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**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
THE ASSOCIATION OF EASTERN MOTOR CLUBS
1st Aug 2023
Held as “Zoom” virtual meeting – locations various
The meeting commenced at 20.00 hrs**

Attendance

Members

19 were present representing 13 clubs as follows

Stanley Graham	Chairman / Wickford AC
Chris Musselle	Treasurer / CCC
Alan Barnard	Chelmsford MC
Chris Barningham	BRSCC East Anglia
John Boot	West Suffolk MC
Dave Clark	Weald MC
Tony Clements	Regional Committee Rep / CMC
John Davie	Green Belt MC
Richard Elms	AVO Owners
Matt Endean	Motorsport UK Committees / CMC
Clive Grounds	Training/ CCC
Stephen Laing	Borough 19
Tony Michael	Web / Comp Sec / CMC
Brian Millen	Blackpalfrey MC
Brett Murray	Middx AC
Dan Pearson	Anglia Motor Sport Club
Alan Smith	Wickford AC
Pete Walters	Speed Chshp./Herts County AAC
Brian Hemmings	Secretary/MLO/ / Anglia MSC

Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

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Apologies

Mark Banham - Kings Lynn & DMC, Mike Biss - Boundless (by CSMA) N London, , Stuart Kingham - WAC, Suze Endean – CMC, Liz Jordan – Maidstone&MKMC, Steve Casey - Middx.CAC Mark Wagstaff - Eastwood&D MC, Steve Casey – MiddxCAC, Dave Whyman - Sutton and Cheam MC, Peter Boyce - BlackPalfrey MC, Mike Bishop – Club Triumph, Rod McKenna - Club Rally Sport West, Rob Davies - MogFriends

Previous Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday the 9th of May 2023 were reviewed and unanimously agreed to be a true representation. Proposed Cambridge Car Club (Chris Musselle), seconded West Suffolk Motor Club (John Boot),

Matters Arising not covered elsewhere

No items were raised or identified as not being covered by topics already on the agenda

Reports

Chairman

The chairman highlighted that the period since the last meeting had been very busy with in excess of 50 events and other meetings. It was understood that attending events and meetings is a significant commitment and this should be recognised.

It was also mentioned that there seems to be an increase in the number of messages (emails, social media etc) being circulated urgently requesting marshals and while it is recognised that marshals' resources are being stretched its not clear whether this indicates a worsening position (marshals getting older/fewer, higher costs of attending) or that distributing messages has become easier.

Treasurer

In summarising, the financial report circulated prior to the meeting, the treasurer indicated that it was forecast that outgoings would be £300 greater than income for this year. The greatest area of uncertainty is training costs where an estimated amount has been included although definite costs have not yet been established for events later this year.

Although there is no short-term issue the treasurer suggested that the management team would need to review the overall balance if an ongoing annual shortfall is emerging.

To date the championships have been relatively self sufficient financially although it was suggested that the funding process for the awards presentation may need investigating especially if in the future costs of these events may increase, even though they are shared with ASEMC and ACSMC.

An invoice has been received from AMSC to recover costs associated with Motorsport Month. This is being progressed and it was agreed that payment to AMSC would be paid as soon as possible as soon as Motorsport UK reimburses AEMC. The chair requested a report on the success of the initiative, numbers of attendees, new people etc. The chair of AMSC stated he was busy a present, but would put something together in the near future.

Secretary

General correspondence has been received and circulated where appropriate.

Information on webinars continues to be received from Motorsport UK and circulated to clubs. Statistics were presented at the recent regional committee showing that there is a between 3 to 1 and 10 to 1 ratio between responses and registrations resulting from association messages rather than Club News supporting the fact that association communications are successful.

Two clubs have not renewed membership for 2023 despite having been contacted a number of times and therefore, in line with the association constitution, will be considered to no longer be members. They will be welcome back to re-apply.

Training

The association is continuing to work with BRMC on delivering their online rally marshal modules.

The status of a Motorsport UK approved “refresher or maintenance” module which would enable rally marshals to retain grades was queried. This to be followed up with Motorsport UK Training.

In answer to a query, it was confirmed that anyone is welcome to attend AEMC training events and not only registered individuals. It was added that nonregistered marshals should be encouraged to register and be made aware of the advantages of doing so.

