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**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
THE ASSOCIATION OF EASTERN MOTOR CLUBS
26th Nov. 2024
Held as “Zoom” virtual meeting – locations various
The meeting commenced at 20.40 hrs**

Attendance

Members

30 were present representing 25 clubs as follows

Matt Endean	Vice Chair CMC / MSUK Committees
Chris Musselle	Treasurer / CCC
Mark Banham	Kings Lynn and DMC
Chris Barningham	BRSCC East Anglia
Simone Birch	ALRC/Leics. Rutland. Land Rover Club
John Boot	West Suffolk MC
Jeremy Carr	Suffolk Land Rover Owners Club
Steve Casey	Middx. CAC /Training
Dave Clark	Weald MC
Laura Cooledge	Eastern Counties Motor Club
Rob Cook	Greenbelt MC
John Davie	Green Belt MC
Rob Davies	Mogfriends
Kevin Dyras	Midland Off Road Club
Matt Endean	CMC / MSUK Committees
Phil Foster	Lincoln Motor Cycle and Car Club
Stanley Graham	WickfordAC / Rally Championship
Clive Grounds	Cambridge CC
Chris Gwilliam	RSR Motorsport Safety
Tony Hewitt (part)	Kings Lynn MC
Liz Jordan	MaidstoneMKMC / ASEMC
Stuart Kingham	Wickford AC / Safeguarding
Tony Michael	Web / Comp Sec / CMC
Stephen Laing	Borough 19
Ian Marshall	Santa Pod Racers Club
Dan Pearson	Anglia Motor Sport Club
Clive Taylor	Naylor Car Club
Pete Walters	Speed Championship/ HCAAC
Mark Wagstaff	Eastwood and DistrictMC
Dave Whyman	Sutton and Cheam MC
Brian Hemmings	Secretary / Anglia MSC

Welcome and Introduction

All were welcomed to the meeting.

In particular the new chair and vice chair were welcomed by the previous incumbent.

Apologies

Mike Biss Boundless CSMA, Paul Barrett CMC Rally Chshp., Brian Millen Blackpalfrey MC, Chris Deal Greenbelt MC, Andrew Bisping ASCSMC, Kevin Peake ALRC.

Previous Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday the 13th Aug 2024 were reviewed and unanimously agreed to be a true representation. Proposed West Suffolk MC (John Boot), seconded Anglia Motor Sport (Dan Pearson)

Matters Arising

Any matters arising were covered within the agenda items following

Summary Reports

Chair

It was indicated that there wasn't any additional information to be added to the report from the immediately preceding AGM

Treasurer

A report and forecast had been circulated prior to the meeting.

The treasurer commented that the overall position continues to look healthy although this is partly due to the training event, now being planned for early 2025, which has not drawn on cash as yet. There were no further queries raised in regard to the 2024 position.

2025 is anticipated to generally follow 2024 financially although the previously mentioned increase in training activity will result in some additional expenditure.

The bank balances are currently healthy providing an opportunity to utilise some reserves against appropriate initiatives if identified. Clubs are encouraged to bring forward any suggestions.

Secretary

General correspondence has been received and circulated where appropriate. In view of the move to Sport 80 a conversation has been held with MotorsportUK in regard to association registration for 2025. The position is that initial implementation focus has been on clubs and individuals. Associations will be progressively incorporated but there is no reason for concern and associations registration will be completed in due course.

Championship Updates

Rally

There was no specific report but the recent regular update to competitors had identified that the championship has been progressing well with 2 rounds to complete.(Goodwood and Rixy)

Speed

The final round of 2024 had been run on 6th Oct. 41 competitors had competed and the final results of a closely contested championship have been published. The 8 best scores from the 22 rounds counted as an approach to encouraging competitors without mandating extensive travel. It was confirmed that all of the top 10 competitors had competed in at least 8 rounds and consisted of a wide range of classes which is an indicator that the approach had been successful.. .New events had been included at Mallory and Blyton which were well supported and which it is hoped to include again in 2025

Plans for 2025 are virtually complete with regulations due to be finalised very soon and a calendar published. A questionnaire has been circulated to all 2024 competitors.

Awards and Sponsorship

Awards will be presented on the 5th Jan at Brooklands at a combined event covering all AEMC/ASEMC and ACSMC championships.

