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**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
THE ASSOCIATION OF EASTERN MOTOR CLUBS
18th July 2017**

Held at the Lion and Lamb, Little Canfield

The meeting commenced at 20.30hrs

The chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting

Attendance

Members

12 were present representing 10 clubs as follows

Gary Nichols	Chairman /Chelmsford MC
Stuart Kingham	Treasurer / Wickford AC
Mark Banham	Kings Lynn DMC
Alan Barnard	West Essex MC
Mike Biss	Boundless by CSMA (NL)
Tony Burchnall	Eastern Counties MC
Clive Grounds	Training / Cambridge CC
Keith Pettitt	West Suffolk MC
Pete Richards	Peterborough MC
Brian Hemmings	Secretary /Anglia Motor Sport Club

Guests

John Conboy	Go Motorsport / Chelmsford MC
Matt Endean	MSA - Rallies /Speed / Autocross Committees

Apologies

Apologies were received from John Boot (Anglia Motor Sport Club), Paul Barrett (Rally Co-ord / Chelmsford MC), Tony Clements (Regional delegate / Chelmsford MC), Chris Deal (Sprint Co-ord Greenbelt MC), Martin Newson (SCCoN), Rod McKenna (Club Rally Sport West)

Welcome

The chairman welcomed John Conboy, the recently appointed RDO for the region, to the meeting.

Previous Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday the 25th April 2017 were reviewed and unanimously agreed to be a true representation of the meeting. The adoption of the minutes was proposed by Cambridge Car Club (Clive Grounds), and seconded by West Suffolk MC (Keith Pettitt)

Matters arising

Having been contacted following the BMMC's successful application for membership a response had been received confirming that they intended to take an active involvement with the association.

Implementation of the MSAs CRM system has been delayed from the intended May time frame in order to ensure that the solution is fully developed and tested before going live.

Safeguarding training has been commenced with a number of sessions initially aimed at those clubs that have a significant involvement with juniors.

The agreed change of venue for some AEMC meetings has had to be put on hold following further discussions with the venue. It may be an option during the winter months.

Chairman's Report

The chairman followed on from his initial welcome to John as the new RDO by urging clubs to connect with him and to use the support available through him to develop motor sport activities within the region. He also highlighted the opportunities available to clubs to apply for financial support for safety or development related activities from the Motor Support Development Fund. A much simpler application form is now available with an online option for applications.

Treasurers Report

The current account balances stand at £12,030

The financial statement for 2016 has been reformatted. Although it had been circulated to the Association officials who had accepted it. By error it had not been sent to all clubs. A copy will be distributed with these minutes to correct this. The secretary apologised for the error.

Secretary's report

Applications.

No applications for membership had been received.

Correspondence received

Copies of minutes and notices from the MSA, other associations and monthly newsletters from Sevenoaks and District MC and the ACU Eastern centre have been received.

Reports

Stage Rally Championship

No formal report was available although a recent update bulletin had been issued indicating that the championship is progressing well.

Possible changes to the championship structure are being considered to address the lengthy time gap between the penultimate round and the final qualifying event in December. One possible option is to start the championship year in December and run through to a finish in Aug. / Sept.. If this was to be adopted the Dec event would have to count in two years championships or be missing from one year in order to manage a transition. Following discussion the view of the meeting was that this would be a good change with the option of Dec. counting in two years being the preferred option to support the change. The championship coordinator was asked to continue the review of options.

Sprint Championship

The meeting was updated that the previously identified reduction in the number of entries at events was continuing with one recent round being cancelled completely through lack of entries.

A discussion resulted encompassing a wide range of factors that could be considered to be influencing the situation. The principle ideas included

- Ensuring that events are providing optimum "value" for the competitor. Understanding and perception of value is important in sprinting where competitive time will usually be relatively short.
- Active marketing of events and the championship.
- Consider including less events in the championship to improve focus.
 - An increase in club cooperation in staging events to compensate for fewer events.
 - Use of a venue where it is possible for multiple disciplines to run concurrently to reduce the venue cost burden on an event.
- Consider simplifying/ realigning/ standardising classes at all events. Clubs staging events and other associations and championships to be approached to determine whether changes would be beneficial, desirable and practical.

The sprint championship coordinator to arrange a review of options.

Inter Association Events

A team had been entered in the Inter association Sprint event at Snetterton and had taken first place. Congratulations to the team members. Thanks to Chris Deal for organising.

A team has been identified to potentially enter the inter association road rally. A problem has been identified however in that one of the potential team entries currently compete at club level and do not have Competition

Licences The current regulations make this a requirement for entry into the “team” the event and so it may prove impractical to provide an entry to the Inter association event.

For information the meeting was updated that the general situation had been the topic of a conversation at the last regional committee where the MSA had reiterated that they considered it appropriate that competitors in inter association events should hold a competition license in view of the stature of the event and no change was envisaged. (Also see MSA report below)

MSA / Regional Committee

The following were highlighted as relevant items that were discussed at the recent Regional Committee meeting.

