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**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
THE ASSOCIATION OF EASTERN MOTOR CLUBS
7th Nov 2023
Held as “Zoom” virtual meeting – locations various
The meeting commenced at 20.26 hrs**

20 were present representing 12 clubs as follows

Stanley Graham	Chairman / Wickford AC
Chris Musselle	Treasurer / CCC
Alan Barnard	CMC
Mark Banham	Kings Lynn & DMC
Chris Barningham	BRSCC East Anglia
Paul Barrett	CMC - Rallies
John Boot	West Suffolk MC
Steve Casey	Mid dx. CAC
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
Clive Grounds	Training / Cambridge CC
Stuart Kingham	Wickford AC
Tony Michael	Web / Comp Sec / CMC
Stephen Laing	Borough 19
Dan Pearson	Anglia MSC
Pete Walters	Speed Championship/ HCAAC
Brian Hemmings	Secretary / Anglia MSC

Apologies

Mike Biss – Boundless with CSMA, Mike Bishop – Club Triumph, Peter Boyce - Blackpalfrey MC. Brian Millen - Blackpalfrey MC,,Chris Deal - Greenbelt MC, Andrew Bisping - ASCSMC, Dave Whyman -Sutton and Cheam MC

Previous Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday the 1st Aug 2023 were reviewed and unanimously agreed to be a true representation. Proposed Wickford AC (Stuart Kingham), seconded Weald Motor Club (Dave Clark),

Matters Arising

There were no matters arising that wouldn't be covered within the agenda items.

Reports

Chairman

The chairman indicated that there were no additional items to raise beyond the report to the immediately preceding AGM.

Treasurer

A statement of the accounts and a forecast for the years 23/24 had been distributed.

The treasurer highlighted that while the forecast for 2023 is indicating a break even situation the forecast for 2024 is currently predicting a loss. It was explained that while this is to some extent being caused by increasing costs the main factor is a planned increase in training activity. While there is no immediate critical issue and the association can support the additional costs in the short term from funds the future funding model will need review for the future.

A constructive discussion followed which established a number of points.

- It is accepted that the financial model should be reviewed.
- Training is a key deliverable by the association and funding should be made available where required for appropriate sessions and events.
- The most appropriate funding process needs to be reviewed and developed. A number of items were proposed as potential approaches for consideration within a future model including
 - Keeping the process simple with a general levy as part of the annual registration fee
 - Individual clubs or attendees to pay for specific courses attended (or organised for)
 - A 2 tier membership where “local or involved” clubs would pay an additional annual contribution specifically to support training.
 - A 2 tier approach where clubs could opt in or out of payment and therefore involvement in training events.

It was agreed that the training team would review options and bring forward proposals to a future meeting within the next 12 months.

It was proposed and agreed that prior to a longer term solution, for the costs planned within 2024 an increase would be made to the annual registration fee. Following discussion including consideration of impact on clubs and costs levied by other associations with similar challenges it was agreed that the annual fee for 2024 would be set at £30.

Secretary

General correspondence has been received and circulated where appropriate.

Information on webinars continues to be received from Motorsport UK and circulated to clubs.

An invitation to register the association with Motorsport UK for 2024 had been received and actioned.

The chairman suggested that in order to ensure its “currency” the association Constitution should be reviewed on a regular basis. This was agreed and a review will be undertaken.

Training

Clive Grounds highlighted that although he had stepped down from the training coordinator role he would continue to support events in the region and continue as a trainer.

A summary of current/planned activities was provided. The main items being.

- Club Safeguarding Officer training - This is planned for the 18th Feb to be held near Cambridge. While the focus is on registered safeguarding officers the invitation is being widened to include prospective safeguarding officers who are looking for more information before potentially taking on the role. Registration will open mid Nov.
- Marshals training -Including fire practical – Plans are progressing to provide an opportunity to attend the BRSCC organised training day at Snetterton on the 28th Jan 2024. The day is focused on the clubs race marshals so additional places may be restricted. Details to be circulated .
- Rally marshals on line training – The cooperation with BRMC is continuing providing access to the modules being presented by the British Rally Marshals Club.
- Event Stewards and Secretaries – Plans are progressing to hold a training event utilising the material used in the similar successful events held early in 2023 by MSUK. This is envisaged as being within Q1 2024 and will potentially be in the Cambridge or Bury St Edmunds area. The content is equally relevant to all levels of event and discipline and all levels of experience.
- Club level event organisation and management – An event covering all aspects and roles involved in organising and running a club level event is being considered. Feedback from clubs is required in order to determine whether this should be progressed.

Championship Reports

Rally

Two more rounds remain in this year's championship.

To compensate for the unfortunate loss of earlier events an additional round has been included: This being the Rixy stages, being run at Stanford on the 30th Dec.

There are 37 registered contenders for this year's championship.

Plans are being developed for 2024 with a similar composition to previous years but will include the Dukeries MC event at Blyton although there will be no Clacton rally.

Sponsorship for 2024 has been agreed with Rix Engineering.

