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**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
THE ASSOCIATION OF EASTERN MOTOR CLUBS
20th Oct 2015**

Held at the Lion and Lamb, Great Canfield

The meeting commenced at 20.00

Attendance

Members

10 were present representing 8 clubs as follows

Gary Nicholls	Chairman
Stanley Graham	Vice Chairman / Wickford AC
Tony Clements	MSA Reg.Cttee. Rep./ Chelmsford MC
Clive Grounds	Training / Cambridge CC
Tony Michael	Web /Chelmsford MC
Alan Barnard	West Essex MC
Mike Biss	CSMA
Tony Burchnall	Eastern Counties MC
John Boot	West Suffolk MC
Brian Hemmings	Secretary / Anglia Motor Sport Club

Visitors

Rob Jones	CEO MSA
Suze Endean	RDO - Go Motorsport South East
Matt Endean	MSA Rallies/ Auto-Rally Cross Committee

Welcome

The Chairman welcomed Rob Jones, Suze and Matt Endean to the meeting

Apologies

Apologies were received from;- Stuart Kingham (Treasurer – Wickford AC), Loyd Gerken (Technical -Green Belt), John White (Autocross Coord, -Green Belt), Sarah White (HCAC Co-ord), Melanie Camp (Green Belt MC), Noreen Ward (BARC Midlands), Martin Newson (SCCoN), Mark Banham (Kings Lynn &DMC), Paul Barrett (Rally / Chelmsford) Allan Smith (Wickford AC), Chris Deal (Sprint / Green Belt MC)

Previous Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday the 27th July 2015 were reviewed and unanimously agreed having been proposed by Chelmsford MC (Tony Clements) and seconded by West Suffolk MC (John Boot).

There were no matters directly arising not covered elsewhere in the agenda.

Chairman's Report

The chairman commented that clearly there is a significant amount of activity and change currently in motor sport. The anticipation is that most of the key elements will be discussed during the meeting.

He also referenced the meeting held earlier in the year between the association and the South Eastern and Central Southern associations to explore areas of common interest indicating that a follow up meeting is being planned for later this year.

Treasurers Report

In his absence the treasurer had supplied a summary report as follows.

The Association accounts currently stand at a total of £10,416 with no outstanding liabilities. The sponsorship payment for the Stage Rally Championship has been received and is included within the account total.

Association club membership stands at 35 clubs with two pending memberships

Secretary's report

Correspondence has been received as follows:-

Copies of minutes from other associations.

Monthly newsletters from Sevenoaks & DMC and ACU Eastern Centre.

Confirmation of Club's Applications for Use of Forestry in 2016.

Invitation to compete in the 2016 MGJ Engineering Brands Hatch Stages.

Applications for membership:-

Applications for membership have been received from Sheffield and Hallamshire Motor Club and Triple 7 Racing Club.

Sheffield and Hallamshire a long established club in the East Midlands have recently run a single venue stage rally at Snetterton. They have expressed an interest in the event being considered for the AEMC/AEMC Championship in future years, assuming it is run.

Triple 7 Racing is a club specialising in virtual racing. They operate to a strict regulation regime which seeks to emulate "real-world" as defined by the MSA/FIA.

Following discussion it was unanimously agreed to accept both applications.

Both clubs to be informed accordingly.

MSA Update

Rob Jones provided a comprehensive report on the MSA and the various initiatives and challenges that are being tackled. The following is a summary of the main points.

As background outlined how his career as a lawyer had evolved through many areas of involvement in clubman's motor sport to a full time role as General Secretary for the MSA in 2006 and subsequently for the last 18 months as CEO. This background and experience has given an excellent insight to all aspects of the sport and provided a better understanding of the needs of motor sport and the challenges of evolving the MSA to meet future needs.

