

WEST AUSTRALIAN 24/5/06 # 24

New class for out-of-the-box engines

KART RACING

KEN SEEBER

Earlier in the year we looked at the Rotax MAX kart engine. It was 125cc, water-cooled, electric start, fitted with a clutch. With 21kW, this engine heralded a new era in karting, both in performance and convenience.

While this engine certainly got into the Australian karting scene relatively early, there were other similar specification engines making their presence felt in other parts of the world, particularly the US. These have now hit the Australian scene, one notable example being the IAME Leopard from Italy.

One intention for these engines is

to offer "out-of-the-box racing", meaning bolt it on and away you go. The karting rules have been written to reflect this, with very tight control on engine changes.

Because of the similarity of the engines, a racing class has been newly developed where these engines can all run together. Any slight performance differences that show up will be catered for by varying the minimum combined kart and driver weight.

While in its infancy, this class dubbed TAG (Touch and Go) looks to have a solid future in all disciplines of karting.

At just under \$3000, these engines are more expensive than some of the other basic class engines (which can cost about \$1000) but they come as a complete kit with exhaust, electrics, water pump and airbox.

For many, this difference in cost is

outweighed by the convenience, greater performance and greater engine longevity.

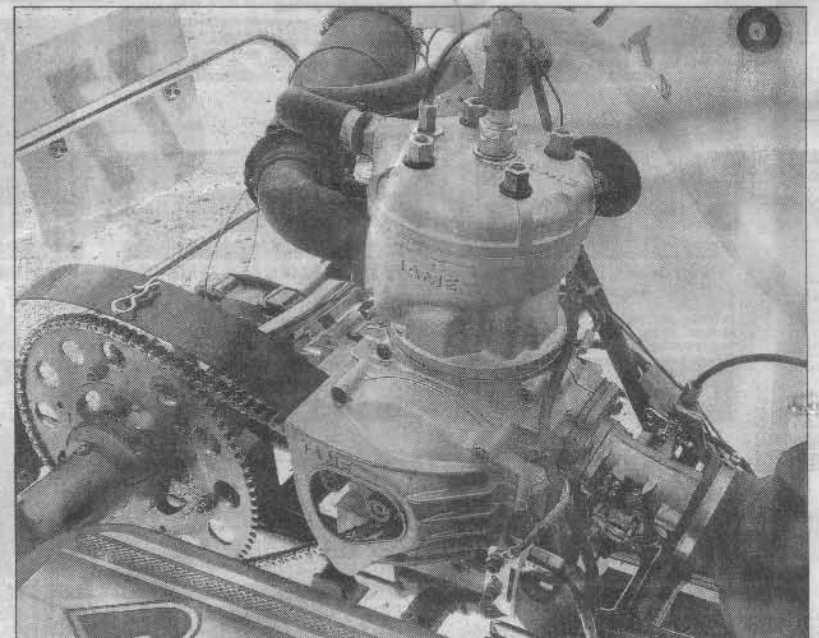
HAVE A GO WITH HURRICANES

Interested in taking up kart racing or even having a drive of a racing kart, but not sure what it would be like? Problem solved.

The Hurricane Kart Club, at its track in Wundowie, is having a free Have-A-Go-Day on Sunday June 13. You will be required to have ankle-length boots, full-length trousers and heavy sleeved top.

All ages are catered for, from seven years up to well-qualified seniors. There will be a sausage sizzle with soft drinks available to keep you nourished.

It is anticipated this will be very well-attended so bookings are essential.



The Leopard engine has earned its spot in karting.

Call Rod Ridden on 0409 493 248
between 6pm and 8pm before June 7.
ken@strikeproducts.com.au