

MIDWEEK WA MOTORSPORT

WA's laid-back karters like to get down and dirty



Craig McIntyre under full power at the Wellard circuit.

KARTING

KEN SEEBER

Down the straight flat out, touch the brakes, flick it to the left which it does, correct so the back flicks out and is now sliding out on the right.

All going well, this lines you up perfectly with the left hander you're going into.

The sticky grooved tyres at 6psi are really humming.

Keep the power on and you have just executed another brilliant corner.

All this on dirt.

Twelve more of these and you have completed a lap. Six laps and you have completed a race.

Four more races and you have completed a race meeting in the dirt.

After the racing, wash down the kart, pack everything away in the trailer, go to the presentations, have a

quiet drink and a sausage or two.

Good fun? Absolutely.

Compared to spring karting, dirt karting is a little more laid back with a greater general freedom in terms of technical rules.

There are basically five classes running in WA to cater for all ages and weights.

Juniors can start at the age of seven, using a 10hp Yamaha KT100J engine. At the other end of the scale, is the Open class where two 100cc reed valve engines are used.

These rev up to 19,000rpm and can hit 135kmh on the main straight.

Exciting to watch and even more exciting behind the wheel.

Definitely not for the beginner or faint hearted. Typical race meetings will have about 120 entries.

The track surface is made up of clay added to the sand. This is graded before and during each meeting.

To prevent the track drying out, it is watered several times during the race meeting.

The combination of the clay and the sticky tyres offer a surprisingly high level of grip but not as much as a bitumen circuit with slicks as in sprint karting.

With the less grip there is more sliding so, as with any form of motor racing, the emphasis is on smooth driving rather than being spectacular.

The Australian Independent Dirt Kart Association has four tracks in WA.

With its interstate affiliations, there are shared events with the other States, such as the very well attended Nationals that were held at Wagin last year.

The AIDKA clubs are as follows:

- Oldbury (near Wellard) 9332 6343.
- Busselton 9751 1159.
- Jennacubbine 9295 3971.
- Wagin 9861 1604.