



From the National Court

**MOTOR SPORTS COUNCIL NATIONAL COURT
SITTING TUESDAY 03 DECEMBER 2019**

**Richard Norbury
David Scott
Mark Heywood (Chairman)**

J2019/33 – James Rudman – Whilton Mill British Kart Championship Event – 28 September 2019

1. On the weekend of 28th - 29th September 2019 Whilton Mill Circuit played host to a round of the IAME karting championship.
2. As part of the event, the circuit organised a social evening for the for the enjoyment of the competitors, their team members, families and friends on the Saturday night. Sadly, that social event was marred by an outburst of violent behaviour. A number of people were involved; Mr James Rudman was one and his case has been referred to the National Court to consider an allegation that he behaved in an abusive manner and was threatening to the staff and the owner of the venue.
3. Mr Rudman accepts being in breach of General Regulation C.1.1.9 and offers his sincere remorse.
4. The Court has had the advantage of studying high quality, colour footage from two CCTV cameras in the venue. The disturbance lasted approximately 11 minutes and we have been assisted by submissions concerning particular aspects of what is shown.
5. Mr Rudman accepts his behaviour but expresses frustration that he appears to be the only one facing proceedings when others were, he contends, more blameworthy than he. We express no view on the others. Whether Mr Rudman's feeling is justified or not, his case turns on his own actions.
6. The Court is satisfied that Mr Rudman had drunk to excess and, as we have seen, adopted a persistently threatening posture, resisting efforts to control him and giving the very clear impression that he was, to use one witness' expression, 'out of control and was trying to fight with pretty well everyone in the restaurant... His inebriated state prevented him from fighting effectively although he clearly still had the will to.'
7. Mr Rudman was behaving in this manner for some 11 minutes, as previously stated. By the time of this incident, at approximately 10.30 pm, numbers in the bar had reduced but there were still over 20 people present including the staff. A significant aggravating factor is that several young children, including Mr Rudman's own son, still in his race suit, were present. Their distress is obvious on the CCTV footage.
8. In summary, this was a frightening bar brawl and we have no doubt that Mr Rudman was largely responsible. It is no mitigation that he himself suffered an injury from a punch. Had he been more restrained, we are satisfied nobody else would have reacted in response.

9. The IAME championship is a prestigious event and this public disorder diminishes the standing of UK karting.
10. We do accept Mr Rudman's remorse – particularly his shame that his son in particular should have seen his father behave so shamefully.

Penalty

11. This was a serious offence and others must be deterred from behaving in a similar manner in future. Acknowledging Mr Rudman's prompt admission of guilt and genuine shame and remorse we consider that Mr Rudman:
 - i. Should pay a fine of £1500.
 - ii. His PG licence will be suspended from today's date (3rd December 2019) until 31st December 2021. The operation of the suspension for the year 1st January 2021 – 31st December 2021 will be suspended, affording Mr Rudman an opportunity to demonstrate for 12 months his fitness to hold the PG licence he has hitherto enjoyed.
 - iii. There will be a contribution to costs in the sum of £500.

Mark Heywood
Chairman
03rd December 2019