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**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
THE ASSOCIATION OF EASTERN MOTOR CLUBS
19th March 2024
Held as “Zoom” virtual meeting – locations various
The meeting commenced at 20.00 hrs**

33 were present representing 27 organisations as follows

Stanley Graham	Chairman / Wickford AC
Chris Musselle	Treasurer / CCC
Steve Blakeman	Motorsport UK
Chris Barningham	BRSCC East Anglia
Simone Birch	ALRC/Leics. Rutland. Land Rover Club
John Boot	West Suffolk MC
Steve Casey	Middx. CAC
Jeremy Carr	Suffolk Land Rover Club
Julian Carter	Chiltern Vale Land Rover Club
Dave Clark	Weald Motor Club
Tony Clements	Regional Committee Rep / CMC
John Davie	Green Belt MC
Chris Deal	Green Belt /AMSC
Kevin Dyras	Midland Off Road Club
Matt Endean	Motorsport UK Committees / CMC
Martin Freeman	Eastwood and DMC
Phil Foster	Lincoln Motor Cycle and Car Club
Clive Grounds	Cambridge CC
Chris Gwilliam	RSR Motorsport Safety
Tracy Hill	Breckland Land Rover Club
Liz Jordan	Maidstone and Mid Kent / ASEMC
Stuart Kingham	Wickford AC / Safeguarding
Claire Kirkpatrick	Motorsport UK
Ian Marshall	Santa Pod Racers Club
Tony Michael	Web / Comp Sec / CMC
Brian Millen	Blackpalfrey MC
Stephen Laing	Borough 19
Dave Ottoway	Kings Lynn and DMC
Kevin Peake	Asscn.. Land Rover Clubs
Dan Pearson	Anglia MSC
Pete Walters	Speed Championship/ HCAAC
Dave Whyman	Sutton and Cheam MC
Brian Hemmings	Secretary / Anglia MSC

Welcome and Introduction

The chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting with an especial recognition of Claire Kirkpatrick and Steve Blakeman from Motorsport UK and the representatives from the 11 clubs recently joining the association.

He went on to explain that the normal procedure was to allow new clubs a five minute opportunity to introduce themselves. As there were eleven clubs applying to join, this would take over most of the meeting. Therefore, a preliminary "introduction" meeting had been held on 6th March with the "new" clubs to give an opportunity for them to gain a better understanding of the association as well as the association getting to know the clubs a little better.

Steve Blakeman introduced himself as the Head of Cross Country and Club Sport at Motorsport UK highlighting his many years of involvement and experience in the cross country and club "world" built on background of family involvement.

Apologies

Mike Biss – Boundless with CSMA, Andrew Bisping - ASCSMC, Mark Banham Kings Lynn and DMC, Paul Barrett -CMC /Rally Championship, Suze Endean – CMC.

Previous Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday the 7th Nov 2023 were reviewed and unanimously agreed to be a true representation. Proposed Wickford AC (Stuart Kingham), seconded Anglia Motor Sport Club (Dan Pearson)

Matters Arising

No matters were identified that wouldn't be covered within the agenda items.

Reports

Chairman

The chairman in welcoming the new clubs highlighted that the association was willing to evolve to embrace the wider scope of clubs and disciplines. This expansion will undoubtedly offer benefits to the association as a whole by providing more opportunities for cross discipline sharing of ideas and involvement. This will require actions to ensure that the knowledge of all disciplines, clubs and their needs and challenges is understood. This understanding will be key to providing effective support across all disciplines.. This /initiative will need the involvement of both the association and member clubs if it is to be successful.

Treasurer

A statement of the accounts and a forecast for the years 2024 had been distributed.

The treasurer provided an overview to the future financial position by highlighting the main factors.

The operating overheads for the association are quite modest, and relatively predictable.

The championships are virtually cost neutral to the association.

The variability in the current forecast is primarily caused by the training activities.

Costs in this area are primarily driven by the amount of training being carried out and how much financial and/or grant support is available to support each subject/session.

The primary association income is the annual contributions. Currently approx. 80% of 2023 clubs have renewed for 2024. Clubs who haven't renewed will be contacted to check if this is intentional or an oversight, as past experience has shown its often that the renewal notice hasn't found its way to the appropriate place to be actioned.

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 indicate that this action is more effective and gains additional registrations.

The recent message forwarded from Motorsport UK explaining the "graphics" support available to clubs was highlighted as being reviewed by two association clubs who found it valuable.

Applications for association membership had been received from a number of clubs and these were put to the meeting for consideration and ratification.

The clubs applying were

Association of Land Rover Clubs

Breckland Land Rover Club

Chiltern Vale Land Rover Club

GB Superkarts

Historic Sports Car Club

Leicestershire and Rutland Land Rover Club

Lincs Off Roads Club

RSR Motorsport Safety

Santa Pod Racers Club

Suffolk 4 x 4 Club

Suffolk Land Rover Owners Club

It was agreed unanimously that all applying clubs should be accepted and they were therefore welcomed into AEMC as full members.

It was requested that a list of current member clubs be provided to the championship coordinators for reference with the championship regulations and eligibility.

Championship Updates

Awards

The 2023 awards were very successfully presented at Brooklands Motor Museum for the second year in January. They are a multi-disciple multi association awards presentation. They consist of AEMC, ASEMC and ACSMC for both Rally and Speed presentation.

