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**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF  
THE ASSOCIATION OF EASTERN MOTOR CLUBS  
18<sup>th</sup> Jan. 2022**

**Held as Zoom virtual meeting – locations various**

The meeting commenced at 20.00 hrs

**Attendance**

**Members**

25 were present representing 16 clubs as follows

Gary Nicholls	Chairman / CMC
Stanley Graham	Vice Chairman / Anglia Motorsport Club
Chris Musselle	Treasurer / CCC
Mark Banham	Kings Lynn & DMC
Paul Barrett	Rally Championship / CMC
Mike Bishop	Club Triumph
Mike Biss	Boundless
John Boot	West Suffolk MC
Tony Burchnall	Eastern Counties MC
Dave Clark	Weald MC
Tony Clements	Regional Committee Rep / CMC
John Davie	Green Belt MC
Matt Endean	Motorsport UK Committees / CMC
Suze Endean	Chelmsford MC
Steve Flanagan	Sheffield and Hallamshire.
Carol Glenn	Borough 19
Clive Grounds	Training / Cambridge CC
Stuart Kingham	Wickford AC
Tony Michael	Web / Comp Sec / CMC
Dan Pearson	Anglia MSC
Allan Smith	Wickford AC
Pete Walters	Speed Championship / Herts County A & A
Andrew Williamson	Miiddx. CAC
Dave Whyman	Sutton and Cheam MC
Brian Hemmings	Secretary / Anglia MSC

**Welcome**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting .

**Apologies**

Andrew Bisping (ACSMC), Rod McKenna (CRSW), Chris Deal (Green Belt), Mark Wagstaff (Eastwood DMC).

## **Previous Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday the 12<sup>th</sup> Oct. 2021 were reviewed and unanimously agreed to be a true representation. Proposed Chelmsford MC (Tony Clements) Seconded WSMC (John Boot)

## **Matters Arising not covered elsewhere**

It was agreed that there were no items to be covered that wouldn't be covered by items elsewhere in the agenda

## **Reports**

**Chairman** - The chairman noted that it was particularly pleasing to see motorsport progressively resuming and hoped that this would continue.

It was also highlighted that the MSUK seminar for Officials is now being arranged to be held as a Zoom webinar in Feb.

**Treasurer** - The treasurer indicated that the association funds currently stand at just above £12k. Invoices for IT support and ASEMC's share of the 2020 rally championship have been settled.

The association currently has 34 paid members for 2022. It was confirmed that constitutionally clubs remain members for a 3 month period after which they can be considered to have resigned membership. It was agreed that the secretary would send reminders to those outstanding.

The treasurer asked for clarification of the operation of the speed championship in terms of it being a joint venture with ASEMC. It was confirmed that both the rally and speed championships are joint ventures between AEMC and ASEMC. Financially they operate on the basis that annually any surplus or deficit would be shared equally between the associations. It was agreed that the operational rules should be confirmed and documented to provide clarity in the future. AEMC/ASEMC and ACSMC work closely to ensure date and class alignment and will continue to do so although there is no formal link with the ACSMC championship.

Potential costs and plans for championship awards ceremonies were discussed.

The current approach for the 2021 stage rally championship is that awards will be distributed at the Snetterton event in Feb..

The speed championship is reviewing options to hold an event of which an awards presentation would be part. The concept for the event is that it would be held at a venue that would be attractive to visit in its own right with all invited to establish it is as a "social" event. Its envisaged the awards presentation would be a constituent part of the wider event. Investigation and planning will continue.

**Secretary** - A number of messages have been received including club event dates and general communications.

Applications for membership had been received from Weald Motor Club and the Greater Manchester Motorsport Club. Following a brief discussion it was agreed that both applications should be accepted and the clubs welcomed to the association.

