous substantial losses reverse, as evidenced in annual report issued last year. Seeing a surplus of just over 250K. Imperative need for the future of the sport that a financially stable base be achieved.

2014 saw the most comprehensive review of the sport ever undertaken. Some people were very critical of the document with high numbers never fully reading through the document and instead choosing to criticize those who put it together personally and denigrate the sport.

As evidenced most recently with a social media attack on KO'R and CD – there is a 13 year age difference between the two and in case you were wondering were never in attendance at the same school during the same period.

The Board have acted to reduce the paralysis of the organization. They have introduced engines from the best engine manufacturers offering considerably better parity out of the box.

A competition structure to develop the sport forward has been put in place, empowering states to run their competition at levels below that with the introduction of State Regulations to highlight state specific needs within their competitions.

Elite level regulations are governed in respect of the rules of national body and FIA structure. State regulations must also adhere to these rules.

The next KA board meeting should see the approval of the final version of strategic plan. The board have a firm understanding of what they have to achieve and have introduced steps to work with the various elements of the plan for next 3 years and beyond.

KA's financial stability will allow them to invest in development programmes, which will be worked out collaboratively with the states and club people to create programmes to firstly bring people into the sport and then encourage them to stay involved the sport. Two equally challenging objectives.

Karting currently has small but very vocal minority who like to play on the sidelines, sharing defamatory posts and then expect to be heard. Reminder, don't tell lies, show respect and stop the bullying behavior that has been seen recently. If you have been directly involved with or your spouse has joined in the public haranguing - it must stop. This public denigration of the sport keeps people away from the sport.

PF has gone to great lengths to represent the state, putting up ideas and thoughts for discussion in a collaborative fashion, sometimes get what he wants sometimes he doesn't.

Safety matters expect at the board and budgeting has been set in place to initiate a club safety grants programme. The framework has yet to be defined, but there is a programme currently being developed. Financial stability to allowing KA to put money back into the clubs and at approximately 50% of clubs have less than 50 licenced members, this funding will be essential to help the clubs maintain safety standards.

Question - Seeing as track safety so important – why have the track safety inspector annual meetings stopped? This year has seen a complete re-write of the track manual, where a committee was put together to discuss that. Safety is an ongoing issue and with the means of technology there is not the need to get people to meet annually. The cost is better spent on providing the grants to the clubs in need.

Question – Has KA introduced too much change in a short period – engines, tyres, etc? Things had to change. The engines were always going to change and once the decision had been made, it had to be introduced. With the tyres, the current tender had run it's course and it was sent out to tender again. 5 responses were received and after testing, the best available was chosen. Unfortunately change costs money – and with the drop in the AU dollar, this cost had to be passed on.

It is important to promote events and get people excited. VCS do a great job at this but unfortunately other event scheduled around VCS do tend to suffer. Clubs are competing for people's time and attention.

KA have hired Craig Nader in a part time role development. Looking to introduce a get started in karting inclusive of a national come N try programme. His role also looks at club development and programming including Junior Sprockets. CN will be in contact shortly with the view to promoting time on the track. (PF to forward email regarding CN's appointment to MR).

Discussion regarding encouraging social licence holders to become competition licence holders - How do we turn them into a race licence. Potential issues identified as prohibitors, cost and time.

State calendars – maximize dates to be used. Limited number of dates to work around, do we as a club need those race meetings to keep the club making a profit. Catch 22 situation.

KO'R proud to be part of KA and steering it. Suggestion that KA have an image problem – costs seem to be skyrocketing, the top end of sport is their only concern and the benefits are not being seen by the club level karter. A sense that grass root karters are not involved, clubs have lost control of the way their meetings are run. Questions regarding qualifying, practice and the expectation of more track time. These queries high light the importance that the State Regulations mirror each clubs specific requirements. Concern that SA being a smaller state was not considered and the rules were perhaps written to cater for eastern sea board clubs with fields of 35 karters.

Reminder of the Rule Book Change Requests that are submitted in June each year. No record of requests made for SA. K'OR "That is what I would encourage you to do and control those matters you think we can get influenced on that." Maximise the opportunity for rules and state regulations to tailor the best racing for the state.

Suggestion – distribution of ideas to be considered for change. KA to do better job of communicating what is being considered and their plans – introduction of strategic plan till fill the vacuum which is currently being done by speculatively and questionable social media.

