

WEST AUSTRALIAN 26/10/05 #11

ESPERANCE KARTING CLUB
MEMBERSHIP LIST
NAME: NICOLE PITCHERS
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Nicole, 13, blasts a trail in karts

KART RACING

KEN SEEBER

While males generally dominate motor sports, there are exceptions in karting where the fairer sex can show their heels to many macho peers.

One example is 13-year-old Nicole Pitchers, of Esperance.

Nicole began racing at the age of 10 in Midgets. She immediately showed her potential with a series of excellent finishes in local events.

She now races in the Rookie class, which caters for ages 10 to 13.

Her skills in a kart were demonstrated recently at the State Championships in Kalgoorlie, where

she won the pre-final race and finished second in the final — a fantastic result.

Also competing were her brother, Jason, and sister, Sarah, plus another brother-and-sister team, Marcus and Courtney Moffat.

Providing technical support for the group was Nicole's dad, Rowdy, who also is the president of the Esperance club. Rowdy's philosophy is that karting is a life-learning experience, which means karters must "put in" wherever possible.

This means packing and unpacking, cleaning the karts and all the other duties required of a race meeting.

It also means interpreting how the kart is performing and handling and making appropriate adjustments — even if the adjustment

is wrong, something is still learnt.

The main adjustments Nicole made at Kalgoorlie were tyre pressures and wheel position on the axles.

While Nicole loves karting, she still has time for softball, basketball and hockey and, of course, school.

With a racing membership of 45, the Esperance club is one of many Statewide sprint-kart clubs that have been steadily growing in recent years.

The club has a 655m track and an associated complex that would do justice to any kart club around Australia.

As with other successful clubs, all of this is the product of hard work by the members, their families and supporters.

Well done, Nicole, and all the best for the future.



Nicole Pitchers keenly awaits her next race.

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