Plans for the course for club Safeguarding Officers which was announced at the last meeting are progressing. Potential venues and dates have been identified while potential candidates are being identified. This is to enable a decision on the most effective plan to achieve maximum attendance. The course is being planned for either late October or early November in order to work with attendees’ other commitments.

The opportunity for additional course(s) aimed at club level event organising teams and marshals is being reviewed. These would be aimed at providing information on what is involved and how to effectively organise events. A general awareness of other aspects e.g. regulatory and judicial processes, their purpose and how they work within events would provide a good insight to all.

Championship Reports

Rally

No specific report was available.

Entries for the Championship closed on 3rd July.

Bulletins have continued to be distributed to competitors, the most recent being -

Seven Rix Engineering championship crews trekked across to Oxford for the Abingdon CarNival Stages the weekend before last.

Wayne Larbalestier was first E1 car home and took full points to move up to 2nd overall in the series, but Darrell Taylor's 3rd E2 puts him in the overall lead with Dale Lawson moving into third overall with a 2nd in class B finish.

Andrew Lawson is now leading co-driver, followed by Steve McNulty and Melissa Hall.

The entries for the Bovington Stages 19th & 20th August opened recently and there are still some entries left, with a few championship crews already in the frame.

Speed

14 of the 21 scheduled events have now been run with 38 competitors registered for the 2023 championship.

It was explained that although 21 may seem a high number of rounds which could be a challenge for competitors and therefore “off putting” a relatively small number, “Best 8” scores count which makes it more realistic for competitors working with time or financial constraints.

Championship Awards Event

The association chairs are reviewing alternative options.

Current thinking is that a similar event to that held in Jan for the 2021/2 championships will be planned. This was a joint event covering championships from AEMC, ASEMC and ACSMC and was held as a daytime event at Brooklands providing opportunities for attendees to add a social element to the day.

Regional Committee

A meeting had been held at Bicester the week before on the 25th of July.

The change of approach by the chair at recent regional meetings in focusing on current topics continues to be seen as being more effective by attendees.

The following were the main points discussed

Sustainability - Motorsport UK now has list of individuals who are willing to help clubs with developing their Sustainability development (contact MSUK for further information). The meeting was reminded that members from Chelmsford MC, who have gained accreditation, have also offered this support. Clubs were urged to make use of the Carbon Calculator tool to both provide insight into their events and contribute to increasing the size and therefore accuracy of the reference base.

Motorsport UK TV – It was highlighted that the content continues to increase including information modules and event footage and clubs are urged to make their members aware of this “resource”. In order to develop useful content, clubs and associations were urged to provide ideas for development and additional content.

The club webinar series is continuing successfully. Clubs are requested to input ideas for topics to Motorsport UK. Statistics confirmed that both the “hit” rate and registrations number is higher from association messages than it is from Club news content.

Regulations and Consultation – Proposed regulation changes continue to be published by the specialist committees for consultation. It was highlighted that a consultation on Rally Regulations was being launched with a significant number of regulation changes proposed across all types of rallying but especially stage and targa rallies. Clubs were asked to ensure their members were aware of the consultation process and to respond with relevant input when appropriate in order to ensure changes being implemented are as effective as possible. Consultation periods have been reduced to achieve greater focus and clubs/individuals planning input must plan accordingly.

Club / Volunteer of the Year Awards – Applications can be submitted from 31st Aug. The number of applications has declined in recent years and clubs are encouraged to make applications in order to support the future of the scheme.

Women in “Grass Roots Motor Sport” -The regional chairman highlighted the importance of addressing this topic, understanding opportunities, identifying current barriers and creating initiatives. Representatives of the AMSC “Better Together” initiative have been asked if they will provide a presentation at the next Regional Committee. This is to share thoughts on their objectives, journey this far and for the future as a potential foundation for developing motorsport.

Volunteers - Recruitment, retention and support for volunteers has been identified as a key area for focus. Development initiatives are in progress on a number of topics including identifying the structure of roles at events and the appropriateness of licensing, registration and general support.

Venues - The availability (and affordability) of venues is recognised by MSUK as a key challenge for clubs/events. An initiative is being developed by MSUK which will build on the work already in place through the MLO structure. This will include “how to approach” guidance notes to support clubs in first working with venue owners. A meeting of MLOs is planned for late August which will include representation from the Forces motoring groups.

