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**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
THE ASSOCIATION OF EASTERN MOTOR CLUBS
26th April 2016**

Held at the Lion and Lamb, Great Canfield

The meeting commenced at 20.13

Attendance

Members

14 were present representing 8 clubs as follows

Gary Nichols	Chairman /Chelmsford MC
Stuart Kingham	Treasurer / Wickford
Paul Barrett	Rallies Coordinator / Chelmsford MC
Tony Clements	MSA Reg.Cttee. Rep.
Tony Michael	Web Site /Chelmsford MC
Alan Barnard	West Essex MC
Mark Banham	Kings Lynn & DMC
Mike Biss	CSMA
John Boot	West Suffolk MC
Richard Wakeling	Mini Cross Drivers Association
Brian Hemmings	Secretary /Anglia Motor Sport Club

Guests

Tania Brown	RDO East Midlands/East Anglia
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 Tania Brown who was attending for the first time as RDO for the region.

Apologies

Apologies Stanley Graham (Vice Chair/ Wickford), Clive Grounds (Training – Cambridge CC), 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), Chris Deal (Sprint Coord. / Green Belt MC), Tony Burchnell (Eastern Counties Motor Club), John Sharp (Boro 19), Richard Warne (Green Belt MC), Allan Smith (Wickford AC), Michael Weeks (Southern MC).

Previous Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday the 19th Jan 2016 were reviewed and unanimously agreed having been proposed by Chelmsford MC (Tony Clements) and seconded by Wickford AC (Stuart Kingham).

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

Chairman's Report

The chairman indicated that there was nothing additional to report beyond that given at the immediately preceding AGM.

Treasurers Report

The treasurer indicated that the funds were currently £8438. The reduction from the year end was explained as being due to the expenses incurred by the Training Day. A claim for financial assistance has been put to the MSA and is awaiting payment. The treasurer indicated that the electronic payment process for the championship registration is working well. A discussion was held regarding the use of electronic access to the account and it was agreed that the current arrangements /account would be reviewed to ensure it is the most effective available.

Secretary's report

Correspondence has been received as follows:-
Copies of minutes and notices from other associations.
Monthly newsletters from Sevenoaks & DMC and ACU Eastern Centre.

Two specific notices had been received and distributed. One was from the Shenstone and District Club regarding classes in sprints. The meeting was updated that this had been discussed and the conclusion was that the association would not recommend any specific course of action but member clubs were of course free to do so if they felt it appropriate. A second note had been received regarding the shortage of Rescue Units generally. Clubs were urged to encourage any appropriate members to give consideration to running a unit.

Notice of the Inter Association Trial and Autocross had also been received and distributed to the appropriate officials and clubs. Initial response is that a number of competitors are considering entering the Trial but take up on the Autocross is thought to be unlikely. Both will be progressed as appropriate

Applications for membership:-

An application for membership from Border MC had been received. Following discussion it was agreed that this would be accepted. Secretary /Treasurer to contact Border MC to inform them.

Autocross Report

A report had been provided indicating that the Home Counties Autocross Championship is set up and the regulations available. The Championship is based on 8 rounds spread across 4 weekends. The venue for the first rounds on July 23rd/24th is problematic and clubs are asked to contact John White or Wickford AC if they know of a venue that might be a possibility.

Stage Rally Championship

The championship is progressing successfully with 4 rounds now completed and the 5th round the "Middlewick" due on the 1st May. Registrations are down a little on 2015 at 35 although it is anticipated there may be a small number of additional competitors still to come. One round has been lost from the championship and the Kings Lynn event is unlikely to run due to venue issues. An alternative event may be considered if this is confirmed.

Sprint Championship

The championship is progressing well with approx.. 40 registered competitors. This also represents a slight reduction from 2015. As in 2015 events are experiencing very different numbers of entries ranging from full to relatively low.

MSA Autocross / Rallies Committee Update

Matt Endean provided updates as follows.

