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**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
THE ASSOCIATION OF EASTERN MOTOR CLUBS
17th July 2018
Held at the Lion and Lamb, Little Canfield**
The meeting commenced at 20.30hrs

The chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting

Attendance

Members

13 were present representing 11 clubs as follows

Gary Nichols	Chairman /Chelmsford MC
Stuart Kingham	Treasurer / Wickford AC
Alan Barnard	West Essex MC
Mike Biss	Boundless by CSMA
John Boot	West Suffolk MC
Tony Clements	MSA Reg.Cttee. Rep./Chelmsford MC
Chris Deal	Sprint Coordinator / Green Belt MC
Tony Michael	Comp Sec./Web Site /Chelmsford MC
Chris Musselle	Cambridge CC
Pete Richards	Peterborough MC
Pete Walters	Herts County A & AC
Andrew Williamson	Middlesex County AC
Brian Hemmings	Secretary /Anglia Motor Sport Club

Guests

Simon Blunt MSA – General Secretary

Apologies

Apologies were received from Mark Banham (Kings Lynn &DMC), Paul Barrett (Rally Chshp. and Chelmsford MC), Tony Burchnall (Eastern Counties MC), Matt Endean (MSA Committees /Chelmsford MC), Stanley Graham (Vice Chairman / Wickford AC), Clive Grounds (Training and Cambridge CC), Keith Pettitt (Anglia MSC), Rod McKenna (Club Rally Sport West), John Sharp (Borough19)

Welcome

The chairman welcomed Simon Blunt, MSA General Secretary to the meeting

Previous Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday the 24th April 2018 were reviewed and unanimously agreed to be a true representation of the meeting. The adoption of the minutes was proposed by Chelmsford (Tony Clements) and seconded by West Suffolk MC (John Boot)

Matters arising

There were no matters arising that would not be covered elsewhere in the agenda.

Chairman's Report

The chairman indicated that he had no specific issues that he wanted to raise that wouldn't be covered later in the agenda

Treasurers Report

The treasurer indicated that the current account balance is £11,851.
Renewal remains outstanding from 4 clubs. These will continue to be progressed.

Support for inter association teams.

Following discussion the meeting agreed that the financial support agreed at the previous meeting for the AEMC team entry into the stage rally event would apply equally to both AEMC teams at the previously agreed level.

Secretary's Report

Membership

No applications have been received.

Correspondence

Copies of minutes and notices from other associations have been received.

Other correspondence has included copies of the applications to use forestry commission roads within the region and results of the inter- association stage rally and autosolo events

A newsletter from LARA has also been received highlighting the serious challenges facing them in terms of funding and the potential effects on future activities. Recognising these issues the relevance of AEMC continuing as an associate member was raised. Following discussion it was agreed that ongoing membership would be discussed at a future delegates meeting. In order to support this discussion it was agreed that information would be sought on the views of the MSA and other associations. A question to be raised at the next Regional committee.

Reports

RDO / Go Motorsport

The association had been notified that as a result of work pressures , John Conboy had decided not to continue in the role of RDO for the Eastern region. Until a final solution is in place any queries should be directed to Suze Endean at the MSA.

Stage Rally Championship

In his absence the Rally Coordinator had provided a report as follows

"The stage rally championship has passed the half way point and entries are closed at 40. Vince Sillet is leading despite having a very serious accident on the Flying Fortress which curtailed the event - the results were declared final as of the previous stage so his 2nd in class stands. Donington Dukeries August event has replaced the snowed off event in March. Just Wethersfield and Rockingham after that.

The AEMC B team won the inter association event. It seemed that the event was rather under-publicised - even the crews who were there didn't know it was happening. I've raised the issue of lack of publicity with a suggestion that the MSA news letters can be used to publicise these events".

The meeting expressed best wishes for a speedy recovery to Vince Sillett/ Samm Keeley who had been injured on the recent championship round.

Sprint Championship

The championship is now half way through for the year. Although the championship is progressing successfully the trend towards reduced entries has continued. In discussion it was suggested that a lack or reduction in entries from single make and Classic Marques clubs was having an impact. It was agreed that this would be investigated to determine whether there were any actions that could be taken to reverse the trend.

Chris Deal announced that he wished to stand down as Sprint Coordinator for 2019. Although a change would need to be ratified at the AGM it was agreed that the question needed to be addressed earlier in order to provide continuity into next season. Following discussion it was agreed that Pete Walters would take on the role supported by John Sharp for technical aspects along with Stuart Kingham and Chris Deal.

MSA Update

Simon Blunt provided an update to the meeting by covering his background and role in the MSA, an overview of the initiatives currently underway within the organisation and a few specific "news" items.

A current race competitor Simon indicated that he had taken over the role of MSA General Secretary some four years ago coming from an original background of corporate law within the financial services sector.

He highlighted that the role of General Secretary covers the overall corporate governance and legal aspects of the business while also organisationally covering the sport executives, club administration and the administrative groups.

In reviewing motor sport generally in 2018 it is concerning to note that event and competitor licences are down around 10% and 3.5 % respectively on a year to date basis between 2017 and 2018. Poor weather in the March period is a part reason but it doesn't account for the whole trend. This trend when considered with the current situation where the MSA is principally funded from within by event and licence revenues further underlines the importance of ensuring that the MSA and motor sport evolves to meet the requirements and needs of the future.

