

# GETTING STARTED

## THE RACING BUDGET

### What to include when setting a budget

You have decided you want to start racing, that's step one, but one of the next questions you may ask is how expensive is it likely to be? As with any interest or hobby the cost is something to consider at the very beginning. Many of you may be under the impression that becoming a racing driver is far beyond your expectations and very much a pipe dream, but it may be easier to achieve than you think. I won't leave you under false pretences that motorsport is a bargain, but it can be accomplished in a cost-effective manner, you just need to know all of the options and what's available to you. The cost will differ depending on the route you take. Whether you opt for the karting route as an initial step into motorsport, or go straight into car racing, either as a junior or senior racer, I will guide you through the immediate process. So, let's get started straight away.

### Kart racing budget

First stop: karting. Karting can be a bit of a minefield, as there are a great deal of options out there, for all ages. Many of today's professional and well-known racing drivers across all disciplines began their careers in the realms of karting. It is an extremely popular route to take, and a superb way to learn race craft and car control.

It may be the most common method to beginning a career in motorsport, but where does it sit on the affordability scale? Starting with a budget plan, the following list highlights the more important items that will need to be considered. This list is more applicable to those considering the more professional karting route, rather than joining a local indoor karting club, for instance. Much of this list is self-explanatory, but as someone new to karting, there may be some things you not have considered:

- Motorsport UK Go Karting Pack

## 2021 Application for Motorsport UK Competition Licence



Get to the heart of the action quicker by having the following to hand:

- A passport style image
- Your medical/vision test (if required - see section 4)
- Payment details

Read the 'What you need to know about your motorsport licence' booklet (available in the Resource Centre of [www.motorsportuk.org](http://www.motorsportuk.org)) before filling in this form.

**Any questions?**

**We are happy to help, call us on 01753 765050**

### Need your licence in a hurry?

- 3-hour processing, enclose an extra £115
- 3-day processing, enclose an extra £65

Did you know you may be able to apply for your licence online?

### SOME OF OUR LICENCE HOLDER BENEFITS (Login to your member benefits portal online for more details)

**halfords** 10% off in-store



**Wera** Up to 10% off the full range of Wera tools



Up to £120 cash back on road tyres

### SECTION 1A | YOUR DETAILS (Please write clearly in block capitals)

Surname \_\_\_\_\_

First name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Gender  Male  Female Date of birth    /    /   

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Nationality \_\_\_\_\_ Previous licence number

(Non-British passport holders MUST enclose proof of residency in the UK, e.g. a utility bill or bank statement)

Nationality and type of any other Competition Licence you hold \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE ATTACH A PHOTOGRAPH HERE IF YOU HAVE NEVER SUPPLIED ONE TO US BEFORE, OR IF THERE HAS BEEN A MATERIAL CHANGE TO YOUR APPEARANCE (WRITE YOUR NAME AND DATE OF BIRTH ON ITS REVERSE).

### SECTION 1B | PARENT, LEGAL GUARDIAN OR EMERGENCY CONTACT



If you are under 18, please provide the details of a parent or legal guardian. For over 18s, please provide details for your emergency contact.

Full name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number \_\_\_\_\_ Email address \_\_\_\_\_

If your parent, legal guardian or emergency contact lives at a different address to you please provide below  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

### SECTION 1C | HOW DID YOU USE YOUR LICENCE?

Did you compete during 2020? YES  NO

If 'Yes', please write the number of events you competed in next to each discipline below. If 'No', proceed to the next question below.

Autocross \_\_\_\_\_ Cross Country \_\_\_\_\_ Karting \_\_\_\_\_ Sprint \_\_\_\_\_  
 Autotest / Autosolo \_\_\_\_\_ Drag Racing \_\_\_\_\_ Rallycross \_\_\_\_\_ Trials \_\_\_\_\_  
 Circuit Racing \_\_\_\_\_ Hill Climb \_\_\_\_\_ Rallying \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Were you a member of a Club in 2020? YES  NO

If 'Yes', please write the number of clubs you were a member of \_\_\_\_\_

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First page of Motorsport UK licence application form.

## SO, YOU WANT TO BE A RACING DRIVER?

### ARKS licence

Karting is well known for being the starting point for so many racing drivers, including many of the famous names we know from the world of motorsport. The Sennas and Buttons of the world began their motor racing career at a very young age amongst the karting ranks, proving the pedigree of drivers that karting can and has produced. There are countless local karting championships available for drivers of all ages; however, in terms of contesting a Motorsport UK sanctioned event, these are generally aimed at the younger members of the motorsport community. To compete in such an event, you will need a karting licence, or an ARKS licence.

