

February 2004

TEKA

THE ENDURANCE KARTING ASSOCIATION

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2003 Wrap

As we venture into the start of a new karting year I am very excited about the prospects of endurance karting with TEKA - prospects limited only by human and financial resources.

Before mentioning 2004 I thought I would reflect on last year and what TEKA achieved.

In the grip of an insurance crisis, six committee members resigned leaving a few of us standing. At the time there were no confirmed tracks booked and the AKA advising clubs to not allow TEKA to run leaving our calendar in tatters. The prospect of obtaining insurance acceptable to the AKA was financially not viable and even if obtained, there was still no certainty of track access. The only logical step was affiliation with CAMS/AKA.

In spite of these challenges TEKA managed to successfully organise an eight round series at privately operated circuits with an average of 29 karts/teams per event. This was an outstanding effort and worthy of special thanks to all competitors who kept supporting the series.

TEKA also closely monitored its financial position preparing for the various outcomes for 2004 and planning the investments required for independence. During 2003 we made

investments in track timing equipment, speed radar equipment and portable radios while also repaying outstanding loans to founding members. TEKA also covered the costs associated with AKA engine homologation and affiliation with the AKA.

The year ended with TEKA affiliating with the AKA and a excellent Christmas bash/end of season presentation recognising the efforts of, not only the winners, but the volunteers and all competitors. Many thanks to Trisha for organising this.

Once we got the AKA affiliation nod, Richard did a great job getting the 2004 calendar booked and confirmed. We will all enjoy the variety these circuits will provide in 2004 and beyond.

Finishing off 2003, we all should pay our thanks to the many hours put in by all volunteers who enable each event to run smoothly. Special mention is to be made of Peter Brien and Richard Davidson (and families). They put in many hours of their time so we can enjoy our sport. Next time you see them be sure to give them a slap on the back and thank them for their time. Appreciation goes a long way and is cheap

2004 Update

That leads me to this year, and boy what a start. The "Beat the Heat" 12 Hour event was huge for TEKA. The TEKA committee put in many hours to ensure the event ran smoothly and it certainly turned out to be a great show. Events of this scale are certainly not revenue raises for TEKA, but we did not lose money on the event. The value in exposure of our sport of endurance karting to newcomers cannot be overstated. TEKA are already planning for another bigger and better 12 Hour next year...stay tuned. The 12 hour event is a great vehicle to introduce new people to endurance karting and this year we had V8 personalities, international motor cycle champions, regular motor racing competitors and many sprint karters as well as our usual competitors. The winners of the event showed that endurance karting is about being there at the end.

A special thank you to our Clerk-of-the-Course, Steve Ellis and Chief Steward, David Douglas who ensured the event was run professionally and safely -the endurance kart way

Some notable points and statistics of the 12 Hour event include:

- Race Starter - John M Large, FIA Vice President
- Chequered Flag - Donald Wells, National President AKA
- 31 Teams competed with 150 drivers
- Winning kart covered 815 kilometres
- All karts covered more than 23,700 kilometres
- More than 400 driver changes
- More than 210 refuelling stops

Whilst events like the 12 Hour are very important to help TEKA and individual teams with exposure and potential sponsorship opportunities, our core objective is to run a successful endurance karting series for our members.

Going Forward

As the TEKA series expands, we simply do not have the resources to run events utilising the same volunteers for each event. To that end, TEKA are pleased to announce that for each and every round of the TEKA series in 2004, we have contracted the services of Motor Sport Officials Association (MSOA).

The MSOA is a volunteer organisation of experienced and dedicated motorsport officials who will provide flag marshals, refuelling marshals and fire officers (on race day only) to ensure TEKA continue to run safe and professional events. These are the same volunteers who assisted us at the 12 hour and helped to make it a top class event. The professionalism and safety awareness shown by this team allowed us all to concentrate on racing rather than running the event and begging for volunteers throughout the night. It is imperative that we work with organisations like MSOA to assist with our future growth. At this stage, TEKA plan to absorb the additional costs associated with the MSOA however the ability to maintain the current level of fees will depend on the level of ongoing entries in each event. If necessary, I am sure that you would agree their support is definitely worth a small increase if required. We will keep you up-to-date on this issue as we get feedback on the number of teams entering our events.

Committee for 2004

For those who did not make the AGM last year we have some old and some new faces on the committee. The full committee for 2004 is:

- Brett Parker- President and Treasurer (anyone interested in taking on one of these roles please drop me a line)
- Peter Brien – Vice President
- Richard Davidson – Secretary
- Terry Osmond
- Brian Luck
- Michael Burke
- John Lusty
- Phil Bolsher

I will close this off by wishing all of you a safe and enjoyable years' racing. If you have any questions about TEKA or our plans, please feel free to give any of us a call.

Brett Parker