He highlighted that the MSA has been subject to significant levels of personnel change recently with Simon Blunt joining as General Secretary, Ben Taylor moving to a role with International Motorsport, Allan Dean Lewis retiring from his full time job and a number of other changes and appointments. A new role of Development director has been created with a new appointment commencing in Jan 2016. This level of change has the advantage of bringing in new thinking but has the risk and challenge of losing vast levels of experience and the need to maintain continuity. This has been and is particularly relevant at a time of significant general change.

A review of the overall governance structure has been completed and a report presented to the board in September. This has led to a strategic review which is now in progress with a report planned to be presented to the main board in Nov.. The need to have effective contact with competitors, clubs and officials throughout the sport is recognised as very important. The role of the regional committee and activity within the regions is accepted as being a key enabler to achieving this and therefore how this operates within the overall structure will be part of the consideration.

Rob pointed out that Motor sport in Scotland and Wales receives some government funding while England currently receives nothing. If overall and international success is used as the basis for funding, which it seems to be in other sports, then the very high level of current achievements of UK motor sport should provide a basis for significant motor sport funding. The potential for funding for the sport is being progressed.

The GoMotorsport programme has proved very successful in promoting grass roots involvement and additional levels of resource have recently been made available. The intention is to further increase the levels of support for the initiative to enable more involvement in what is seen as the very important area of growing participation and memberships generally but particularly within clubs and at entry level.

The series of events in Scotland culminating in the Jim Clark incident resulted in a review of motorsport being set up by the Scottish Government for all motorsport in the region. This included both 4 and 2 wheel disciplines. A positive aspect was a government statement beforehand accepting that it is not considered practical to make motor sport completely safe. The multi-disciplinary group that undertook the review issued a report in Jan. 2015 which identified 29 areas where they recommended action needed to be taken. The MSA committed that all elements would be embraced and in doing so met a pre requisite from the Forestry Commission to the allowing of future events in the forests. Many of the areas identified are simply good practices which have already been in place in many events. However the advantages of having clearly documented standard processes and approaches have been clearly identified.

Despite the initial tragic circumstances benefits have resulted as a consequence with good working relationships developing with the Scottish Government and the Forestry Commission as examples. Rob stated that he was optimistic that despite the tragic circumstances that lead to the review a consequence will be that it will lead to permanent beneficial change.

When the composition of motor sport participants is reviewed it becomes quickly clear that there is an opportunity to increase the numbers of women in the sport and encourage wider ethnic diversity. An interesting statistic is that despite being approximately 50% of the population only 5% of licenses are held by women. Potential approaches to gaining additional participants are being reviewed.

A short question and answer session was held later in the meeting with the following summary of the points addressed

Question - Is there a Central role for the MSA in developing venue availability?

Response - Issues surrounding the making venues available and retaining existing is prevalent in all disciplines and at all levels. The MSA is very active as a lobbying organisation with environmental aspects and issues being a particular area of attention.

Question – Part 1 Can the MSA influence Central Government to in turn influence local government to welcome motor sport and therefore in turn influence venue managers.

Part 2. Can the MSA help with gaining access to MoD venues where it appears motor sport is being blocked out?

Response – A good relationship has been built with cabinet officers specifically the Secretary of State for Defence. Rob indicated that he would ensure that the question of the possibility of general access and specifically increased MoD access is taken forward.

Central Government do see Motor Sport as a national asset and are generally supportive.

Question – Will the Strategic review include external to motor sport input and therefore influence.

Response – This question is being looked at now with eternal guidance being sought to ensure a balanced view is gained as to the most appropriate approach. It is planned that the intended activity will be presented to the board in Nov.. If accepted then the action items will be initiated although it is anticipated the whole process could take up to 2 years. The results from the Club Questionnaire will provide one of the initial information inputs.

Autocross Report

The Autocross coordinator had provided a brief report in his absence as follows.

The September round of the Championship organised by Green Belt and Wickford had run very successfully but with a disappointingly very small entry.

John's request is for anyone who has any thoughts or ideas on how events can be changed or modified to attract more entries to please contact him as running events with entries as small as experienced in Sept. is not an economically viable option for the future.