Previous unapproved state rules were not covered by rules or insurance - therefore all needed to be bought into line to ensure safety.

Costs - every karter is saying cost, cost, cost how much it is costing us. When economy is down the first thing that goes is the toys, and budget pressures determine how much someone can afford to race.

Question - Increased tyre costs were discussed – an example was given MG Reds \$235 now \$263.80 plus freight. MG Reds were the same price for 9 years. When the tyre contract was set the \$US and \$AU were nearing parity however now \$AU has dropped making importation costs more expensive. Also no CPU costs were passed on during the MG Reds period of time. Any change in contract would see a rising tyre cost, not because of suspected royalties, etc but the items are more expensive.

Only 4 companies tendered for the tyre contract despite being heavily advertised. Testing was held at Newcastle and Ipswich and the best of what was tendered was chosen.

Introduction of rear bumpers – this was seen as a necessity bought about by the increasing need for safety.

Back bumper bar system. CIK approved and homologated, why when dirt karting under rule book, dirt, speedway no rear bars homologated.

Question - In response to questions on dwindling karting numbers – CMS highlights that on a % basis, SA has seen the highest increase of licence holders of any multi-club states, including practice licences. We currently have 53 additional licence holders on last year. Dwindling licence holders is not a legitimate statement.

Question - No plan to race restricted at state championships. This was a decision made by SKC. There are 5 meetings in the state that this decision affects and the decision was made as there was a mandate that no restricted classes were to be run from 2017. There is no agenda to remove restricted at club meetings.

Question - SA Variable restrictor class – as outlined in the SKC minutes this class was only supported by one club and as such was not referred to KA for approval.

Question - Why have royalties gone from \$4 to \$25 seeing now pay delivery? The actual royalty is commercial in confidence but this is not the reason tyres prices have increased as answered previously.

Comment – it is this lack of transparency that gets everyone's back up. There is a supplier commercial in confidence agreement that prohibits this discussion.

Question - What do KA plan to do with the additional money? When the whole of sport review was released there was a 5 - 10 years plan. Additional revenue allows development projects to be introduced, risk management to be undertaken, club safety improvement grants can be looked at and top clubs rewards to be implemented. Now KA have gotten back to the stage where red ink has been erased from balance sheet these things become real possibilities.

A come n try sponsor is being sought to promote a national programme aiming to introduce our sport to more people.

Comment - part of your trouble is the impression that KA are bringing in the money in and deciding where to spend it without consultation. Tell us what you are spending it on. KA put a lot of time doing a major review, then flew across country finding 40% had not read the document but were happy to criticize it. Unfortunately you can't encapsulate what KA is doing in a 2 line facebook post. No matter what we do no matter what we put out I don't like the colour of that. Take comment on board. Level of distrust should over time improve once programmes are rolled out to state and club level.

Question regarding decision behind Cadets being reinstated into the National Championship. Recommendation was made by Committee and accepted by the board as a means to provide our younger karters with national opportunities.

Question regarding KA and Tallem Bend SA Motorsport park association. They are planning to have a Go Kart track, drift circuit racing, drag track, etc. There is no expectations one way or the other of KA becoming partners. That would be a SA decision if they wanted to become a member of our SKC and utilize our rules and expertise.

Question regarding plans to get people into the sport – come n try days. Previously a unwritten rule you could take a friend to the track. Unfortunately it was always an unwritten rule and as such had to be stopped. Must be in adherence with current rule book and insurance requirements.

Comment – Are there plans to introduce a budget class to the sport. Option for cheap engine/budget class, cheaper entry into the sport. KA have looked at Endurance rules but are not sure where to take that at the moment. This may provide cheaper opportunity if embraced more broadly. Also could provide opportunity where someone doesn't actually own the kart that they are driving?!

On average a motorsport participant needs to drive a minimum of 5 or 6 times, before they can justify the need to spend whatever you need to spend. Once you get the bug you will find a way to do it. The 2<sup>nd</sup> hand market of the recently introduced engines will grow over the next year or two.

Comment - Everytime a new engine or new tyre is introduced it goes faster. Lots of people don't want faster. When new things introduced were the classes thought about.

There have been so many issues to deal with and so many people to bring together, talk to, listen and argue with. KO'R welcomes a robust discussion but is equally frustrated when people attack through social media. On my next visit, come along and see my face and ask me a question, that is fantastic and I will come back anytime you want me to come back.

SKC general meeting closed – 11.26pm.