

## **Information for new members**

These notes are intended as a general guide to the Club and some of its activities. Whilst all effort is made to keep the information relevant and accurate, details are likely to change with time. If you have any concerns or are unsure about some aspect of the Club or its activities, please ask a Committee member. If they cannot help you, they will direct you to someone that can.

If you think there is any other information that should be included in this document for new members or those considering joining the Club, please let the Secretary know.

## **What amenities are there at Wigram and where do I find them?**

*A picture is worth a thousand words ...* so attached to these notes is a map of Wigram with the key amenities and some other blokart sailing information shown.

## **What on earth is an 'O-O-D'?**

An 'OOD' is the *Officer of the Day*, and the Club has about eight appointed OOD's that are rostered on, on a rotational basis, for Sunday sailing. The OOD is responsible for ensuring the day's activities run smoothly and safely, and makes the call each Sunday on whether or not weather conditions are suitable for sailing. OOD's are also appointed for special events such as the South Island blokart Open and New Zealand blokart Open. Most importantly, the OOD is your 'go-to-person' for anything that may be troubling you ... but won't generally be able to help you understand why the fear of vegetables is called Lachanophobia, or how the Caesar salad got its name given it was invented in Mexico by an Italian-American man.

## **Can I take my blokart to Wigram whenever I want and sail around?**

No. Our access to Wigram is generally restricted to Sundays, but occasionally we do sail on Saturdays if the weather is looking more favourable for a Saturday rather than Sunday sail. Special access is granted to the Club for events such as the South Island blokart Open and New Zealand blokart Open.

Some Committee members are able to access Wigram at times other than Sundays, during work hours, for the purpose of picking up or dropping off equipment, or for maintenance work.

## **Wigram looks like an interesting place. Can I wander around and see what there is?**

No. Club access to Wigram is an absolute privilege, not a right. Members must respect the AFMNZ property and general environment, and staff at all times. Members must not enter any buildings (other than the toilet block and AFMNZ main building via the public carpark) and must not interfere with any AFMNZ equipment. Any damage caused to AFMNZ structures or property must be reported to a Club Committee member immediately.

## **“Briefing in five minutes” echoes across the apron ...**

But I’m far too engaged assembling my ‘kart and having lunch to attend a briefing! Fortunately, you can **never be** too busy to attend a briefing. In fact, you must attend the briefing. The OOD will explain the sailing course for the day, including course hazards, and other important Club information will be shared too.

At the briefing, someone will collect the \$10.00 tarmac fee ... so don’t forget to bring moolah with you to the briefing ... and having the correct change is very much appreciated. The tarmac fee is paid in full to the AFMNZ.

## **I’m running late for the day and racing has started. Can I just join in?**

So, you have missed the briefing from the OOD ... yes, you can join in the racing but only after having familiarised yourself with the course layout by looking at the plan of the apron and taxiway on the whiteboard hanging from the back door of the Club trailer. If you have any questions or concerns talk with the OOD ... their name will be on the top left of the whiteboard.

## **It’s 11.30, I’m set-up and *champing at the bit* to sail. Can I?**

Maybe, maybe not. Are the ‘flyboys’ (Wigram Model Aero Club) still there ... ‘yes’ they are ... then no, you can’t sail. But you can sail before midday if the fly-boys aren’t there and the OOD is present.

## **Should I really believe the weather forecast and the weather update from the OOD?**

You should presume that sailing is on unless you hear that it isn't. Normally, the OOD will send a WhatsApp message about 11.00 a.m. on the day of sailing describing the wind conditions at Wigram. A further message is likely to be sent out, but not always, between about midday and 12.30 p.m. confirming the status of the day.

Ultimately, it is your decision as to whether or not you attend Wigram based on your observations of the weather, evaluation of weather forecasts, and any additional information from the OOD. The OOD can't be held liable for too little or too much wind, and no correspondence will be entered into.

### **Pulley-whips ... crikey, really!**

No, I know what you are thinking ... but we really aren't into that ... A pulley-whip is that *sticky-outie thingy* protruding from the back of the blokart® that should have a numbered white flag attached. This is your unique membership and identification number and in the heat of the moment may be the only thing that distinguishes you from the blur of all the other blokarts around you. Wear it with pride and don't leave home without it. But if you do, hunt down the Secretary for a Club replacement for the day.

### **Transponders were toy action figures in my day ...**

Transponders are still saving and destroying the world apparently. As well as being a toy, a transponder is also a small electronic device that most Club members have in their 'karts. They record your race placing automatically when you cross the electronic start/finish line. While they aren't compulsory, Club members are encouraged to purchase one. They can be used for Club events as well as at national and international events. The Club's Timing Officer will be able to tell you everything you need to know about these wonderful little devices.

