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Go Kart Go!

UK : 1964 : dir. Jan Darnley-Smith : Fanfare / Children's Film Foundation : 55 min
 prod: George H Brown : scr: Michael Barnes : dir.ph.:
*Dennis Waterman; Jimmy Capehorn; John Moulder-Brown; Christopher Witty; Frazer Hines;
 Pauline Challenor; Melanie Garland; Robert Ferguson*
 Graham Stark; Cardew Robinson; Wilfred Brambell; Cambell Singer; Gladys Henson;
 Harry Locke; Alan White

Ref:	Pages	Sources	Stills	Words	Ω	8	≠	M	⊗	Copy on VHS	Last Viewed
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Any old iron? Wilfred Brambell with John Moulder-Brown (left)

Source: CFF catalogue & index of films 1972

Children's Film Foundation catalogue and index of films 1972 note:

"Rival groups build their own Go-Karts and encounter excitement and trouble in their efforts to win the local Go-Kart races. Original story by Frank Wells; music by Ron Goodwin. Exhibited at the 1964 Children's Film Festival. Won the *Arquero de Bronce* at Gijon, Spain, the C.I.D.A.L.C. bronze medal at Venice, and a Special Mention in Argentine"

The British Film Catalogue 1895-1985 listing:

"Children. Harrow. Children build a motorised gocart and win a race against their rivals."

[no listing in "Halliwell's Film Guide", "Leonard Maltin's Movie and Video Guide 2001", "Speelfilm Encyclopedie", "The Critics' Film Guide", "The Good Film and Video Guide", "Movies on TV and Videocassette 1988-89", "Radio Times Guide to Films", "Rating the Movies (1990)", "The Sunday Times Guide to Movies on Television", "The Time Out Film Guide", "TV Times Film & Video Guide 1995", "Variety Movie Guide 1993", "Video Movie Guide 1993" or "The Virgin Film Guide"]

TV Times [?] note:

"Dennis Waterman in a tale of go-kart racing."



*What Americans call the "soapbox derby" – another iconic pastime of boyhood that has quietly gone the way of the dodo, leaving little evidence of its popularity behind on the screen.
Source: indeterminate website*

Excerpt from **The Moving Picture Boy** entry on Moulder-Brown:

"In his early years John was the schoolboy equivalent of an English Rose: huge, pale blue eyes blinked demurely through a fringe of fair hair, and he couldn't, you'd think, have said boo to a goose. But he was more than just a pretty face, and when he graduated from modelling to acting, and gained in experience and confidence, a touch of scornful pride crept in which made him less sweet and more complicated.

Most often, though, he was cast in sincere, sympathetic roles which didn't call for huge displays of temperament - and got abundant work as a child, including several leads with the Children's Film Foundation. In the 1969 co-production of **"THE BOYS OF PAUL STREET"** - a remake of the classic Molnar story, filmed in 1934 as **"NO GREATER GLORY"** - Moulder-Brown was too mature for the leading role, which was taken this time by Anthony Kemp.

However, instead of faltering and fading like the careers of so many well-favoured children, Moulder-Brown's now blossomed. Jerzy Skolimowski gave him two starring roles: as the young swimming pool attendant in **"DEEP END"** (E Germany/US 70), fatally obsessed with Jane Asher, and as the enterprising nephew of David Niven and Gina Lollobrigida in **"HERZBUBE"** (W Germany/US 72 - **"SEX, LOVE AND MURDER"**), a delightful adaptation of Nabokov's "King, Queen, Knave"..."

The Moving Picture Boy entry on Witty:

"The amiable curly-haired Witty was seldom a star, outside of children's films, but had a central role as a kidnapped Arab crown prince in **"MASQUERADE"**. He was seen later in **"BABY LOVE"** (68) and **"THE RAILWAY CHILDREN"** (70)."

Cast:

Jimpy	Dennis Waterman
Squarehead	Jimmy Capehorn
Harry	Frazer Hines
Patchy	Pauline Challenor
Squirt	Melanie Garland
Stiggy	Robert Ferguson
Spuggy	John Moulder Brown
Policeman	Graham Stark
Policeman	Campbell Singer
Junkman	Wilfred Brambell
Postman	Cardew Robinson
Housewife	Gladys Henson
Father	Alan White
Father	Harry Locke

No further information currently available. The Go-karting fad seems to have come and gone without being memorialised by any film but this one, although one would think it was at least as photogenic as skateboarding, BMX cycling or CB radio, each of which later produced a small crop of children's films and television serials. The only comparable title which comes to mind would be Chaplin's debut film way back in 1913: "**KID AUTO RACES AT VENICE**".

Dennis Waterman was 16, having made his first film appearance at age 11 in "**NIGHT TRAIN TO INVERNESS**". In 1961 he made "**PIRATES OF BLOOD RIVER**", did a stint on television as "**Just William**" in 1962, then his mother took him to Hollywood to appear in the American TV serial "**Fair Exchange**". Moulder-Brown was 10. He'd been with Waterman in "**NIGHT TRAIN TO INVERNESS**", made four other CFF productions among his 19 films by the age of twelve, and was in TV soaps such as "**Weavers Green**" and "**The Dickie Henderson Show**". Christopher Witty was 13. His films included "**NO TIME FOR TEARS**" (57, with Richard O'Sullivan), "**NO KIDDING**" (60, with Martin Stephens) and Losey's "**THE DAMNED**" (61).

See subject index under **CARS**, [CHILDREN'S FILM \(& TV\) FOUNDATION](#), [OSCAR WINNERS / AWARD WINNERS](#) and **SPORT**.