

ELECTRIC KART TEST – BLUE SHOCK RACE / GILLARD

Camberley Kart Club – 16 April 2019

This test session was arranged to assess the feasibility of running the Blue Shock Race electric kart, based on a fully regulation compliant Gillard chassis, under Motorsport UK authority in the UK, primarily with a view to the Junior age category.

The equipment tested was a Gillard chassis as used in the existing 'Tyro' class, with minor addition to support the battery pack and a range of adjustment for the various sized drivers, and the BSR19 15kW electric drivetrain, with conventional chain drive to rear axle. Tyres were 'Tyro' all-weather, a durable tyre designed to be used for the season in all conditions.

13 drivers attended the test, aged between 10 and 15, and each given a single run of a good number of laps. The drivers represented a good cross-section of sizes within the age range. Feedback from the drivers was very positive, with the vast majority enthused by their first experience of electric power in karts. General perception was that the power level was comparable, or maybe slightly more, than existing Mini category karts in the UK. All drivers were complimentary of the chassis setup for this powertrain. Some of the drivers currently drive in the Cadet class, and for these drivers the size and power were a significant step-up, which wasn't helped for some by the fact that the smaller drivers ran later, when some light rain began to fall.

The set-up tested appears to be within the performance bracket of the current Junior Category in the UK, for drivers aged between 12 and 16. The overall weight of the kart as tested is the closest to current class weight limits that we have seen to date with electric karts, which is a positive direction. Swapping of batteries appears to be a straightforward and not time-consuming process, leaving open the possibility of being able to complete a race meeting with 2 batteries and no need to charge onsite, again a positive direction.

In summary, Motorsport UK remains open to the concept of electric karting as a one-make 'arrive and drive' concept at this early stage and welcomes any proposals from prospective organisations who can present a viable package.



John Ryan

Technical Director