Pete Walters also updated the meeting that a new sponsor has been agreed for both the Speed and Rally Championships. This will be GTM (Go Traffic Management). The sponsor has indicated that they are potentially interested in a longer relationship which could include practical involvement in the provision of management systems/ equipment as well as the more traditional forms of sponsorship. This could be especially relevant to any future “closed road events”. Pete was congratulated and thanked by the meeting for his work in achieving this.

The meeting also recorded the associations thanks to the previous sponsors, Rix Engineering and Key Guru for their extremely valuable support. A formal letter of thanks to be sent to both, recording the associations thanks.

Training

The Training Co-ordinator highlighted 3 topic areas Funding, Plans for an early 2025 event and training engagement.

Application for funding support has been made for 4 events in 2025 which it is hoped will be approved to a level of potentially 70/75%. Information on the results of the applications is anticipated within the next couple of weeks.

The proposed events are

Two First Aid courses and two General marshals training days including a practical fire training opportunity.

Plans are developing well for an early 2025 event. The plans are being developed along with the Speedworth team at Foxhall stadium to provide training/support to a wider marshalling group. Initial plans include a first day which would be concentrated on First Aid followed by a second covering the wider scope of marshalling including general marshalling, first on scene, fire theory and practice, incident management, including basic extrication and EV awareness. The training content would include MotorsportUK Pathway modules which would enable marshals to continue to progress within the training pathways.

Plans to be developed and confirmed and information shared with clubs..

Other training event formats and locations are being reviewed to provide support to all clubs and various roles. Further information to be provided through the year..

In order to better understand the requirements of clubs and club members it was put to the meeting that the association would like to circulate a training survey to help determine requirements and therefore focus planning on the most effective topics. The intended process would be to provide the survey to each club to be circulated to their members who could then respond to a central point to consolidate responses.

In answer to a query it was confirmed that the overall training strategy/ approach is intended to widen the audience and content to include more disciplines and roles while not reducing focus on any particular aspect and also maintain the support for the MotorsportUK pathway training.

A point was raised that while there are significant advantages to the approach which make it very worthwhile it may be a challenge to ensure that the various nuances of different disciplines/ events are covered appropriately. This concern was acknowledged and it was confirmed that this would be taken into account in planning.

Following a short discussion the meeting confirmed that they were very supportive of the various aspects of the initiative and approved the questionnaire proposal.

Following a query it was confirmed that the cooperative relationship is continuing with BRMC. A request had been received from the BMMC trainer in the SE to attend the AEMC meetings to help assess opportunities for cooperation and support. This was agreed to be potentially very beneficial and will be progressed by BRSCC and the Training coordinator.

Regional Committee Update

A Regional Committee meeting had been held on the 5th Nov. The following items were reported as being amongst the key/ relevant discussion points / messages.

- The importance of associations seeking to understand and support all the clubs and various disciplines which their member clubs cover was reiterated and stressed again. It was acknowledged that this isn't simple and requires positive action from clubs and associations to be successful. Reports indicate that progress is being made but there are many opportunities to progress.
- Negotiations on Forestry use are ongoing. The position in England is reported that the Forestry England is generally happy with how things are but there are a number of issues still to be progressed. Discussions with Forestry and Land Scotland are progressing but at a much slower speed. The Scottish association raised a concern that the cost structure for repairs being discussed would make it very financially challenging for events.
- The relevance of embracing Sustainability and the importance of creating general awareness of the topic was stressed. Having sustainability plans is progressively becoming an expectation by organisations e.g venues, authorities and clubs and associations that have relevant accreditation will be in a much stronger position. It was mentioned that take up of the Sustainable Rally Charter which will be mandatory for larger stage rallies e.g closed road, forest in 2025 has been slow. It was noted by an attendee that the process of gaining accreditation is not extremely onerous and clubs were recommended to pursue this.

