



## Western Cup Rd 3 at Tiger Kart Club Wanneroo circuit 30<sup>th</sup> July 2011

The Western Cup round 3 at Wanneroo really made it feel like winter but that sure didn't dampen the enthusiasm of all involved. For the first time the track was open for Friday night practice and although the conditions would be better suited to building the ark rather than racing karts nearly 50 drivers participated in the practice sessions. Our thanks go out to Mike Laughton for allowing us to run the practice during what would normally be the hire karts time on the track and also thanks to all the drivers for making the effort to turn up, well done..

The event attracted 130 entries, not a bad turn up for this time of year and looking at the spread of entries, nearly 60% of them were **non** TKC members, so again big thanks from the TKC to all the clubs for supporting the event. We know many of our TKC members who race at our club day events don't often race open meetings, so we are working on some future programs to encourage higher participation rates at these events for the future.

Thankfully on Saturday the weather mostly held out and we got in some great racing. All the races were completed and we were able to run the full amount of laps and still finish at 5.30. The main factor behind this was not having to do re starts (in fact the red and white checker was not used all weekend) and sensible racing on the track with no red flags, great effort by all the drivers well done!!

Some stand out performances by Brett Starcevich, Jason LeCocq and Nathan Davis needs to be mentioned as these drivers really dominated their classes and are showing some excellent form leading up to the State titles later in the year.

As far as classes go it was great to see JMAX up and running but on the other side Junior Clubman (possibly due to the increased numbers in JMAX?) and Sportsman 125 Heavy were not able to field a class, let's hope things start to move forward in the future.

Also of concern at the event was what happened in the Restricted 125 Light Class....the new CMS system allows you to "pre enter" race events but your entry (for an Open Meeting) is not "official" until you actually pay your entry fee. The Restricted 125 Light guys had 6 pre-entries on the Friday evening prior to the race event but on Saturday come the actual race day 3 of the drivers did not show up....not a problem, not everyone can make it but what happened in this case was those drivers had also not paid to enter and so "official" entries were now down to 3 drivers and they can't race. If those other 3 drivers had paid for their entries then the Class could still go ahead with the 3 entries that did turn up on the day, as it stood on Saturday the TKC had no other option than to tell the Restricted 125 Light guys to go home.....Thankfully the other 3 drivers got together and paid the entry fees for 2 of the 3 missing drivers (5 drivers per Class to be eligible for the series) and they got a chance to race - great team work from the 3 drivers to do that - and for ensuring that the Restricted 125 Light Class remained as part of the Western Cup Series.

For future meetings the TKC will be adapting a stance that all pre-entries must also be pre-paid before the cut off date or your entry will be void. Using the above example you can see why this needs to happen, although not exactly ideal it would have given the club a chance to call the other drivers and advise them PRIOR to the meeting that the class had been canceled. What could be worse than making the time to do the race meeting, getting everything ready, turning up all excited ready to race and then having to pack up and go home!!!! Not a good way to keep people in our sport I think you would have to agree and we would encourage all clubs to follow the same procedures as we know this same situation is affecting other events.. Imagine driving from Kalgoorlie to race this event and getting sent home!!!!

Again the work from all the volunteers was fantastic and everyone did a great job to help out. Special mention to Mike Colgan who ran the grid both Friday night and Saturday, Gary Chivel who ran new computer cabling from the tower to the canteen and Amanda Ryan who ran the canteen on Friday night and all day Saturday (the food and service was absolutely first class!!!) Also a quick mention for Peter Bowra who is a Silver level clerk of course for Barbagallo race track, he did flags ALL day for us, just goes to show no matter who you are every volunteer is important to running these events.

Next meeting for us is the August club day at Wanneroo and the next big open is the fantastic King of the Hill meeting at Wundowie. Hats off to the HKC for planning and running this event, last year was fantastic and 2011's event looks even better. If you haven't already, get your entries in, the event details are on our web site or just go to the HKC web site for full details. I for one can't wait to see the main event for 125 Restricted Light and Heavy, should be some awesome action and a great chance for these drivers to compete for what has become their unofficial state championships

Unit next time, safe racing.....

Sean Phillips