**Training** - The training coordinator updated the meeting that plans are being progressed to provide a series of on line training events. These are being developed and will be presented in conjunction with the BMMC and a number of other associations. Sessions are envisaged to be approx. an hour to an hour and a half duration and will be run on weekday evenings (Tuesday/Thursday). The first session will be held in early Feb. with further sessions throughout the year. Attendance at each session will be limited in order to keep them manageable but each session will be repeated so will be available to all eventually. The calendar of sessions will be published in due course.

Practical sessions including fire training are under review and its hoped that a course(s) will be possible later in the year.

ECMC are running a rally navigation /12 car training event in Feb. This will be part “class room” based for theoretical input with “on road” sections to provide opportunities to practice. Numbers are limited but places were available at the time of the meeting.

### **Championship Reports**

**Rally** - The 2021 season completed successfully and as previously reported it is planned that awards will be distributed at the Snetterton event. It is expected that the championship will show a surplus although this can't be confirmed until awards costs are confirmed.

The 2022 championship has launched at Brands Hatch with 30 competitors currently registered. It is expected that this will increase as future events are run.

Later in the season venue availability has resulted in event clashes, notably Abingdon/Flying Fortress and Goodwood/Donnington. This will be managed by running the events on a single event can count basis for championship purposes.

**Speed** - 2021 was completed successfully with 52 competitors competing in 16 rounds as opposed to a severely Covid impacted 2020 when 29 competitors competed in 7 rounds.

Regs. for the 2022 season are complete and will be issued very shortly. The season opener will be an event run in co operation with BARC at Cadwell Park in March.

An exercise is being completed to ensure that the championship details are aligned with other organisations , specifically ACSMC, to ensure a standard approach to classes etc.. The Coordinator specifically thanked Tony Michael for his support with systems and data management which had significantly helped with the running the championship..

**Regional Committee** - An update was provided from the Regional Committee held in Nov. The Main points were.

Regional Development Initiative – a presentation was provided which included overview findings from the club consultation.

Some of the key information presented being

The top 3 challenges clubs are facing now are:

- Recruitment and retention of volunteers to run events
- Attracting new participants and members
- Gaining access to land / facilities for events

• When asked what they felt Motorsport UK's priorities should be over the next 18 months, the top 5 answers were:

1. Focus on Grassroots level motorsport
2. Reduce costs / Affordability
3. More Club Support
4. Recruitment of Volunteers
5. General Sport Promotion and Marketing to wider audiences

As a member of a Regional Association, please tell us what value this offers to your club?

- Access to regional training programmes
- Access to assistance, help and guidance
- Updates on committee / regulation changes
- A good informative channel to Motorsport UK
- The ability to organise events in the Regional Championships

What types of support would you now find useful?

These are in priority order according to Respondents

1. To enhance communication between Clubs and Motorsport UK
2. To deliver and support with activities to promote local grassroots motorsport
3. To deliver local training and volunteer support
4. To build local partnerships with venues, etc
5. To coordinate and promote regional championships
6. To provide mentors and expertise for clubs
7. To provide bespoke local club support
8. To facilitate competitor guidance

These responses provide us with our priorities for action in 2022 and re-affirm the direction the Regional Development Programme is taking

Next steps

- Detailed Terms of Reference to be produced by [08 December 2021](#)
- Regional Toolkit to broadly follow the same framework as for clubs but with different themes to be provided in draft for Regional Committee consultation prior to creation by [21 January 2022](#)
- Content to consist of downloadable guides, links to relevant resources including external sources, webinars, seminars and access to promotional assets
- Timescale/programme [Launch during Q1](#)
- Regional Associations will have advance information about the Club Toolkit Programme plus their own materials where relevant during the previous month.
- Strategic initiatives will be planned across the year to enable Regions to become involved where possible
- Role descriptions will be provided to assist with any structure changes required
- Training will be in place to support each role.

Regional committee Chairman - Phil Foster was elected as the chairman for 2022

Inter Association events - Regional committee had asked for associations views on the value and case for continuing to run the series of inter association events. A discussion was held looking at the pros and cons with a final view agreed that while there may be a case for continuing in some disciplines overall it was felt the series didn't generally meet current objectives.

