

# Patron Racing Patrons Welcome

Pat Teatum took well deserved accolades in 1994 with his first no.1 plate, courtesy of Bryn Hawkins in the Junior Honda Pro-Kart class. It was a superb achievement from Bryn, an extremely likeable club champion in Junior TKM, as well as for Patron Racing and Knight Karts as entrant and manufacturers. It was the ultimate prize for Pat Teatum to round off a fine year. The National Championship result added to the 'O' plate Pro-Kart title won by Paul Rosenthal in the same year. This was in addition to the numerous club titles taken from a number of tracks around the UK in the last 20 years, in Pro-Karts, 100 Britain and 100 National (as was).

Although working from his cramped garage was proving to be a successful business exercise, particularly in the Pro-Kart market, it was not the ideal place from which to promote the new image Pat Teatum was looking for. Both Pat and his wife Sandra however held the same vision of how they wanted the business to progress. It was just a question of timing and being in the right place at the right time. The arrival on the market of a property in a poor state of repair though marked the start of a whole new venture for Patron Racing. The doors of the new business opened in Doncaster, (quite close to where Pat operated from his own home all these past years), in mid-April this year, after a major renovation exercise was carried out on the new shop. Pat is quite certain that without the help, encouragement and support of all his customers and friends around the tracks, he could not possibly have developed the shop into its present condition. Many people rallied round to give their unfailing and loyal voluntary support to a trader who frequently goes out of his own way to help them on and off the track. What goes

around comes around and Pat found he was now being paid back in spades.

Patron Racing itself started life many years ago when Pat Teatum and Ron Douthwaite came into karting quite late in their lives in 1972. The reason for the formation of the new partnership was quite straightforward. As Pat says: "You could never get the right information out of the dealer network as it was then. So we set up on our own to help drivers along and to give them the advice they were looking for. It went quite well in the early days, but then Ron had other work commitments and I took over the business on my own and ran it part time from the garage at home". As for the decision to start making the Knight chassis: "Well, it was all right at that time for buying other chassis, but there was always something else I wanted, so the only way to do it after that was to make my own. This was in 1977 when I raced my own chassis for about 18 months, before making them for other people".

As the Knight frames grew in popularity, Pat was able to put his technical engineering qualifications to good use, (and as Michael Caine would say, "and not many people know that", because Pat goes to great pains not to shower himself in praises, for the hard earned qualifications he achieved after many years of grafting at night school). This expertise was usefully employed to improve the breed of Class One karts, particularly around Hemswell, Lindholme and Wombwell, where many titles were won. When Brian Wilson of Wilson Racing Engines retired from the sport



in the latter part of the 1980s, Pat got his break and he was able to take over Brian's spot. It is a position from which he has not looked back. Once 100UK (100TKM) arrived, and then more recently Pro-Karts, the Knight chassis began to dominate the class and at Wombwell in particular the latest 1996 Knight frame has proved to be a clear winner. Patron Racing is one of the major players on the Pro-Kart scene and individual chassis can now be built to order, to cater for both the long and the short legged competitor.

Patron Racing has unrivalled years of experience and success in karting and whether your needs are towards four stroke or two stroke power, a visit to the new shop would not go amiss to set the would-be racer on their way. Latest 1996 adventures are geared towards the debut of a 125 gearbox chassis in the hands of the gifted Pro-Kart multi-club champion Steve McLeary, whilst the new Cadet chassis, based on the already successful Pro-Kart frame, promises to be very quick indeed. Early tests at PFI suggest Pat Teatum has got potentially another winner on his hands.

For help and advice on any class of racing, including endurance racing, Patron Racing can be contacted on (01302) 857162, fax (01302) 811109, Monday to Saturday, from 9am until 5.15pm daily, with late night opening until 9pm on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. They can be found at 81 Springwell Lane in Balby, less than 2 miles from Doncaster town centre and within easy reach of the A1/M18 motorway network.

Report & photos: Mike Hayden

