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## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION OF EASTERN MOTOR CLUBS 26<sup>th</sup> July 2016

Held at the Lion and Lamb, Great Canfield

The meeting commenced at 20.30

### Attendance

#### Members

13 were present representing 9 clubs as follows

Gary Nichols	Chairman /Chelmsford MC
Stanley Graham	Vice Chairman / WickfordAC
Clive Grounds	Training /CambridgeMC
Chris Deal	Sprint / Green Belt
Tony Clements	MSA Reg.Cttee. Rep.
Alan Barnard	West Essex MC
Mike Biss	CSMA
Keith Pettitt	West Suffolk MC
Richard Wakeling	Mini Cross Drivers Association
Brian Hemmings	Secretary /Anglia Motor Sport Club

#### Guests

Jonathan Day	MSA – Development Director
Suze Endean	RDO - Go Motorsport South East
Matt Endean	MSA Rallies/ Auto-Rally Cross Committee

#### Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and in particular Jonathan Day the MSA Development Director.

#### Apologies

Apologies Loyd Gerken (Technical), Noreen Ward (BARC – Midlands), Geoff Hodge (Falcon MC), John White (Autocross Coordinator/ Green Belt MC), Sara White (HCAC Coord ./Greenbelt), Melanie Camp (Greenbelt MC), Tony Burchnall (Eastern Counties MC), Mark Banham (KLDMC) John Boot (AMSC), Pete Richards (Peterborough MC). Paul Barrett (Rally),.

#### Previous Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday the 26<sup>th</sup> April 2016 were reviewed and unanimously agreed having been proposed by Chelmsford MC (Tony Clements) and seconded by West Essex (Alan Barnard).

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

#### Chairman's Report

The chairman indicated that there was nothing specific to report anticipating that most of the new and updated information would be covered during the various reports.

#### Treasurers Report

The treasurer had provided a report indicating that the current accounts stood at £10,782 with no outstanding commitments, uncashed cheques or payments due other than the Stage Rally Championship sponsorship money. Paul Barret is following up on this.

All clubs have renewed their subscription for 2016 except two giving a current membership count of 37 clubs.

### **Secretary's report**

Correspondence has been received as follows:-

Copies of minutes and notices from other associations. i.e. Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales, South East, Central Southern and South West.

Monthly newsletters from Sevenoaks & DMC and ACU Eastern Centre.

There have been no applications for membership.

### **MSA Update – Jonathan Day**

Jonathan introduced himself identifying his role at the MSA as being responsible primarily for Training, Go Motorsport and Academy coaching activities, indicating that he has now been in position for around 6 months.

He went on to explain that while his background hasn't been in motor sport his career has been very strongly sport and sport management related with time spent in football and latterly British Cycling.

He highlighted that many of the challenges facing motor sport are the same as faced by cycling although there is a difference in the size of the regulatory body's full time team. Cycling has a much larger team enabled in part by the amount of their external financing through grants.

In the area of training the on line basic training for rally marshals has been successful with some 4400 people having now undertaken it. 1600 of these have been new registrations. This is the first implementation of on line training for the MSA and has highlighted the advantages of this technique in providing contact with a wide number of people while also providing an effective opportunity to collect data. On line training will be developed in the future to supplement the face to face activities that have been used very successfully to date.

One specific application area will be the ongoing requirement to develop solutions to meet the needs of Rallying / Rally future. Safety car training has also been progressing well with further sessions planned or being planned for the future.

Jonathan indicated that the area of Safeguarding is under review with a new training/educational approach anticipated to be launched shortly that will reduce the span of officials that it is considered advisable to be more comprehensively trained. Courses/presentations will be developed for delivery from within the sport.

At a more general level within the MSA the strategic review was reported as progressing with the initial presentation having been made to the board and accepted. The content and recommendations will be developed presented and progressively rolled out as specific actions.

Work on developing and implementing a new CRM (Customer Relationship Management) system to provide an improved digital data base to be used across all MSA processes has commenced with an internal working group actively working on defining needs.

Clubs were reminded that the development grant scheme is still available. The information about the scheme is being reviewed to provide greater clarification on what qualifies and to provide a simpler application process as a background to improving club awareness of the opportunity.

The Club and Volunteer of the Year Award scheme will be launched shortly. A later than traditional launch for submissions is being tried this year as way of providing more focus. An online process for submission will be available. Clubs were urged to participate.

A number of questions were asked by the delegates which were responded to as follows.

There are many challenges to moving motor sport forward and therefore a lot to do. This in turn puts great pressure on the available capacity and drives a need to ensure that focus is put on those areas of greatest need or most return. One example of a mechanism being developed to provide this is that a number of Guidance documents or tools will be developed and made available as an effective way of providing support to organisers, officials, clubs and competitors.