Street Car – The street car initiative will be launched in the next weeks as marketing, awareness and information programme encouraging participation in all motorsport activities that can be undertaken in a standard road car without any requirement for additional safety equipment or modifications.

Event stewards and Secretaries – Work is progressing to provide information, support and training.

Championship changes – It was updated that the proposed change to the rules regarding changes to championship events i.e. a reduction in the percentage of competitors needed to agree to changes is progressing towards being accepted.

Race with Respect – There is a widely held view that standards of driving and general behaviour have declined over recent years. As a consequence the Race with Respect campaign is being relaunched and reenergised. It was highlighted that this applies to all disciplines with the use of the word "Race" in the title only being because an alternative word hadn't been identified with the same overall relevance.

Vehicle legislation changes – It was also stated that MSUK were aware of the changes to vehicle legislation which would reduce the ability to modify vehicles and were responding accordingly.

**Regional Development** – It was observed that the areas identified during the club consultation were largely aligned with the areas defined as part of the AEMC initiative which added credence to the direction being taken.

**Sustainability** – Recognising the importance of the sustainability to motorsport's future this has been added to the agenda as a standing item. It was highlighted that Chelmsford MC have achieved MSUK "recognition" for sustainability. The club offered help /support to any other clubs within the association in evolving their own solution and guidelines.

MSUK have issued their strategy document which is available on their website.

<https://www.motorsportuk.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/Motorsport-UK-Sustainability-Strategy-2021-2030.pdf>

A general discussion on the topic resulted in a number of conclusions by those present

- Adoption of sustainable practices is something we have to take responsibility for to support the future of motor sport (and generally)
- The initial requirement is to increase awareness of the issues, challenges and opportunities.
- Sustainability isn't a one off exercise it's the accepting and adopting of it as a "way of life"
- Sustainability is a major topic with many facets but it can and should be thought about and tackled progressively.

**Equality, Diversity & Inclusion.** – This topic has also been added as a standing agenda item in recognition of its overall significance. In discussion it was highlighted that this is another multi faceted topic but one that the sport must embrace. Adoption of the Race with Respect Campaign principles mentioned earlier is one element.

An initiative is being evolved within AMSC which started by considering opportunities to encourage participation of women in grass roots motor sport. This has evolved to embrace a wider sense of inclusivity and is now working under the banner of “Better Together”. The initiative is live on social media where it has received a very positive reception, in some cases internationally. A Code of Conduct has been developed.

**Motorsport Month** – The team working on this reported that this is progressing with April being the designated month. The objective of the month is to grow awareness of the diversity and opportunities available for participation in all forms, of motorsport within the region. The approach is to use multiple channels to “market” the events being run within the region to grow awareness and highlight the opportunities provided by them. MSUK Academy members will be at certain events to provide support.

### **Any other Business**

**Club registrations with Motorsport UK** – A point of concern was raised that some clubs had experienced difficulties in reregistering for 2022 because of requirements being imposed by Motorsport UK. and that this may indicate stricter criteria being imposed for 2023. Other clubs reported no issues with the 2022 process

It was agreed that the secretary would confirm with MSUK the situation and confirm to clubs for awareness.

Subsequent to the meeting MSUK were contacted and confirmed the following

For 2022 registration, in order for MSUK to meet their responsibilities as a governing body, clubs were requested to provide a current copy of their constitution and confirm their policies on safeguarding and GDPR.

For 2023 clubs will be required to be a member of a regional association.

**MoD Venue management** – MSUK have been in dialogue with contacts in the MoD in order to evolve a closer relationship which will support both the maintenance of existing venues and enable additional ones. Progress is being made with information being collated. It is recognised that there are many connections with and within the MoD making a coherent interface challenging. Motorsport UK are progressing a plan to appoint MoD Liaison officers within the regions. The way this will operate in practice will be discussed at the next Regional Committee. A request will be made to each association to nominate a candidate.

### **Date of Next Meeting**

The next general delegates meeting will be held on 10<sup>th</sup> May 2022