Topics

AEMC Development

Sustainability – Clubs are urged to develop sustainability plans, utilise available help and support and to use the Carbon Calculator.

EDI – The association will plan to continue to support, communicate and embrace the ideas being developed by the Better Together group.

Other Items

Venues

An update on the status of MoD venues was provided highlighting the challenges for retaining and the plans for developing additional sites and usage. Overall, the picture is positive although fragile as a number of challenges are being worked through.

An enquiry was put to the meeting as to whether there was enough support to develop a plan for organising a “new” stage rally during the Christmas Period. This was received positively, and a small working group was formed to develop the proposal. Tony Clements is the principal contact.

Timing of AEMC Meetings

Following a proposal and subsequent discussion it was agreed that AEMC delegates meetings are most effective if held following Regional Committee meetings in order that information gained can be discussed and distributed. The future meetings calendar will be developed to take this into account.

The date for the next meeting was therefore agreed to be changed from the 10th Oct to the 7th Nov.

Radio equipment availability.

A club had raised an issue in respect of the availability and servicing of handheld radios that were suitable for use with the Motorsport UK Safety Frequencies.

The current frequencies are “low band” which have become less popular in the marketplace and consequently suppliers appear to have discontinued production. Therefore, clubs wishing to replace aging and failing equipment are finding this extremely difficult. The position in this region has been exacerbated by a supplier offering maintenance has stopped trading. While many clubs use radios on other public frequencies it wouldn't be economic to duplicate equipment for both applications. Greenbelt MC indicated that they had located a suitable unit and agreed to provide information on it. Motorsport UK to be asked for guidance on future plans for safety frequencies and advice on specification for equipment purchases.

(Note – Information received from GBMC below)

Any Other Business

Air Ambulance

A query was raised on the status of developing relationships with the Air Ambulances in the region in terms of joint awareness and fund raising. The secretary provided an update that the connection in the East of England Air Ambulance that had first made the approach has left the organisation and subsequent messages to them hadn't been productive. As a consequence, there had been no further development. It was agreed that donations are better organised through clubs or events.

Notice of Next meeting

The next delegates meeting will be on the 7th Nov immediately following the AGM will commence at 20.00.

TOPIC	ACTION	BY
Training	Follow up availability of marshals “maintenance” module	Training Coord. Secy.
Membership	Update current members list	Secy., Treasurer., Comp Sec.
Training	Progress CSO training and other courses	Training Group.
Championship Awards 2023	Plan for the awards event to be agreed	Chairs AEMC, ASEMC and ACSMC
Sustainability	Club organisers to be encouraged to utilise the Carbon Calculator events	All Clubs
Motorsport UK TV	Provide input to MSUK on topics that could be included to improve the appeal	All Clubs
Regulation Consultations	Clubs to make members aware of the consultation process and encourage them to respond when appropriate.	All Clubs

	Note A current consultation on rallying is relevant to many member clubs	
Club / Volunteer of the Year	Clubs to be encouraged to submit entries after the opening date of 31 st Aug.	All clubs
Venues	Continue discussions with MoD venues	MLO
Timing of meetings	AEMC Delegates meetings to be scheduled to follow Regional Committee	Secy.
Radio equipment	Availability of handheld units to be investigated.	
Radio Equipment	Guidance on future direction of Motorsport UK policy on Safety frequencies and equipment to be sought	AEMC Exec

Information from Greenbelt MC on Radio, hand held unit availability.

I've looked into our (GBMC) radios and the difficulties with getting analogue radios for the MSUK frequencies.

When this problem first occurred, we got Wouxun KG-703E sets and have a number of these registered with MSUK and they have MSUK channels 1-4 plus the commonly used 'colour' channels (5-9).

Unfortunately these sets became unavailable and are, effectively, replaced by Wouxun KG-UV8G. These are dual band sets working on 66-88 MHz, and 136-174 MHz. The MSUK channels are within the 66-88 MHz range.

GBMC, and several other clubs, also have radios which used their own, private, channel within the 136-174 range so these can also be used on these sets. They also have the ability of monitoring two channels at the same time.

Currently, GBMC have eight of these sets which have the MSUK channels, colour channels, and GBMC private channels and we haven't encountered problems with them.