Matt Endean indicated that the MSA Auto/Rallycross Committee is looking at options.

In discussion the general availability of venues was raised as a limiting factor particularly when considered against the short annual window of availability within the farming calendar.

Stage Rally Championship

The Rally Coordinator had provided a report in his absence as follows

The last two rounds have opened entries, although the Kings Lynn event at Sculthorpe is light on entries at this point. The recent Chelmsford event at Wethersfield had also experienced a lower than expected entry. No specific reason is known and the ongoing position will need to be monitored.

The position at the top of the championship table is currently very close. The 2015 championship tables will be finalised after the Rockingham event and the trophies will be presented at an awards night to be held at Brands on 16th Feb. 2016

The 2016 events calendar is being established progressively but isn't expected to be published until December

It is anticipated that Jelf the 2015 sponsors will continue their support in 2016.

The joint championship with ASEMC has been successful this year and is also planned to continue in 2016. The championship is expected to be at least cost neutral with any profits being shared equally between the two associations.

The Sheffield and Hallamshire event run at Snetterton this year has been well received and if it is to be run and the organisers wish it to be, it should be included in the championship in 2016.

An "FHR" evening is being planned at a Chelmsford MC Club night on November 19th CMC subject to organisers/suppliers support.

It is hoped that this will promote the concept of FHRs in the hope that more competitors will buy them this year and be able to compete on the first few events of next year (Brands & Southdown).

MSA Rallies Committee Update

Matt Endean provided an update from the rallies committee, the primary points being as follows.

3 Forestry commission master agreements are being progressed for Scotland, Wales and England respectively.

Following Wales Rally GB a video dealing with First on Scene procedures will be made available.

Media accreditation in 2016 will define two categories e.g. Official photographer and general photographer. The Official photographer will be a fully experienced and aware individual formally recognized by the MSA. (There is likely to be only around 50 nationally) who because of their knowledge and experience will be allowed certain additional access opportunities. The general photographer will effectively have the same access rights as a normal spectator.

Events will potentially be allowed to "adopt" an "event photographer" known to the organisers as being competent who will be recognised for that event.

The review of rally tracking solutions is continuing. Current solutions that perform well are thought to be expensive while lower cost alternatives have not yet proved to meet all needs. A 4th lower cost alternative (a budget edition of the very good Australian system) is expected to be released which will be assessed when available.

There will be more checks on Targa rallies in 2016 to ensure conformance to regulations.

Rob Jones added an update on progress on the Closed Roads legislation indicating that there had been little progress in putting together the detailed implementation plans. This is a consequence of not yet knowing what the procedural/legal solution to the "Vnuk" insurance issue is going to be. (The Vnuk insurance issue is a European legal issue which in its simplest definition translates into all motorised units, having compulsory insurance cover. Governments throughout Europe are considering the details of the interpretation in their country and how this will be implemented practically)

Sprint Championship

Chris Deal had provided a brief update as follows.

The 2105 championship has been very successful with the overall title being won by Bill McKenna. The awards presentation will be held in February 2016.

Plans for next year's championship are progressing well.

MSA Regional Committee

A report had been circulated prior to the meeting a copy of which is attached to these minutes as Appendix A. There were no questions arising.

Go Motorsport

Suze Endean provided an update on a number of club related matters.

The Non licensed club officials seminar series will be taking place in Feb. and March 2016. Dates and venues will be published soon and clubs should register their attendees as soon as practicable in order to help the overall planning process.

Go Motorsport will have a presence at the Girl Guides event celebrating the 100 year anniversary of their Senior Section being held at Alexandra Palace on 23rd/24th Feb. 2016. A number of clubs have already agreed to be involved. If any other club wishes to be involved they should contact Suze Endean.

Rob Jones commented that he felt the general MSA as well as the Go Motorsport context should be represented at the event.