### **A WEEKLY Club newsletter, now that's impressive!**

Nothing short of brilliant, we think. The Club produces an email newsletter most weeks. This is sent usually by Wednesday. The newsletter, the main source of information about the Club and its activities, contains a wide variety of information including a report of the past Sundays sailing, the weather forecast for the following Sunday, the name of the OOD for the following Sunday, and a calendar of upcoming events. As a new member you are automatically subscribed to the newsletter, but you can unsubscribe, of course. However, given that it is the fount of all Club knowledge we

strongly recommended that you don't unsubscribe. Members are encouraged to contribute articles, photographs or other information for publication.

## **What do I get for my membership subscription?**

So much more than you can *shake a stick at!* For starters, you get the opportunity for

- regular & frequent use of an excellent sailing venue
- participation in a range of Club, regional, national & international sailing events
- developing sailing skills through general practice, training sessions & tech-nights
- being involved in activities that assist with the successful functioning of the Club
- public liability insurance cover through affiliation to the NZBAI (\$20.00/annum)
- discounts on most blokart® items from blokart® International Ltd. &, through the Club, blokart® consumables

Less tangible, but equally important, is the challenge & fun of healthy competition, and social networking opportunities across people of all ages, interests, & backgrounds.

## **I want to invite all Club members to my 40<sup>th</sup> Birthday party ...**

An unquestionably thoughtful gesture, thank you ... but wait, there's more ... Unless informed otherwise, new members will be added to the Club's WhatsApp Group. You can delete yourself if you wish or request to be deleted. However, it is highly recommended that you remain a member of the Group. The main purpose of the Group is for notifying you of weather conditions on Sunday and for 'urgent' messages, and for the occasional survey. Only Committee members & OOD's can post messages ... so, carrier pigeons may be the better option for those birthday invitations.

## **The less interesting stuff ...**

... but fundamental to the smooth running of the Club. The Club is administered under the Incorporated Societies Act 2022. The Club has a Constitution and a Committee of elected and appointed officers, usually about nine in total. An AGM is held in about May each year, and the Committee is elected at this time. If you would like to find out more about the Committee, the functioning of the Club, or how you may be able to contribute to the Club, please hunt down a Committee member.

## **I have heard the Club sells some blokart® parts real cheap ...**

Who told you that, eh? The Club sells a few blokart® 'consumables' ... namely, tyres, tubes and wheel bearings that you can purchase on Sundays. Just like PAK'nSAVE, the

Club buys in bulk so that you save. If you want to purchase something, you should seek out one of about three designated Committee members, and ideally at the start of the day before only activities begin. Payment can be made with online banking once you have received an invoice from the Club Secretary. All other blokart parts and accessories can be purchased on-line from Blokart International Ltd (BIL). Please note that on joining the Club your name and email address is given to BIL. The sole purpose of this is to ensure you receive the club membership discount of 10% when purchasing items from BIL. You should not receive unsolicited emails from BIL.

## **I have sailed at the beach and want to do it again with members of the Club ...**

Excellent to hear that you enjoy the beach. From time to time a Club member may decide to have a blast along the beach. Going solo, no problem, just go for it. Looking for some company, just let a Committee member know and they will post a WhatsApp message for you. Beach sailing is a lot of fun, but some responsibility comes with it. Never sail at speed through a surf patrol area, give walkers and kite propelled vehicles a wide berth, watch for holes in the sand (it's no fun going from 60km/hr to zero in a split second) and dogs ... well, they just love to chase you. And while you are out there, feel free to promote the Club. The Secretary can provide you with brochures and business cards to hand out to interested members of the public.

## **Club blokarts and other Club equipment**

The Club owns a number of blokarts and a range of sails. These are stored, along with other Club possessions in a shipping container at the southern end of the apron. The Club also owns an enclosed trailer that houses the race timing gear and is used on road trips. Some Club gear is available for members to use on an occasional and case by case basis ... so, if you have a mate that is interested in giving it a go, feel free to invite them out for a spin.

## **But I just wanna cruise around and do my own thing on Sundays!**

That's understandable ... and there are days that you can do that. In fact, on any Sunday you can do that from midday (earlier if the fly-boys aren't there) until organised events start, which often isn't until 1.00 p.m. or later. And while we are on the subject, taking part in races is entirely at your discretion and you certainly won't be judged on that. All members have had days where they have 'sat it out' and for a whole host of reasons.