Regulation D4.5.4 which covers the area of inclusion of Clubman level events within Regional Championships. The specific aspect discussed was whether competitors need to have a competition licence in order to participate. A view was expressed that this requirement was unnecessarily inhibiting entries. The official response was that when the relative status of the championship was taken into account the need for a licence was felt to be appropriate and therefore no changes were felt to be required.

Championship dates/events. (Reg D11.1) This regulation refers to the need to gain agreement from all championship contenders in order to make any amendments to the qualifying events during a championship year. A pre circulated proposal was agreed that with effect from 2018 the requirement to gain agreement to changes from all contenders should remain. However notification by E mail would now be quite acceptable with a criterion that a “no response” after a stated period of time would be taken as an assent. However the receipt of any negative response would still preclude the change being made. Details of the process that may be utilised for proposing changes **must** be clearly defined in the championship regulations.

Championship Regulations. Rob Jones apologised that approval of championship regulations had been protracted this year. A new process will be implemented for the future to alleviate this problem.

With effect from 2018 while still maintaining the overall rights of control the MSA executive will no longer specifically approve individual regulations. The responsibility for ensuring that there is conformance to the appropriate Year Book regulations will be with the championship organisers.

Economic Impact surveys. The value of having information on the positive impact that events have on host venues/ areas was stressed. Events / organisers were urged to consider utilising Economic Impact Surveys for their events as a way of collecting this data which could be used by themselves or made available for the general good.

Rally Future. The meeting was reminded that the updated requirements for stage rallies came into effect on the 1st July. Ian Davis acknowledged that many events and organising teams had embraced the changes ahead of the mandatory implementation. It was indicated that it isn't planned to issue a further update before the end of 2018 with the exceptions of adding an Appendix for vehicle tracking and should anything of a critical nature emerge as a result of the Fatal Accident Enquiry.

Closed Road events. Kate Adamson highlighted an overview of the process for staging a closed road event now that the legislation has been fully passed. Clubs and organisations should be prepared to start the planning process early as applications can only be made to councils a minimum of 6 months before any intended event date. Prior to being able to do this a permit needs to be obtained from the MSA who will need to be confident that all requirements for an event are being met before issuing. It is envisaged that this process could take in the order of a further 6 months. It was also highlighted that if clubs chose to work with a commercial promoter they would still be the permit holder and as such hold overall responsibility for the event.

Road Rally Safety. Matt Endean indicated that as a logical progression from the work done to review safety in stage rallies the Rallies Committee were looking at safety in other types of rallying. He indicated that clubs should anticipate that this will be a part of a natural progression to continue review safety in all motor sport disciplines.

RDO (Go Motor sport)

John Conboy took the opportunity to introduce himself identifying his background, experience and connections with motor sport and club activities within the region.

He explained that still being new to the role he was in the process of developing ways of best supporting clubs in the region and urged clubs to contact him to discuss possible ways that support could be made available.

Training

It was confirmed that the Cambridge venue has been booked for 3rd Feb.2018 for the rally marshals training day. It is anticipated that an application for support funding will be able to be made in the near future.

Clive also indicated that a course for rally safety car crews is being planned for Dec. 2017 in the Cambridge area. Unfortunately the date clashes with the stage rally planned for Rockingham.

A discussion was held on the importance and relevance of first on scene training for all disciplines. Possible opportunities for putting on presentations were discussed and will be progressed.

Promotional Event

Discussions are still ongoing with MSV regarding the possible use of Snetterton. A suitable date has not yet been identified although the option of running alongside a track day is being explored. Discussions will continue to seek an acceptable opportunity.

Any Other Business

Targa Rules

An item was raised with regard to ensuring a standard approach to applying regulations to Targa events in the region. The aspect of ensuring compliance to all aspects of vehicle eligibility was specifically raised. AMSC responded that this had been recognised and was being addressed through the club members. As all the events the regions are currently being run by member clubs it is hoped that this initiative will resolve any issues. A potential approach of using a "You tube" style video to explain scrutineering requirements to competitors that may not be familiar with the Year Book and regulations was suggested. AMSC indicated that they would provide an update on direction and progress.

GDPR (General Data Protection Requirements).

The chairman brought the attention of the meeting to the fact that as from 18th May 2018 with the implementation of the GDPR legislation there will be some changes to the regulatory framework currently existing around the present Data Protection Act. As clubs and events generally can be involved with handling and/or holding personal data this is an topic where implications should be understood.

Role of Association.

A comment was raised by a club delegate that the question of value of the association is a topic that is raised in their club committee from time to time. Following a discussion it was agreed that a summary statement on the position and role of the association within the overall motor sport framework and the potential opportunities and benefits that this provides to member clubs should be created as a support tool to help promote a better understanding and to encourage additional involvement.

Open Discussion on Training

Due to the lateness of the hour it was agreed that the planned open discussion on training should be postponed in order to ensure adequate time for discussion on what is seen as an important topic. It was therefore agreed to hold the discussion over until the next delegates meeting where it will be taken as the first topic based agenda item. A maximum duration of an hour will be allocated in order to ensure time is still available to cover "normal" business.

A list of possible topic areas that had been created to suggest a discussion framework will be circulated with these minutes.

Next Meeting

The next Delegates meeting will be: -
17th Oct. 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 at 10.18pm