The question of minimum ages at which individuals can get involved in motorsport is recognised and particularly the comparison with non MSA regulated activities. Each discipline will continue to consider the question although appropriate risk management will continue to be an ongoing consideration in ensuring a "safe" environment.

Linking up educational and training activities within and between clubs at a wider or regional level provides the most effective and efficient way of providing supportive and enables support to be provided more realistically.

The chairman thanked Jonathan for the update

## **Autocross Report**

An update had been provided indicating that the 2016 Home Counties Autocross Championship currently consists of 4 rounds i.e. two weekends that are planned to run.

There are currently 4 competitors that have registered.

Taking into consideration this situation and the difficulties being experienced in staging successful events the Coordinator also suggested that the future of the series may need reviewing.

The chairman also observed that as the series was largely "invisible" to the majority of member clubs it would be appropriate to consider whether support in 2017 was appropriate.

## **Stage Rally Championship**

No specific report was presented. However a recently circulated bulletin had indicated that the championship is progressing well. The next round is due at Wethersfield on August Bank Holiday Monday. The unfortunate loss of events through unforeseen circumstances has resulted in a longer gap than intended before the season finishes in Dec.. Plans for 2017 will try and address this to create a more even schedule although this can be difficult as events will tend to run on traditional dates.

## **Sprint Championship**

It was reported that the series is progressing well with 40 registered competitors. However this is a slight reduction over previous years and the series Coordinator indicated that he felt that options for re energising the championship should be reviewed. It was agreed that this would be followed up.

The possibility of a new low cost entry level to sprinting was discussed. It was stated that options were under review at the MSA with a potential production class being forwarded for consideration at Main Council although it was generally accepted that new options that reduced the safety requirements currently in place would be unlikely to be accepted.

## **MSA / Regional Committee**

Clubs were asked to forward any questions that they wished to be raised at the August Regional Committee meeting.

The Rally Future Forum had been held on 13<sup>th</sup> July at the Thurrock Hotel. The background to and details of the changes in stage rallying were presented with an opportunity to ask questions of the presenting panel. The event had been successful with Ian Davis who is leading the Rally Future Initiative subsequently thanking the association for hosting the event and commenting on what he felt was the high quality of the questions asked and resulting discussions.

The chairman highlighted that at the forum a request had been made by Tim Swietochowski (MSA head of Communications) for clubs to provide articles which would then be published and shared with others in motor sport through the MSA's communication channels.

Matt Endean provided an update from the Autocross and Rally committees mentioning in particular the discussions ongoing around autocross and that there is a working group looking at ways of getting into rallying, which he is leading.

## **RDO (Go Motor sport)**

Suze Endean indicated that for future meetings she would alternate with Tania Brown in attending to represent Go Motorsport.

It was explained that a meeting of the whole Go Motorsport team had been held in May where the future direction of their activities was covered. The output from this discussion was being progressed through a number of smaller working groups to ensure the available time and effort of the team is focused in the most effective areas.

Suze indicate that there was evidence that where clubs had "linked" with other organisations e.g Guides, colleges etc. there had been positive outcomes in terms of members or additional support and suggested that this may be a strategy that clubs should consider.

A mail shot has been sent out to highlight and remind organisers / clubs of the support materials available from Go Motorsport.

## **Training**

Clive confirmed that plans for the Rally Marshals training Day on 4<sup>th</sup> Feb 2017 are progressing with the venue booked and the presenters contacted. It was mentioned that this would be an opportunity to arrange a Safety Car Training session as one of the modules if the Rally Future team wished to.

A list of topics where training is being requested has been presented from clubs within the association. This has been circulated more widely to clubs through the region in order to determine overall levels of interest. Collective responses will be used as a basis for developing an overall training plan to be run at either local or regional level dependant on the topic and levels of interest.

### **Communications**

The working group is making progress with an internal association view identified of the communication relationships between clubs, AEMC and the MSA. The next step is to gather further information on current practices and future requirements by meeting with club officials, club members and competitors.

### **Promotional Event 2016**

Plans to organise a Go Motorsport Live! East event in 2016 have had to be cancelled as a result of difficulties in finding a workable date at the venue. The potential to run an event in the first half of 2017 is looking hopeful and this is being progressed

### **Next Meeting**

The next Delegates meeting will be on the **18<sup>th</sup> Oct 2016** at the Lion and Lamb,  
Great Canfield, CM6 1SR

**START TIME 20.30**

There being no further business the chairman thanked all attendees and closed the meeting.