The MSA is reconvening the Environmental study group to review the question of noise testing to investigate options and techniques for providing a meaningful test that is aligned with the needs to manage noise levels in line with the requirements of modern society

The design and use of "splits" and "merges" on single venue stage rallies is to be reviewed following a number of reported issues.

Safety car training courses are being held and organisers of relevant events are urged to make sure that provision for training personnel for their events has been made.

MSA Regional Committee

Tony provided an update on a number of points that had been raised at the February Regional Committee meeting. The key points were

A reminder that associations can apply for Service Awards that can be used to recognise significant contribution to motor sport within the association.

The process for granting media accreditation for attendance at stage rallies has been implemented and is providing an environment where media recognition is now subject to managed control.

A review of MSA strategy has been initiated by Rob Jones with an anticipated first report in the summer period.

As part of the Rally Future programme a number of forums have been held around the country in order to explain the details and driving forces behind the changes while providing an opportunity for clubs to raise questions. It has been suggested that one of these events should be held in the Eastern region. In order to maximise the geographical coverage and fit in with the overall schedule the plan being put forward is to hold a forum in the Thurrock area on either 13th or 14th July.

Following discussion it was unanimously agreed that the region would support such an event with Thurrock agreed as the planned venue. 13th July was selected as the optimum date.

Details will follow but it was highlighted that the event will be open to all interested parties with particular relevance to anyone involved with events using Forestry Commission land.

Go Motorsport

Suze indicated that in the future she would work with Tanya to cover association meetings.

She referred to the Girl Guide event mentioned at a previous meeting which was held at Alexandra Palace. Go Motorsport attended the event during and included a wheel changing competition as part of their presentation. Over 400 changes were undertaken during the show!!!! The success of attending targeted events like these was demonstrated as two guide units have now established links to clubs.

During a visit to a marshals club meeting (BMMC) it had been strongly indicated that the club is keen to work with motor clubs.

If clubs are involved in any special or interesting activities it was requested that they contact the RDO so that appropriate publicity can be arranged. This may be an article in MSA News or similar.

Training

The Rally Marshals Training Day in Feb. had been a huge success and an additional event later in the year is being considered.

It was highlighted that one of the items discussed at the recent "Club" seminars had been the link (or lack of) between clubs and licensed trainers in their area. Plans are being progressed to start to address this by making details of "local" trainers and available courses more available through the MSA website. Clubs are urged to consider their training requirements and to contact the training organisation ideally initially through a trainer to develop a plan to address them.

The plan to hold a first on scene training event for rally competitors was discussed. The potential of staging this at an event is being progressed with the Rockingham Stages in Dec being suggested as a good potential opportunity. This to be progressed to determine if viable.

Communications

It was indicated that progress has been made in putting together a document identifying the communication environment between the MSA, clubs/members and the association. A small working group is progressing this. In order to progress the information gathering further it was suggested that a number of visits to clubs by members of the group might be beneficial. Following discussion it was agreed that this should be pursued. The team will contact clubs to discuss the optimum arrangements.

Promotional Event 2016

It was confirmed that a promotional event (similar to GML!E in 2104) is being planned for later this year. The date currently being considered is the 2nd Oct. Discussions to confirm arrangements with the venue are in progress.

Anyone willing to be part of the organising team should contact the secretary.

Meeting start time and venue

It was confirmed that a possible venue in the Cambridge area was being reviewed. A proposal to move the meeting start time back to 8.30pm in order to make timing easier for those leaving work and having to travel to the meeting was discussed. It was agreed that as meetings now tended to be shorter this would be acceptable to those with longer journeys after the meeting. It was agreed to introduce the change from the next meeting.

Any other Business

A point was made that during a recent incident on a rally a "pot" was "thrown" as a result of an air bag deploying. The consequence was a serious injury to the navigator as the "missile" hit their head. The point being raised is that it may be appropriate for clubs and organisers to ensure competitors are aware of the potential consequences of using portable equipment in cars e.g Map boards, Visual devices, Lights etc. in situations where an air bag might deploy.

Next Meeting

The next Delegates meeting will be on the **19th July. 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.