### *What is an ARKS licence?*

As mentioned above, to be eligible to race at a Motorsport UK karting event you will need the appropriate licence, in the case of karting this is an ARKS licence, approved by the Association of Racing Kart Schools (ARKS). Even as a young karter the correct licence is an absolute must to ensure you are legally allowed to compete.

### *Types of ARKS licence*

There are different types of kart licence, depending on the discipline you wish to contest and also the level at which you compete. Differences arise when deciding whether to contest long circuit karting or short circuit karting, or whether you prefer endurance kart races, for instance. The difference in licences also comes

into play with regard to the power of your kart and, more importantly, your age, as this will determine which class or championship you are eligible to take part in.

The types of kart licence available are listed below, together with the cost, and what events that particular licence entitles the holder to compete in. The prices detailed here are the licence renewal prices, the cost of your first licence will be detailed in the next section, 'How to get your ARKS licence':



*Go Karting pack.*

# TRACK TIME

## TRACK DAYS

So, you've got your race car. Now it's time to start using it.

You may be a novice racing driver when you take to the grid for your first outing, but that doesn't mean you are a complete novice when it comes to track action. Gaining experience on-circuit is important, especially if you are fairly apprehensive about the prospect, but it is easily achievable.

The best opportunity to get some practice on-circuit is with a track day or test day. First of all, track days and test days are very different events. Although you may use a track day as a test day, be aware that the event rules differ somewhat. For those set to become a car racing driver, track days are the most readily available opportunity to experience a circuit first-hand, and less daunting than jumping straight into a test day for your first time on-circuit. Although some more experienced racing drivers will use a track day as an opportunity to practise and prepare for an upcoming race, track days tend to attract less experienced or novice circuit drivers, making it a more friendly environment for someone new to racing or driving on-circuit. It is a very relaxed environment, making it the ideal training ground for novices looking to gain some experience.

Whether you plan to use your road car, or the car you intend to race, to prepare yourself for the real experience there are opportunities at circuits all over the UK and Europe to learn the circuit directly, before you turn up to race. Some track day companies also offer car hire, and although you don't have to worry about the level of wear and tear as you would on your own car, you will need to consider the cost implications of hiring a car. Yes, it will be somewhat expensive, but is it any more expensive than what you would have paid on fuel and tyres for your own car, plus the difficult job of getting the car to the circuit? Car hire can be a convenient option, but there may be more to consider in terms of cost or insurance cover.

Track days work a little differently in karting. Although kart track days are not as readily available, there are plenty of opportunities to get on-circuit at your local kart track or with your local club. As discussed in Chapter 2,

## SO, YOU WANT TO BE A RACING DRIVER?

more experienced. Whilst novice drivers in car racing will sport a square yellow sticker with a black cross on it, novice karters are required to display black number boards with white numbers, to alert other drivers.

As you approach the final, your grid position is determined by the points you are awarded during the heats. So, the more competitive you can be during the heats, it will stand you in good stead for the final. As an alternative, some organisations may run a timed qualifying session, with each driver competing for their grid position. Positions will then be determined in order of fastest time. Those that finish in the first three of four positions in each class can also look forward to receiving some silverware, a nice reward for your efforts during the day.

### What to be aware of – karting

One of the most important things to be aware of when karting is the communication between you and the officials. I discussed flag signals and their importance in Chapter 3; however, flag signals in kart racing differ ever so slightly to that of track days and car racing. Track days use only a few flags to communicate with drivers on-circuit, although there are more that are commonly used in racing that all drivers need to understand.

Bearing in mind, once you pass your ARKS licence you should be fluent in the way of flag signals, as you will need to know what each of them mean as part of your written examination. With that in mind, here is a run through of each of the flags used in karting. Some kart circuits may also use a lights system to communicate with you, to reflect the flags commonly used, for instance instead of a waved yellow flag, this may be replaced with a flashing yellow light.

<i>Flag signal</i>	<i>What it means</i>	<i>Where you will see it</i>
<b>Green flag</b>	Signals that the circuit is clear and open. The green flag will also be used to indicate to the start of the formation lap before the start of a race	At all marshal posts around the circuit
<b>Stationary yellow flag</b>	Slow down (to 60-70% of your normal speed) to ensure you have complete control of your vehicle, as there is an incident or hazard ahead. No overtaking	At marshal posts around the circuit
<b>Waved yellow flag</b>	Follow instructions mentioned under Yellow Flag above; however, a waved yellow flag indicates more danger as the hazard is directly ahead. Be prepared to deviate from your normal racing line to avoid any hazards	At the marshal posts nearest to where the incident or hazard is on-circuit