Speed

39 registered competitors competed over 22 rounds with a best 8 results counting. Overall results have been published with Sarah Munns being declared the 2023 Champion.

Plans are progressing for 2024 when it is intended to include a class for Electric Vehicles.

A request was made for clubs to identify any potential hill climb venues that could host rounds in order to increase the event diversity in the championship.

Sponsorship is in place for 2024 but clubs are requested to identify potential sponsors for the 2025 season.

Championship Awards Presentation

Discussions are being held with Brooklands with a view to holding a similar event to the 2022 awards day.

Regional Committee Update

A report was presented on the Regional Committee meeting held on the 24th Oct.

The key points were

- While 2023 has shown a slight decrease in permits the number of competitors has held up with the number of licence holders being on target at approx.. 25k. A further 25k participants are registered which is a number greatly exceeding early predictions and supports the importance and significance of club level motorsport
- Motorsport UK is on target to break even financially in 2023
- Work is continuing to evolve/confirm the role and structure of associations involving Motorsport UK , Regional Committee and the regional associations.
- A safety management system is being developed by the Safety team which it is hoped will be rolled out during 2024
- A presentation was given on the “Better Together” initiative which is being driven by Anglia Motor Sport. The presentation covered the principles and the “journey” the team has taken to develop understanding and create actions.
- Motorsport UK TV has been very successful and has been nominated for 2 Industry awards. A number of explanatory and promotional videos have been created by the team which are available on the channel alongside event reports and live streaming. A request was made for information on what content clubs and club members would like to see on the channel so that these can be developed.
- It is planned to reinvigorate the Street Car initiative when changes in staff have settled.
- Clubs /events were urged to utilise the Carbon Calculator tool to both help them be aware of their performance but also to help the growth of the base data which the tool utilises.
- 4 Associations have been involved in running Motor Sport Months. A group meeting is going to be organised to provide an opportunity to share thoughts , ideas and findings.
- A request channelled through Regional for a review of the test dimensions for autotests had ben considered by the Autotest committee who had concluded there was no case to change the current 200m x 200m.

In response to a query regarding the outcome of the Rallies Committee consultation it was explained that the points were being discussed at a number of RC meetings and it was anticipated that the conclusions would be released in the following week(s)

Other Items

AEMC Direction

It was reported that development is continuing with the identified focus areas being

Championships, Training, Safeguarding and Sustainability. Clubs were asked to identify any other area they believed should have greater priority or focus

Member clubs plans and engagement with AEMC

Following a brief discussion it was agreed that this is a wide reaching topic and therefore recognising time constraints this would be held over for a future meeting. In the interim it was agreed that a small group would meet to identify ideas and develop a framework for the future discussion.

Venues

An update was provided by the MLO on the status of MoD venues.

Plans for events are actively progressing with Debden, Wattisham, Stanta, Woodbridge and Sculthorpe.

The constraint remains in place currently at Wattisham precluding the running of targa rallies while issues with local residents are managed but following conversations with council officials and the venue there is optimism that this will be resolved.

Unfortunately the targa rally being planned for 2023 at Sculthorpe has had to be postponed because of an army training requirement but plans are progressing for 2024.

AEMC Support

An observation was made by a member club that they were finding it time consuming in considering the guidelines, policies, regulation changes and initiatives that are being increasingly elements that clubs need to be aware of, internalise and embrace. A query was raised as to whether the association should/could take an active role in considering on a wider level and support clubs by helping them interpret the relevant aspects, impact and actions required at a local level.

It was generally agreed that this should be an association role and an action was agreed to bring a small number of people together to develop a proposal on how this could be best addressed.

Additional Sprint Venues

A question was raised as to whether there is any possibility of using additional MoD venues for sprints. This will be addressed as part of the ongoing MoD / MLO development process.

2024 Meeting Calendar

Following discussion it was agreed that for 2024 4 delegates meetings would be planned timed to provide update from Regional Committee meetings while trying to maintain a gap to ASEMC meetings as number of delegates attend both.

TOPIC	ACTION	BY
Financial	A proposal to be developed for funding of future training activities	Training Team
Admin.	Constitution to be reviewed to ensure it reflects current conditions	Chairman, Sec
Training	Progress CSO training, Event Secretary and Stewards, Marshals training and other courses	Training Group.
Championship Awards for 2023	Plan for the awards event to be progressed	Chairs AEMC, ASEMC and ACSMC
Speed	Clubs to identify any venues which could potentially host a Hillclimb.	All Clubs
Motorsport UK TV	Provide input to MSUK on topics that could be included to improve the appeal	All Clubs
Sustainability	Encourage all events to adopt use of the carbon calculator.	All Clubs
Association Development	A group to be organised to develop ideas for association / club engagement	Chairman
Venues	Continue discussions with MoD venues	MLO
AEMC Role	A group to meet to discuss and develop ideas for support to clubs	Chairman
Meetings Schedule	A calendar of AEMC meetings for 2024 to be developed and published	Secy.