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**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF  
THE ASSOCIATION OF EASTERN MOTOR CLUBS  
21<sup>st</sup> July 2015**

**Held at the Lion and Lamb, Great Canfield**

The meeting commenced at 20.00

**Attendance**

**Members**

12 were present representing 9 clubs as follows

Gary Nicholls	Chairman
Stanley Graham	Vice Chairman / Wickford AC
Tony Clements	MSA Reg.Cttee. Rep./ Chelmsford MC
Tony Michael	Web /Chelmsford MC
Paul Barrett	Rallies Coordinator / Chelmsford MC
Alan Barnard	West Essex MC
Geoff Hodge	Falcon MC
Mike Biss	CSMA
Chris Deal	Sprint Co-ordinator / Green Belt MC
Chin	Sevenoaks &DMC
John Boot	West Suffolk MC
Brian Hemmings	Secretary / Anglia Motor Sport Club

**Visitors**

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

**Apologies**

Apologies were received from:- Stuart Kingham (Treasurer - Wickford – BLORC), Clive Grounds (Training – Cambridge CC ), Loyd Gerken (Technical -Green Belt), John White (Autocross Coord, -Green Belt), Sarah White (HCAC Co-ord), Melanie Camp (Green Belt MC), John and Christine Sharp (Borough 19), Noreen Ward (BARC Midlands), Tony Burchnall (Eastern Counties MC), Martin Newson (SCCoN), Mark Banham (Kings Lynn &DMC)

**Previous Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday the 28<sup>th</sup> April 2015 were reviewed and unanimously agreed having been proposed by Chelmsford MC (Paul Barrett) and seconded by West Essex MC (Alan Barnard).

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

**Chairman's Report**

The chairman informed the meeting that an informal discussion had taken place between AEMC , ASEMC and ACSMC. The objective of the conversation had been to explore possible areas for cooperation and opportunities for joint activities. The meeting had been very positive with the areas of competitions and championships, training and club / association development being identified as those where opportunities were most likely. It was agreed that training would be taken as the first area for further consideration and representatives from the three associations will review opportunities and develop a strategy.

A further meeting has been suggested for later.

The delegates meeting supported continuing the initiative.

## **Treasurers Report**

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

Currently the accounts stand at a total of £9825.54 with no outstanding liabilities.

An invoice has been raised for the Stage Rally Championship sponsorship with payment of this understood to be in progress.

The current membership stands at 35 clubs.

Tony Alder

The funeral for Tony Alder who had sadly recently succumbed to illness was scheduled for the 24<sup>th</sup> July. Tony who had operated the Chelmer Rescue unit was a well known and respected figure throughout the region being present at many events.

## **Secretary's report**

Minutes of their meetings have been received from a number of regional associations as well as the ACU Eastern Centre's newsletter.

A message had also been received from Nicky Moffitt on behalf of the Regional committee relating to involvement by the association in the roll out of the safety message and regulatory requirements. It was agreed to cover this as part of the MSA regional committee agenda item.

A copy of a letter sent to the MSA by the Shenstone Club had been received. The subject of the letter was concerns with regard to the implementation of mandatory FHR devices in Jan 2016 for sprint events and the possible impact on event viability.

There was some discussion on the views expressed and the background. The main item raised by a number of the delegates present was not specifically about the pros and cons of the regulation itself but rather about the process by which the decision to implement was reached. A general concern was expressed that it appeared that the recommendations of a number of specialist committees that had been consulted were not adequately taken into account. While sympathy was expressed with the reasons behind the decision to implement this item on an accelerated timetable concern was felt in terms of the possible precedent for overriding committee views on future topics.

The Secretary reported that an informal discussion had been held with the Chairman of the Eastern Centre ACU Competitions Committee.

The conversation covered current experiences and the challenges facing motor sport and clubs and whether there were potential advantages in maintaining an ongoing dialogue between AEMC and ACU Eastern. The conclusion from the conversation was that there were many similarities and that a connection would be advantageous. An offer had been made by the ACU for an EAMC representative to attend future ACU Competition Committee meetings.

The meeting agreed unanimously that this offer should be accepted and that in return a representative of the ACU committee should be invited to attend AEMC General meetings. The secretary to notify the ACU accordingly.

No additional membership applications had been received.

## **Autocross Report**

It was reported that the Championship events are proceeding as planned

The events are

29<sup>th</sup> / 30<sup>th</sup> Aug

Witney MC

12<sup>th</sup> / 13<sup>th</sup> Sept

Green Belt MC

## **Stage Rally Championship**

It was reported that 70% of the 2015 championship events have now run successfully with only 3 of the 10 planned events still to be run.

There are 41 registered competitors with registration now closed for this year.

The Chelmsford event at Wethersfield on the 27<sup>th</sup> Sept has been accepted into the championship to replace an event that has been cancelled. Competitors have all been contacted and agreed.

The remaining rounds are therefore at Wethersfield - Chelmsford MC, Sculthorpe – Kings Lynn & DMC and Rockingham – Middlesex County AC.

The Awards ceremony for the 2015 championship is proposed to be held in conjunction with the ASEMC and Sprint awards. The event will be held on the 18<sup>th</sup> Feb. 2016 at the Brands Hatch Place Hotel and Spa.