- Rallies committee reported that a “BARS” type course for codrivers is being considered. It is envisaged to be on line and at no charge. The insurance issues that have been experienced by road events in getting cover were reported as being progressively resolved with some events having been granted cover and a solution for safety cars anticipated.
- The Autotest committee reported that the feedback from the consultation to reduce the minimum age, by generally a year, seems to be extremely positive. The possibility of having permits to cover smaller/shorter events at a lower cost is being reviewed. A National Autosolo championship is being considered.
- It was explained that Sport80 has been implemented as the existing Motorsport UK management systems were no longer fit for purpose. Sport80 is intended to not only replace the existing system but also provide a platform for the digital future.
- The current phase is focused on establishing the key essentials to cover members, clubs, licences and permits but there is expansion of applications envisaged into the future to provide extensive functionality for clubs should they wish to use it. It was highlighted from the meeting that there are currently some areas where previous processes are not available e.g licence checks , route notifications to RLO. These are being identified with solutions being included in the development plan. The relevance of providing set up day information during permit applications was queried and an answer will be provided.
- The NCR which will be replacing the year book from Jan 2025 is now available on the Motorsport UK website although at the time of the meeting not all functionality was included. In particular the hyper link process which will facilitate moving though the regulations isn't implemented. This will all be available by the year end. A further App based version which will support the current pdf file format and provide additional functionality will be available in early 2025. A number of educational events are planned including a series of webinars in December and there are additional support tools available through the website/ tool kits.
- Supplementary regulation templates will be introduced alongside the NCR. These will be available in 2025 as optional with a current plan of making them mandatory for 2026. The templates will provide format for generic information followed by an opportunity to include event or club specific material.
- It was explained that the grade of Event Official was being discontinued within the marshals pathway as other solutions for individuals who have had that grade are being developed and will be implemented in early 2025.

A query was raised as to how it would be possible to know when NCR updates had been included in the NCR. It was explained that there were a number of processes to help with this. Any changes agreed by the board will be notified through the changes agreed section on the website.

The NCR will also have a version number appended which will enable users to track which edition they are using.

The practice of colour coding changes i.e red font, will continue.

For users of the App when it is available any changes will be published (subject to having notifications enabled on the device)

MLO

A meeting was held in Bicester for all MLOs where discussion on experiences, challenges and opportunities were shared from the various regions This provided some valuable insights into the areas of commonality but also confirmation that there are different requirements in different regions. During the afternoon the meeting was joined by representatives of the MoD who covered the Army training establishments. They indicated that they were very supportive of utilising the training venues and were very willing to help in meeting any challenges and opposition that may be put up by specific venues whenever appropriate. They also introduced the idea of a change in the application process where all applications would be channelled through a central point and a request that applications should be submitted 12 months prior to the required date. The detailed approach to implementing this process is still to be developed.

Open Forum

A question was raised as to the possibility of holding a face to face meeting for the association to provide an opportunity for greater discussion and exchange of ideas..

The concept is that general delegates meetings would continue to be held on Zoom to support attendance from clubs further afield but there could be a potential for a “larger” perhaps annual weekend meeting to enable clubs to connect more fully and association direction to be discussed. There was general interest in progressing this idea and a more detailed proposal should be developed.

Meeting Calendar

It was agreed that a similar date format to 2024 would be adopted including the change of AGM date as agreed previously. A calendar to be developed and distributed.

AEMC Image

Clubs were reminded of the availability of AEMC branded clothing. It was agreed that the link would be included on the website.

<https://logothatpolo.co.uk/store/aemc/>

It was also indicated that if any club wished to utilise the same process for themselves they should contact Stanley Graham who would provide contact details for the provider.

AoB

No additional items were raised under this heading.

Date of next meeting

The AGM and Delegates meeting will be on 18th March

TOPIC	ACTION	BY
Club Engagement	Ways of establishing all clubs requirements and ways of engaging with the association to be progressed	Management Team / Clubs
Financial support	Ideas for development initiatives to be raised including those that may require financial support	All clubs
Association Registration	Registration of AEMC with MSUK to be completed when available.	Secretary
Championship sponsors recognition	A letter to be forwarded to Key Guru and Rix engineering thanking them for their sponsorship of the Rally and Speed championships.	Secretary
Training	The training event for marshals in early 2025 to be planned and delivered	Training Coordinator
Training requirements	A questionnaire to be developed and circulated to all clubs seeking input on training .	Training Coordinator
BMMC support	Arrangements to be made for the BMMC SE trainer to attend AEMC meetings to determine any areas of cooperation and support	Training Coordinator/ BRSCC delegate.
MoD Application process	Monitor and advise on any changes to eth process for applying for the use of MoD training venues	MLO
Physical meeting	The idea of a “face to face” association meeting to be considered	Management team
Meeting calendar	A schedule of meetings for 2025 to be distributed	Secretary
Clothing link	Include the link for ordering AEMC clothing on the website	Web Controller