A Gomotorsport presentation has been held recently in the region at the Wsst Suffolk College, Bury St Edmunds where opportunities in Motor Sport were highlighted to students. The value in such events was underlined as not only was interest shown by a number of students but a strong connection with the college supervision and management was also created.

Training

Clive reported that planning for the Rally Marshals Training Day at Cambridge on the 6th Feb. is progressing well. The application for funding has been submitted and is awaiting approval.

It is intended to encourage those who have attended previously to ensure they "sign up" for different break out topics.

It is planned that First on Scene training will be one of the break out topics.

It was suggested and agreed that the importance of Safety Plans and how to use them effectively should be stressed within the agenda.

The New Marshals Scheme will be launched at the Autosport show which is to be held just before the Training Day. The scheme will include an on line traing element and be based on three primary modules

1. Role of the Marshall. 2. Incident Management. 3. Spectator Management.

It was agreed that the secretary would contact Alan Page to arrange for early information to be available so that it can be built in to the Feb. Training Day presentations in support of the overall rollout.

The chairman reported that he had spoken to Charlie Webber who has agreed to support a First on Scene training initiative. This will be progressed with possible approaches and plans being dicussed further at a meeting during the rally at Sculthorpe on 1st Nov..

Communications

Stanley Graham reported that the review of the role of and approach to communications within and around the association has commenced. The initial work has confirmed that achieving an effective communications process is complex recognising the amount of different requirements and methods available.

A key consideration is the concept that "everyone isn't interested in everything". A succesful solution therefore has to include a degree of targeting of information or a very easy, quick and simple filtering mechanism. The review process will continue with a report hopefully available for the Jan. meeting.

Rob indicated that a scheme is being developed within the MSA that will enable items to be subscribed to on the MSA web site. At this time it is specifically being targeted at the area of consultations in order to provide a process where interested parties can always be made aware of proposed changes.

2016 Events Calendar

The secretary thanked those clubs that had provided their 2016 dates. Other clubs are urged to provide dates where known.

As agreed previously the calendar is being progressively maintained on the AEMC website as input is received and can be referred to there.

Promotional Event 2016

The secretary reported that initial discussions have been held with the circuit manager at Snetterton who has agreed in principle to support a similar event to the successful GoMotorsportLive! event held in 2014. The next critical stage is to determine a suitable date when there is an event planned for the 200 circuit that would be suitable for the promotional event to partner with. A follow up meeting is being arranged in the next few weeks as the circuit calendar for next year is becoming clearer and suitable dates can be identified.

Next Meeting

The next Delegates meeting will be on the **19th Jan. 2016 at the Lion and Lamb,**
Great Canfield, CM6 1SR

There being no further business the chairman thanked all attendees and specifically Rob, Suze and Matt for their contribution and closed the meeting.

Appendix A

AUGUST 2015 – REGIONAL COMMITTEE REPORT

1. The Chairman commenced the meeting extending best wishes for a speedy recovery following surgery to Roger Reed from Scotland who is a longstanding committee member. The Chairman then urged Clubs and Associations to promote both the Club of the Year and Volunteer of the Year Awards, highlighting increased award levels and noting that nominations close on 1st October 2015. Other comments included association support to Regional Development Officers who now have increased hours and referred to safety requirements at stage rallies where the delegates will receive an update later in the meeting from Jacqueline Campbell.

2. Matters arising from minutes included: 1. Sport England and motorsport recognition – Ian Davis is liaising with relevant authorities to resolve any misunderstandings. 2. Closing dates for entries (under D20.1) was discussed with Ian Davis advising that this is referred to Rallies Committee for consideration. 3. John Ryan provided explanations on several items relating to Technical matters (brakes, environmental inspectors, guidance on FHR's and technical passports).

3. Rob Jones (assisted by several members of the MSA team) provided a full update to regional delegates on MSA matters, many of which will be advised to Council in September 2015. Several comments were expressed on matters discussed and points will be raised by the Chairman, as appropriate, at September Council meeting.