The Championship Coordinator to follow up and confirm plans.

### **Sprint Championship**

The championship is progressing well with 6 more events to be run this year.

Bill McKenna is currently leading the championship with Tim Cole in second place.

42 competitors are registered in the championship.

Plans for 2016 events are progressing with an intention of spreading them more evenly through the season in order to avoid any 'long' breaks between events..

The possibility of entering a team in the Inter Association event is being reviewed although as the date clashes with an AEMC round this may prove difficult. The entry list will be reviewed to identify potential team members.

### **MSA Regional Committee**

A report from the last regional committee was presented highlighting the following items:-

- The existing club support/development grant schemes have been supplemented by an additional scheme. This is aimed at assisting with the costs of additional equipment required to comply with the new safety requirements being rolled out for rallies. e.g. Cost of tape for safety areas, additional notices and signs, etc.. Up to 60% of the cost can be requested.
- The artwork for 'MSA' signs will be made available to clubs so that organisers can investigate 'local' sourcing at potentially lower costs.
- Two pens with pull out messages on 'First on Scene and 'Safe Practices' will be made available. These will be available through the MSA for organisers / events.
- Club and Volunteer of The Year submissions are being requested. These should be submitted to the MSA by September. ( Note Submission forms can be obtained via the secretary or from the MSA website.)
- A new Child safeguarding policy has been introduced. Under the terms of the policy all clubs must have an appointed child safeguarding officer. While it is possible for one person to cover more than one club that person must be prepared to cover all requirements for those clubs. All licensed officials who come into contact with juniors should ensure they have completed the appropriate checks.
- All clubs should encourage their members who marshal events to register on the MSA register in order to be best prepared for future requirements when they are rolled out

### **Regional Association participation in implementation of Safety Review.**

The message received from Nicky Moffitt as mentioned in the Secretary's report requested consideration and responses with regard to 3 aspects.

These were presented to the meeting and discussed as follows.

#### ***Safety Programme Roll out***

In order to promote awareness generally and help introduce the changes and requirements resulting from the Rally Safety Review a number of regional meetings or forums are being considered. A potential approach is that regional associations should take an active role in the planning and delivery of these alongside the MSA team.

The question was posed as to whether each association would be willing to participate. An interim response had been sent indicating that AEMC would wish to be involved. The meeting unanimously confirmed that the association should support the initiative.

#### ***Marshals recognition and registration process.***

A request was made for details of any examples of marshal's recognition schemes being operated in the region. Having canvassed clubs a response was submitted that there appeared not to be any

general schemes currently operating although many individual events did include some form of recognition plan or activity within their own plans. Many clubs also run a 'Marshalling' championship. A further question was asked as to whether the AEMC would be willing to be involved in a future Recognition plan. An interim response had been submitted indicating that although difficult to commit without more details and the general agreement of member clubs it was believed that the association would wish to be involved.

Following discussion the meeting confirmed that assuming the solution proposed was reasonable the association would wish to be involved.

During the discussion it emerged that two clubs, Sevenoaks and Anglia Motor Sport, are currently reviewing options. It was suggested and agreed that they should connect to swap ideas.

### **Communications Officer.**

It was proposed that each association should appoint a communications officer who could liaise with the MSA on communication matters. This would support the MSA's newly appointed Communications Manager who is working on evolving the overall strategy.

This was discussed by the meeting. It was concluded that effective communications are critical to the ongoing success of motor sport and motor sport clubs and are one of the areas where associations must be active for the benefit of their member clubs. It was felt that because of the importance of this area it is important to have clear understanding of what the role should be and what is involved. It was therefore agreed that a sub-committee would be formed to develop an AEMC strategy and to more clearly define the communications role for the association. Once agreed this will be implemented. Secretary to coordinate establishing the group.

### **RDO / Go Motorsport**

Suze reported that there had been some changes to RDO's working agreements which would support increase amounts of formal involvement. It was indicated however that this should be transparent to clubs and that the RDO network was still available as before to support clubs and their activities.

The New Campaign of "Rally Future" was introduced. Although perhaps not as significant in the region as rallies in this area tend to be single venue and held on closed venues it does include general safety guidelines for safe operation of events.

### **Training**

The rally Marshals Training day at Cambridge is confirmed for 6<sup>th</sup> Feb 2016.

Options for staging a training event focused on "First on Scene" are to be progressed. Chairman to follow up.

Cross association initiatives to be progressed.

### **Web Site**

More extensive use of the web site to be evolved including links to other publications.

The MSA News letter to be included in order to make it more available to club members generally.

### **2016 Events Calendar**

A request for clubs to provide dates has been circulated.

It was agreed that the draft calendar should be shared with clubs while still being compiled as this will support the planning process.

### **Promotional Event 2016**

It was reported that as a result of other commitments progress to date has been limited.

Planning will commence within the next few weeks. A request for support within the organising group was made. Anyone interested please contact the secretary.

### **Next Meeting**

The next Delegates meeting will be on the **20<sup>th</sup> Oct 2015 at the Lion and Lamb,**  
Great Canfield, CM6 1SR

**NOTE** Rob Jones the MSA CEO will be visiting us on that evening. If anyone has any questions can they please forward them prior to the evening to provide Rob with time to research the answers should that be necessary.