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Sport has a renaissance

KART RACING

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For those people who have been in karting for a long time, this year represents the first year in the renaissance of modern karting. It is a national trend but it especially can be seen and felt in WA.

In past years, the monthly club days for some of the Perth tracks had attendances of only about 60 karters but this year this is up to 75.

Significantly, numbers in the starter classes, the Midgets and Rookies, have increased dramatically, which will have a positive effect in future years.

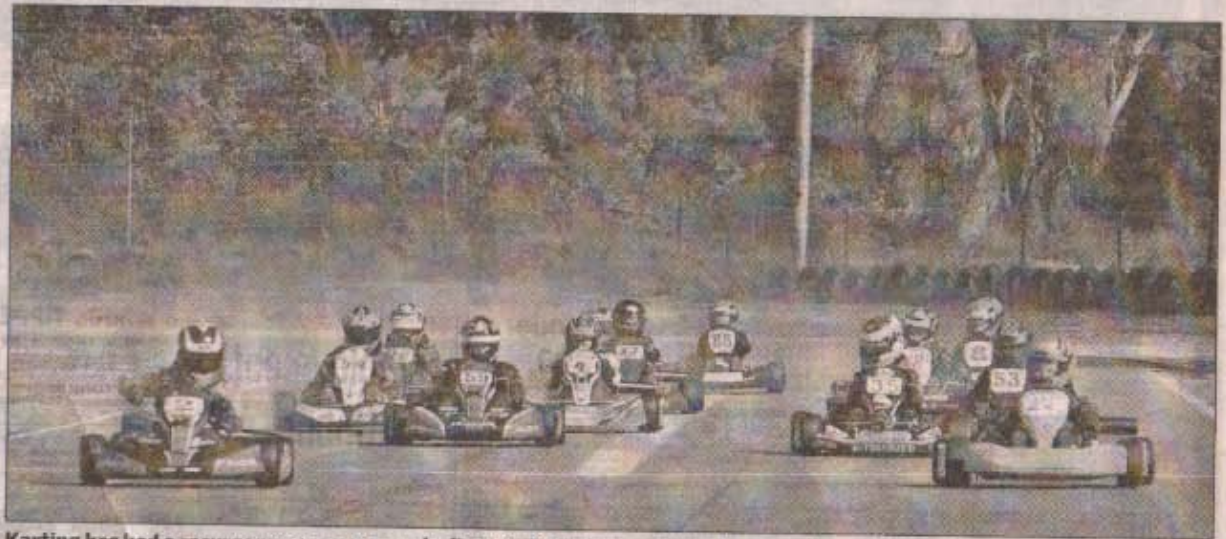
Various factors have contributed to the new-found popularity. One is

some fresh thinking at committee levels. The other is a revision of the club-day racing format. In previous years, there were as many as a dozen classes running.

To run all these took time, allowing only four heats per class on the day. Now the classes are combined wherever possible, reducing the total number of effective classes to five. Because of the time saved, clubs can now offer five heats per class a day.

With more racing, bigger fields, less time waiting between heats and a shorter day, it is a win-win situation all round.

Outwardly, there has been a lot more recognition by the prominent racing car drivers, particularly V8 Supercar drivers who are acknowledging their motor racing beginnings were with karting. A case in point is WA's Garth Tander. In



Karting has had a resurgence as more people discover it is a low-cost way to race. Picture: Derek Reynolds.

addition, the AKA national body has recently commissioned a high-profile public relations company to further promote karting.

The effects of this are already being seen but next year is full of promise in terms of some

strong and wide-ranging marketing.

For WA, the most significant sprint karting event will be the State Championships at Geraldton in October. On an Australia-wide level, the main event will be the National Championships at Easter, at Eastern

Creek in NSW. With the big number of Australia's karters living on the eastern seaboard, there have been estimates of more than 600 entries.

Karting: Fun and affordable motorsport for all ages.

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