

## 2005

By January 2005, the Club had ten members, and had opened a bank account. By May 2005 the Club had \$420.40 in its bank account and 18 Members (includes six individual family members). And in the same year, public liability insurance through the NZBAI was available for Club members and visitors on designated Club days. The insurance covered a wide range of Club activities including causing property damage, forest & rural fires, damage to services, and vehicle and watercraft service damage.

In September, it was noted in a Club newsletter, that “... *the racing is for fun, and not for a sheep station, so come along and participate ...*”

In October 2005 the first New Zealand Blokart Open was held at *Blokart Heaven* in Papamoa, Bay of Plenty.

On the 21 September 2005 the inaugural Annual General Meeting of the Club was held with seven members present. To help raise awareness of blokart sailing in Canterbury, in October 2005, the Club had a display at *Go Outdoor Show* (organised by Events NZ Ltd.) at Roto Kohatu Reserve, Harewood, Christchurch. The Reserve had space to demonstrate a blokart in action. It is not known if this was possible on the day.

A Club newsletter sent out during 2005 went to members and non-members, 35 in total.

Family Club membership was \$30.00 for the first member and \$5.00 for each additional family member. At a meeting in May 2005, the reasons for low membership were discussed. The reasons included, lack of regular sailing days, Saturdays being unpopular because of other personal commitments, lack of suitable sailing locations, potential sailing days needing to be rescheduled, and inefficient means of contacting members quickly. A list of prospective members was created, and existing members were assigned to telephone prospective members to encourage potential members to join the Club. Key discussion points were prepared for the telephone conversations.

Eight suitable Sundays (based on tides) were identified between 11 September and 18 December for Club sailing at the beach; accessing the beach at South Brighton Surf Club.

In 2005 the NZBAI, with 13 members on the Committee, started the process of writing Blokart race rules, *One Design* rules (blokart design) and a Strategic Plan.

Representatives on the NZBAI identified that the Association needed to be more effective at a national level. Graham Gordon was the Club's representative on the NZBAI. Robust discussion was had between the NZBAI and clubs in the latter part of 2005 on NZBAI subscription fees. Incidentally, NZBAI fees have stayed the same, at \$20.00, for over 20 years.

In 2005 the Auckland blokart® Club had 13 single and 12 family members and were using Bruce Pulman Park as a sailing venue, and were in the early stages of developing an electronic race timing system. Capital blokart® Club had 12 members (45 on their email list) and six to ten members attending regular sailing events. The Bay of Plenty club, Bay blokart® Club, boasted 50 members.

## **2006**

Seven potential Club sailing days (Sundays), where tides were low during early to mid-afternoon, were identified between 5 February and 30 April. Access to the beach was at the South Brighton Surf Club. In late January, Lake Ellesmere was identified as being sufficiently low and the exposed lakebed suitably dry, for blokart sailing.

By October 2006 there were at least 24 (and possibly 30) Club members (18 males & six females). Five of those members are still members in 2025; Peter Richardson and Alan Wylie, and non-active Life Members, Jim Dale and Vaughan Lucking, and non-active member, Bruce Moore. Peter Richardson's two sons, Asher and Perrin, were also members of the Club in 2006. Another member, Hugh Douglas, had four of his children involved in the Club.

In October, member Neville Shackley designed our enduring Club logo. The logo is a clever play on the letters 'cbc' linked with the text '*CanterBreeze Blokart Club*' in a wave style.



A *Fun Sailing Day* was held in 2006 to commemorate the second anniversary of sailing at Wigram.

The Annual General Meeting of the Club was held on 20 October at the Speights Ale House, Tower Junction, Addington. The meeting was held in the main bar with ten members attending.

Although the reason is not clear, in 2006 the Club contacted the Breeze Radio Station, presumably to promote the Club through advertising or sponsorship.

Dogs were identified as the 'main menace' when sailing at the beach.

The inaugural *Professionals 2006 New Zealand blokart Open* was held in October at blokart Heaven, Papamoa, with sponsorship from Professionals Real Estate NZ, Streets Ice Cream, Whitcoulls, and other well-known local companies. The Open received a lot of media coverage including TV3 Sport exposure. Held over five days, Australia, Japan, USA and New Zealand were represented. It was recorded that sailors were *"running tyres up to twice the recommended pressure, trying to gain the advantage ... discovered that it left little room for error ... mild altercations had explosive consequences, leaving them deflated and speculating what could have been."*

## **2007**

The Club Committee realised that to grow the sport of blokart sailing, and to establish a sustainable Club, a venue that was not a public space, did not include other wind sports such as kite buggies, was not dependent on tides, and that would take advantage of wind from all directions, was needed.