Under the guidance of David Richards as the new organisation chairman a significant amount of work is in progress to establish a more proactive, commercial and decision based approach to review and analyse the needs and to establish a model that will be right for the future. A number of working groups have been established working with board members to progress this.

One group is tasked as a priority with reviewing the governance structure with an objective of evolving it from its relatively traditional basis to a model that will meet future needs. It is seen that the future model must embrace the UK Sport Governance model, primarily because this embodies current best practices as adopted by other successful sports e.g yachting and cycling but it would also be an essential step in enabling the possibility of access to external funding support.

A second group is reviewing the critical area of information management and the development/implementation of the CRM system. They are working with a firm objective of launching the system in September this year. Initial launch will cover the renewal and management of competition licences with other developments to follow.

A third group is looking at technical issues both from the perspective of what the future of motor sport might be and also looking at the shorter term to review current rules and practices and ensure that the technical environment is managed appropriately, safely and as far as possible affordably.

Other groups are working in other topic areas including organisational design and training /education and will evolve their thinking in line with the findings of the groups already covered.

In summary there is a significant amount of work currently underway to embrace a more dynamic, customer / competition focused approach which supports the growth and success of motor sport. Of particular relevance to the association is that the chairman's guidance includes recognition of the importance of the role of grass roots, clubs and volunteers within motor sport.

The following specific "news" items were highlighted

The impact of the new GDPR legislation on organisations had been recognised and a sequence of advisory notes issued to try and help clubs understand and embrace the changes. The meeting agreed that the style, format and approach had been very successful and well received.

The closed road legislation is progressively being utilised by more events following the success of the first event in the Eastern region. Discussion are in progress with Scotland to determine how the English legislation could be adopted / introduced "north of the border".

Two vacancies have been announced within the MSA to address what is seen as two key areas. These are for an IT Manager and a Head of Training and Education.

The following questions were raised.

- What is the situation with respect to "VNUK"?

Response -. Lobbying to ensure there is no impact on motor sport is continuing. However with the proximity of withdrawal from the EU the threat to UK motor sport is diminishing. Of interest, while previously the UK had been very concerned and the other European ASNs had not shared that concern awareness is growing there and they / the FIA are becoming more active.

A potential scenario is that should the directive become fully embraced within the EU, post Brexit it would not impact UK competitors at home but would, should they choose to compete in Europe where they would need to comply.

- With there being a number of vacancies for RDO's currently does that signal a change in the Go Motorsport approach?

Response - This would need to be answered by Suze Endean. This area is however one which is continually monitored to ensure the programme best fits requirements.

- Have the plans to roll out Safeguarding training been put on hold following the series of courses which were held alongside the club seminars earlier in the year?

Response – A review has been undertaken to make sure that the current policies and approach are completely aligned with the needs of the sport. It will lead to some “tweaks” in the policy. An undertaking was given to follow up and respond with information on what the next moves will be. A series of information releases, similar to the GDPR approach, may be an option to support other training activities.

- As the role that is currently being advertised is for a Head of Training / Education while the role held by Jonathon Day role was as Development Director does this indicate a change in the approach to “Development”?

Response - The term development has a very wide meaning. The role of Head of Training is specifically aimed at the area of providing learning and personal development opportunities to individuals within motor sport and the title is intended to clarify that. The wider picture of development is likely to be embraced within other initiatives.

While historically the MSA has not specifically seen development of the sport as it's remit it is now definitely an agenda item.

MSA Regional Committee

A report from the previous meeting had been circulated with the last delegates' meetings minutes. There were no follow up questions. The next Regional committee meeting is in mid-August. Clubs were requested to forward any questions they wanted to have raised.

Other Matters

Training

Plans for the rally marshals training day in early 2019 are continuing. The chairman indicated that new timing equipment was being purchased for use on stage rallies and suggested that familiarisation with this equipment might be included within the agenda.

It was reported that a meeting had been held of association training officers with a view to sharing information on activities between regions. A number of possible areas for development had been identified including more cross discipline initiatives and greater inter region cooperation. Further meetings will be organised in the future to develop these ideas. The meeting agreed that it was supportive of developments in this direction. A question had been posed to the association with regard to areas covered by association training officers. The meeting unanimously agreed that the current arrangement was preferred where “territories” are primarily aligned with association coverage.

Association Grant Support Scheme

The draft criteria for the scheme were reviewed. The document and approach was agreed directionally with a few areas of clarification/ change / addition identified.

It was agreed that the document would be updated and circulated to all clubs. Clubs are asked to review the updated document and respond with any areas of concern. The intent is that through a series of

amendments/ redistribution (if necessary) a document will be available that can be agreed at the next delegates meeting.

The intent would be to initiate the scheme very quickly after that with a review of process and criteria to be held following a reasonable period, potentially a year.

Association Data Policy

The draft document which had been previously circulated was reviewed and it was agreed unanimously to adopt it for the association.

Future Topics

It was agreed that the discussion topic for the next delegates meeting would be a “brain storm” on possible promotional events that the association could run and ways of attracting people into motor sport.

Any Other Business

There was no additional business

Next Meeting

The next association delegates meeting will be the 16th Oct 2018