



Members Newsletter

Issue 4 – December 2017

Welcome to the Christmas edition of the TEKA Committee newsletter, aimed at keeping members informed of the behind the scenes work shaping our racing. The newsletter will be sent out between rounds to fill you in on the happenings in the other world we all live in, TEKA.

Post-Race News

Lithgow – how about that new track surface! It must be the smoothest surface in the country. It seemed many struggled to find the right grip balance and there were some surprise packets troubling the front runners, in particular B grade karts Top Step (45) and Shot Fox (49) who hassled the leaders all day. The other big surprises were Hellrazor struggling in the mid-pack early, while the Trackside boys started from Pole Position but endured a nightmare race. In the end, Buildline and PHR Guru's fought it out for the win and 2nd place in the Championship, with the old boys in Buildline taking the prize. Shot Fox (49) and Top Step (45) came home 3rd and 4th outright and 1st and 2nd in B grade, with Hellrazor coming home 5th and securing the biggest prize of all. SKW (54) wrapped up the B Grade Championship at Orange with a round to spare and finished the season with another impressive 6th outright at Lithgow. Another fantastic race to round out 2017.

Pre-Race Update

Newcastle – we're opening the new season at Newcastle as we did last year. The format will differ from last year with a single 6 hour (minimum 2 driver) race on Sunday. Saturday will be an official TEKA practice day to give teams a chance to test after the off-season, particularly given the rule change regarding axles (read further below). Qualifying will be late Saturday afternoon, being a two driver format to be confirmed. Teams who do not contest qualifying can still race on Sunday, starting rear of

2017 Champions



Our presentation night in November saw us crown our 2017 Champions. Another huge congratulations to Brad Lewis, Damien March and the extended Hellrazor team on a much deserved win. They were pushed all the way and worked extremely hard on and off track for their reward. There were four teams with a legitimate chance of taking out the prize heading into the final round at Lithgow. While they were biting their fingernails as they struggled for genuine speed for the first time this year, their preparation held them together to bring it home safely. Enjoy the shiny green plate in 2018 guys, you earned that in one of the tightest Championships we have seen.



grid.

We hope to see as many teams as possible on Saturday however, as Saturday night we will be holding a dinner under the covered outgrid. This will give us all a chance to get together socially before we let loose for another year on Sunday morning. Details for dinner will be confirmed closer to the event.

2018 Karting Australia Rule Changes

The endurance chapter of the Karting Australia rulebook has been revised for 2018. The biggest change for us is the introduction of hollow axles (make sure you read the rules and comply with the wall thickness). Another change which is less significant but worth noting, is that we are returning to yellow backgrounds and black numbers in 2018, all grades. To identify B grade karts we will supply a small fluorescent sticker to be applied to the rear number plate of B grade karts. Check out Chapter 22 at the link below.

<http://www.karting.net.au/media/rules/2018/2018%20KA%20Manual%20-%20Final.pdf>

2018 Points System

During last year we decided to revise the point score system for 2018. We've been running the current system for a long time, with a small change in the last few years removing bonus points for podium places. Next years system will involve larger points and reward the higher placing finishes. Overall the outcome will likely be very similar but will give those behind hope of making good gains from a good result. We will reveal the point score matrix in the New Year.

New Timing Equipment

The new timing gear has arrived and our new Chief Timing Officers have received the necessary training from Karting Australia and Mylaps. Thanks to Maurice and Guy from Kart 41 for stepping up and committing to this role for the benefit of our club. We'll be using the new gear at Newcastle and the test day on Saturday will provide a chance to test the timing gear also and get it running efficiently. We have great hope that it will help us in a few areas, particularly within the pit area/fuel bay. Stay tuned!

Member Feedback Items

Back in September we put the call out to teams to provide feedback on two items for our 2018 series. One being the often-discussed fuel stops rule and the other being an away round at Todd Rd. Thanks to everyone who sent in their preferences and comments, all feedback is greatly appreciated. We heard from a large majority of teams which gave us enough feedback to make decisions. The end results were;



Todd Rd – as you all know from the release of the calendar, we won't be going there in 2018. The results were 50% for, 50% against. To make it feasible we needed a majority vote, for a couple of reasons. It wouldn't have been viable financially for the club if we only had 15 karts enter the event. That would also snowball to other events in the Championship and more than likely reduce our numbers for the entire year. We want as many karts on track as possible which is why we've decided against an away round for 2018.

Fuel stops – These results were far more conclusive, see below.

Open fuel stops at all rounds – two votes

Mix of open stops and mandatory stops – seven votes

Mandatory fuel stops at all rounds – thirteen votes

This topic has been widely debated for the last two seasons. The idea of the feedback was to take a majority rules stance, therefore based on the above results, in 2018 we will be running mandatory fuel stops at all rounds. Hopefully this puts the discussion to a close and we can all get on with racing.

Merry Christmas

Thank you to everyone who has been a part of our club in 2017. Enjoy the off season, it's halfway through already and before we know it we'll be on track at Newcastle with all points equal again. We would like to wish you and your families a safe and Merry Christmas and all the best for 2018, on and off the track.

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