Permission to use the sealed truck park area on Sundays at the Christchurch Show Grounds was granted in 2007, subject to stock truck movements. The Show Grounds was used only for a short time. Truck movements, and structures such as fences, curbs and light poles were considerable hazards. There was one significant injury incident when a blokart hit a fence. Graeme Gordon and Barry Emms were assisting Doug Varnham with his sailing when a wind gust blew him into the fence damaging his blokart® and breaking his wrist. On a previous occasion Jim Dale got 'carried-off' in strong winds and needed to ditch the 'kart, ripping the sail in the process. In 2024, Graeme Gordon described the Canterbury Showgrounds as a *"treacherous place to sail"*. Such was the novelty of sailing on a sealed surface, a special meeting was held on 11 March 2007 at Jim Dale's home to *"discuss some safety matters in relation to using hard fast surfaces in particular the A & P Showgrounds."*

Eight suitable Sundays for sailing at the beach were identified for early February to late March. During this period, two days were scheduled for sailing at the Canterbury A&P Showgrounds (asphalt truck-park area), with 11 February noted as the first time the

Showgrounds were used. Frequent reference to early 2007 not being a good season for sailing suggests there was little wind on days when the tides were suitable.

Member, Bruce Moore, had a three acre paddock that was considered as being a viable site for sailing. At the time, Committee members were keen to view the site, however it is understood that the site was never used, despite Bruce at one time being quoted as saying *“he is in the process of getting his paddock suitable for Blokarting.”*

Given the limited means of the Club, the Christchurch City Council was approached with the view of purchasing old or damaged road safety cones to be used in marking race-courses. In October 2007 the Club was advised that the Council had identified ‘issues’ with blokart® sailors at the beach and were considering a ban on their use. The issues related to a small number of sailors using hire ‘karts from East Coast Board Riders. There were also “niggles” at this time from the South Brighton Surf Club regarding *“blokarts travelling at speed through the surf patrol area and during one of their surf carnivals.”* Although Club members were not the “culprits”, they were reminded *“that we should take great care passing through the patrolled areas. If we have to pass through that area we should do it on the landward side of their flags. It would also be appropriate as a club to always stay to the south of the surf club when we are conducting a club meet.”*

Five possible beach sailing days were identified from mid-October to late November. The purpose of the proposed sailing days was stated to *“be fun racing but also for members to improve their sailing skills.”*

By 2007 the Club held \$530.40 of funds with subscriptions at this time being \$30.00 of which \$20.00 was the NZBAI affiliation fee.

The Club’s Annual General Meeting was held on the 8 October at the Belgian Beer Café in Armagh Street. The Club had about 31 members in October 2007, of which four members were still members in 2024.

The Club received an invitation from Blokart® International Ltd. to take part in a ‘have a go’ day scheduled for 27 & 28 October 2007 at South Brighton Beach. For reasons unknown, the Club did not take part in this event.

During 2007 the NZBAI agreed that the inaugural World blokart® Championships should be held in New Zealand at Whenuapai Airport, Auckland. However, Blokart® Heaven, Papamoa, was eventually selected as the preferred location.

There were nine sailing days, from December to the end of February, identified as suitable for sailing at the beach, and three days scheduled to be held at the Canterbury Showgrounds.

*“Last Sunday was fairly interesting with extremely light easterlies initially which even those with the new big rigs [a reference to the introduction of the 5.5m<sup>2</sup> sail] struggled to get going in, the wind then picked up for 10 or 15 mins. and then swung to the northwest which made for some fairly exciting rides, but no racing as the gusts and direction changes would have made it to (sic.) dangerous to race in close quarters.”*

*“Four of us turned up and decided to give the spit a tryout so we went to the end of Rocking Horse Rd. and dragged our Karts onto the beach on the track that bends to the left past the toilets, you can get your karts to beach with only a little difficulty. The wind was light but there was enough for us to have some good but short rides, and there were not many people there, I think that this venue could be used in most wind conditions and there is generally enough beach to have a small triangular racecourse for a change. We may schedule the odd meeting at this venue in the future. For those I dont (sic.) see tomorrow have a happy christmas (sic.) and I will see you in the new year.”, 22 December 2007.*

*“Well last weekend was a ripper with a good strong north easterly, 13 members present and some good racing, plus a run up to the Waimakariri Mouth by 7 of us with a screaming run home where we think we were probably reaching 70kph. a real blast. The last 2 days have also been great with reasonable wind and a very wide clean flat beach. Hopefully this will continue over the weekend.”, 30 December 2007.*