

## 2017

The Club's inaugural Brass Monkey day was held in June, an event that has been held most winters since. Club members dress up in appropriately gaudy outfits, including budgie smugglers, beach shorts and Hawaiian shirts. Fun races were had, including a 20 minute race that had to include a pit-stop to swap over the two rear wheels, and a *Le Mans* race start for another race. After a series of races, members enjoyed BBQ food, coffee and mulled wine. Trophies, donated by Michael Denton, are awarded to the winners of *Production Class* and *Performance Class*.

The Committee, always mindful of the potential for one day not having access to Wigram, wrote to Regenerate Christchurch, to register the Club's interest in the possible use of red-zone land for blokart sailing. This was not pursued further by the Club.

A small trailer, known as the *cone trailer*, was designed by Club member, Michael Denton, and built by Club member, Davie Norris. The trailer holds road safety road cones for sailing course marks, mark numbers, course mark rounding signs and mark over-lap marks.

The Club's membership in 2017 was 81, the highest in the Club's history. With funding support from the NZBAI and BAI the Club had a display at the Canterbury A&P Show.

Club members took part in the New Zealand Blokart Open at Wigram, with the Club represented on the podium across all six race divisions, with 1<sup>st</sup> places in four of the six divisions. The 2017 South Island Blokart Open was abandoned due no wind.



NZBAI blokart championship 3D laser etched crystal trophy

## 2018

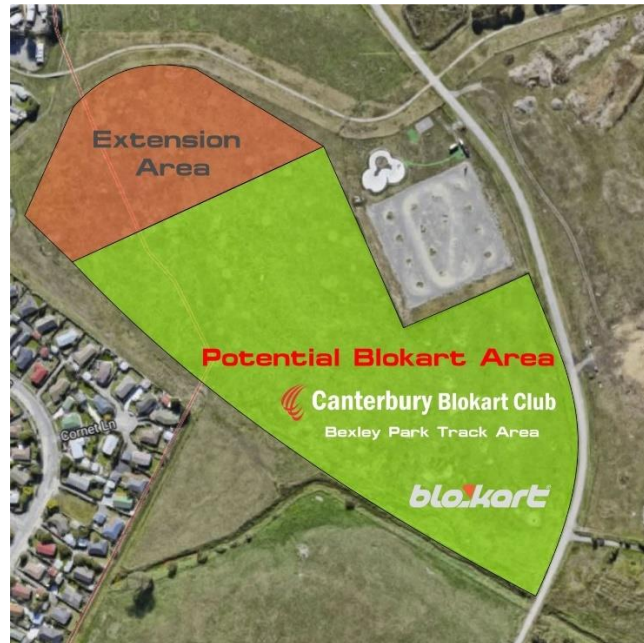
In March 2018, the Club went to Carters Beach, Westport. Unfortunately, due to lack of wind and wet conditions, little sailing occurred.

Members Michael Denton and son, Mitchell Denton, started work on a race tree countdown tower. Controlled through a laptop, the three-sided one-metre high tower mounted on a tripod stand, would provide a visual indicator of the two-minute race start countdown. The tower could also be programmed to display other information.

The Committee started a review of its Constitution. The review was left in draft form because the provisions of the Incorporated Societies Act 2018 (gazetted in late 2018) needed to be considered. With the ever-increasing importance and scrutiny of health and safety matters, *Health & Safety* became a permanent item on Committee meeting agendas. As part of fund raising, the Club held its first sausage sizzle at Mega Mitre 10, Hornby, raising about \$650.00 for the Club.

Providing information on sailing conditions at Wigram to members early on Sundays was considered by the Committee as an important initiative. Group SMS text messaging for iPhones was set up, however, it was agreed by the Committee that this was not entirely satisfactory. Reliance on emails and limited texting to members continued. The issue with contacting all members by mobile phone was resolved in 2022 with the establishment of a WhatsApp Group. Another WhatsApp Group for Committee members/OOD's was also created. This media, for both Groups, has proven to be a timely, convenient and effective way to communicate information 'instantaneously' to all members, and between Committee members.

Some members of the Committee met with a Christchurch City Council representative to discuss the potential use of land adjacent to the Velocity Karts track, Bexley Reserve.



Proposed potential location for a purpose built blokart sailing track, Bexley Reserve.

2018 saw a full year of blokart sailing events. The Club Blokart Championships, Summer Blokart Handicap Series, Brass Monkey and South Island Blokart Open events were all held at Wigram. The New Zealand Blokart Open and Manawatu Blokart Open were held at RNZAF Base Ohakea, and the Australian Blokart Open at Walyungup, Perth. The Club was well represented at the three national events.

## 2019

It was agreed by the Committee that a set of values should be formally adopted by the Club. The Club values agreed on were *Dignity & Respect*, *Good Sportsmanship*, *Fun* and *Helpfulness*.

With funding support from the NZBAI and from BIL, the Club had a display at the New Zealand Agricultural Show. Although the Club secured a more prominent site at the Show than previous years, and some 47 people expressed an interest in having a trial sail at Wigram, because of minimal follow-up from the public, it was decided that this would be the last time the Club had a display at the Show.

Review work on the Club's Constitution continued in 2019.

The Club designed and fabricated parts of a large five pole flagpole stand. Steel scaffolding pipe and clamps were part of the design. The structure is designed to be easily assembled

and stored. It was first used in April 2019 at the South Island Blokart Open, displaying four Canterbury flags and the New Zealand flag.

In March about eight Club members travelled to Carters Beach, Westport, for a social weekend and in April the Club hosted the South Island Blokart Open at Wigram. The Club's Brass Monkey event was held in July 2019 , and a Club tech-night in November. In 2019 Ardmore Airport (Auckland Region) was used for the North Island Blokart Open. This was the last time that a national event was held there. A small group of sailors from the Club attended this event.



Brass Monkey event, Wigram. From L - R, Rudolph Meltzer, Ben Bearman, Kobe Bearman, John Guard, Farcenc Csizmarik, Logan Ayers and Rodrigo Zen..