

WEST AUSTRALIAN 23/11/05 #13

Racing can get really dirty

KART RACING

KEN SEEBER

Dirt kart racing is similar to sprint (bitumen) racing, in the following ways:

- Engines are similar, although modifications are allowed in the majority of classes, unlike the strict nature of the “controlled” classes in sprint.
- Good tyre management can pay off, with a set of tyres lasting a full season in some classes.
- There is a range of classes to cater for all those beyond seven years of age, faculties and medical status set the upper level of a racer.

The key difference is the track

surface, a mixture of clay and sand, which is graded before the race meeting and watered frequently during it.

The sideways nature of dirt racing appeals to many and Paul Goodwin is no exception.

The mechanical engineer from Woodvale races in the 100cc Open class using a tricked-up 15,000 rpm Ital System piston port engine. The chassis is a slightly modified older sprint kart chassis that, with its lighter construction, is suitable for the dirt surface.

Goodwin has raced karts with his father since he was 12, racing for more than a decade before he began the family thing. Five years ago he felt that that he needed to do something on weekends and it had to involve the use of petrol.

Dirt karting was the answer. As he

puts it: “Going sideways into a corner with one hand steering and the other hand removing a tear-off is really great fun.”

With AIDKA dirt racing having four tracks in WA, it is possible to race almost every weekend of the year. While some clubs don’t run in January due to the summer heat, the Busselton club conducts a night series under lights, usually attracting over 100 entries. While Goodwin races occasionally at other AIDKA circuits, he usually runs at his club track at Wellard and participates in the occasional working bee.

As Goodwin says: “Dirt kart racing is the absolutely lowest cost competitive form of motor sport.”

AIDKA (Australian Independent Dirt Kart Association) can be found at

www.communitywebs.org/~AIDKA.



Paul Goodwin prepares for his next race.