4. Training and Development – Alan Page updated delegates on a variety of items including: Training initiatives directly connected to the ongoing work at MSA implementing the 29 MESR recommendations.
Child Safeguarding seminars (9 being planned in October and November) to advise changed criteria.
Radio officials training between October and December.
Preparations for 14 Club Officials (unlicensed) seminars during January to April 2016.
Club Development Fund (CDF) and Rescue Development Fund (RDF).
The 2015 Club of the Year and Volunteer Official of the Year awards with detail of increased awards for all overall and category winners within the volunteer section. The closing date for

receipt of nominations is 1st October 2015.

5. Michael Wentworth advised delegates of up to date figures for licensing in various disciplines and also advised that more license holders were renewing 'online' however this facility is not available to those who have to confirm

'medical' reports. There is much work on marshals' registration (licensing) which is expected to increase as we implement MESR recommendations.

6. Simon Fowler from Competitions and Clubs also advised delegates of 'event' statistics from January to July 2015.

7. Go Motorsport – Jess Fack gave a comprehensive report detailing activities and future proposals for Regional Development Officers (RDO's) in each region. Additional hours have been agreed and structure changes including

more appointments to the role. A recent Go Motorsport Live event at Knockhill was successful with 10 Clubs having static displays and other activities which encouraged 650 people to attend.

Jess advised that she was meeting each of the RDO's in their own areas to plan ahead for 2016 and through the Regional Chairman quarterly reports from the RDO's will be shared with Regional Committee delegates to ensure that everyone is informed of activities and able to provide support as required.

8. Greg Symes explained the MSA Level 2 certificate award for coaching and explained that a one day pilot course entitled 'Introduction to Coaching' was being held on 24th September 2015 at Loughborough. There are 5 places

available for Regional Committee and nominations for a place are to be forwarded to the Regional Chairman for final selection.

9. Tim Swietochowski updated delegates on the recently introduced 'Rally Future' campaign and communication activities connected to this important MSA initiative. A Facebook page has been set up and Tim asked for interested people to 'like' the page. Other associated matters included discussions with Media personnel to agree fresh accreditation criteria and the introduction of 'Ari' posters to encourage everybody to spectate safely at events. There will also be further guidance prepared for safe spectating and Regional Associations can assist with communications through nominated Association Communication Officers.

10. Regional delegates discussed various points of note from Specialist Committee Minutes and mandated the Chairman to raise items for awareness where necessary. The recent decisions from Motor Sports Council concerning FHR's was noted for discussion as it was considered that the process undermined the Committee structure however safety was the brief and there was a general understanding for that situation even though there was not unanimous support for the final decision.

11. Regional Association delegates discussed the three 'wild card' representatives which they have on MSA committees and the following members were elected to the nominated committees, as follows:

Rallies Committee – Chris Woodcock

Historic Committee – Phil Foster

Volunteer Official Advisory Panel – Steve Castle

12. Inter-Association events in grassroots disciplines are being hosted by various Associations in all parts of the country during 2015. These events provide an opportunity for competitors from each Association area to compete

against each other. It was also decided that from 2016 the annual Inter-Association Sprint event could be either a Sprint or Hillclimb.

13. Jacqueline Campbell was introduced to the delegates and explained her role at MSA. Jacqueline specifically discussed proposed Rally Forums in each area to provide better explanation on the implementation of Safety Review recommendations and activities to date including the Safety Delegate and associated support. Papers were presented on the Rally Forums and also on the proposed motorsport marshalling volunteer and benefit scheme – the next steps for both these items were considered appropriate and planning will commence on the rally forums with support from MSA staff, assisted by regional committee delegates in their areas.

14. The following items were discussed under Any Other Business:

Drones – raised by Graham Smith from ABKC.

ANECCC – several points raised in correspondence and answered during the meeting.

15. Election of Regional Committee Chairman and Vice Chairman for 2016:

Chairman – Nicky Moffitt

Vice Chairman – John Arnold