Rally

The 2024 championship is well underway with 4 rounds now completed following the last weekends Dukeries event. The next round will be the CAR-nival Stages in June 30 competitors are currently registered

Speed.

The 2023 championship had 39 registered competitors with 23 qualifying events run. The permit for the 2024 championship has been issued with the first of 24 rounds being held on the 23rd March. There are 40 competitors registered before the start of the season. A mini toolkit is the registration award for 2024.

The initiative to achieve standardisation of classes between the ASEM, ACSM and AEMC has continued and for 2024 two EV classes have been included.

Matt Endean confirmed that classes and the potential for standardisation is a topic the Sprint Committee is looking at.

Regional Committee Report

For the benefit of any club not familiar with the purpose and operation of the Regional Committee Tony identified it as a committee within the Motorsport UK structure comprising representatives from all the regional associations. The role of the committee is coordinate the workings of the regional associations in supporting member clubs and connecting motorsport in the regions, as represented by the clubs, and Motorsport UK.

In this role, topics of relevance to clubs are raised and discussed, information is provided by Motorsport UK and passed on to clubs and any ideas, issues queries or challenges can be raised with Motorsport UK.

It was explained that the role of regional associations had been reviewed recently and the document "The role of a Regional Association" has been produced in an effort to ensure its relevance now and in the future.

Tony provided an update from the recent meeting where the following main topics were discussed.

- Rallies Committee – The form for tyre management/usage on stage rallies is being redrafted and guidance on suggested penalties for non-compliance created.
- Cross Country Clubs – A presentation from the Association of Land Rover Clubs was given which highlighted the scope and scale of their and their member clubs' activities and raised the question of the most effective way for this association/clubs to work with motorsport generally. The following discussion proposed that there are advantages in ensuring all disciplines of motorsport are represented effectively within the regions and that associations should look to find ways of achieving this. A view was expressed that cross country has historically felt isolated. ALRC was asked to provide an update for the next Regional Committee on whether the situation is changing and what improvements could be made.
- Road rally Insurance – It was highlighted that insurance cover for road rallies has become difficult, if not impossible to obtain with the withdrawal by REIS of their product. It's understood that this applies to events that are timed to less than a minute and therefore events like 12 cars should not be affected. The situation is being investigated. Any club that may be impacted should check that appropriate cover is in place.
- NCR – Covered later in agenda
- Venues – An update on the venues initiative was provided and will be covered later in the agenda

- Motorsport UK training courses. – Courses are being planned for 2024 which include
 - Club Safeguarding Officers
 - Event Secretaries and Stewards
 - Safety Officers - Rally
 - Radio Controllers
 - Unlicensed Clerks
- The plan is that a recognition and registration plan for secretaries and event stewards will be in place for 2025
- Sustainability – Alex Cahn has joined the sustainability team and has club support within his job role.
- A Sustainability Charter is being introduced for rallying although this will initially only apply to multi venue events.
- There will be a National Motorsport Week between 11th and 21st July where awareness of events will be widely promoted with support from Motorsport UK. All events during that period can be involved.

Open Forum /Discussions

NCR - National Competition Rules

The NCR was introduced to the meeting and implementation explained as follows ; -

The NCR which is the updated and reformatted “Year book” will be launched fully in Jan 2025 and will be provided in a digital form only

It was confirmed that this initiative is a “translation” and not a rewrite. i.e. the rewrite is working to an objective of making the regulations clearer and easier to work with but does not intend to change any regulations.

However, inevitably with the changes to format and referencing there is the possibility that interpretation of some regulations may be subject to misinterpretation or translation into event and championship regulations.

The format has also changed into sections relating to individual disciplines which will make it easier to search sections rather than the whole book.

The overall time plan for implementation was indicated as being

14th Feb. Trial NCR published on Motorsport UK web site

<https://motorsportuk.us19.list-manage.com/track/click?u=512543ca0c0d100b604c3e1bf&id=2ac6c5a581&e=88ed81d167>

Now until mid Sept - Trial events/initiatives are run to “test out “ the NCR

Mid Sept - The final draft is completed incorporating any changes required from experiences in the trials and draft passed to board for approval

Oct to early November - Webinars explaining/delivering the final version to officials

4th Nov. 2024 - 2025 NCR published generally

1st Jan 2025 The NCR is adopted and becomes the definitive regulatory document.

It was stated that the need for practical “trailing/testing” during 2024 has been identified and to this end a minimum of 2 events per discipline are intended to run to the NCR as trial events. Motorsport UK will provide support to these events.

In discussion it was agreed that for the transition to be as seamless as possible it is important that all groups, clubs, associations, championships, prepare by understanding, assessing the impact, trialling and testing the new approach and identifying and feeding back any issues.

Three possible approaches were identified for testing which have varying degrees of challenge and “risk”

1. Run trial event(s) to the NCR
2. Run an event to the 2024 yearbook but also run a “shadow” procedure to the NCR
3. Run a simulated event to the NCR either based on a “real” event or as a “clean sheet” trial of the NCR

All associations were encouraged to work with their clubs to engage with the process in order to be as prepared as possible for 2025.

It was highlighted that the early stages of the trial process are aimed at Officials rather than competitors and that during the trail process the NCR could be evolving if issues are identified. Any changes would be likely to be introduced through a small number of iterations rather than ad hoc however.

The Chair reported he had been in contact with the NCR team offering support.

Note :- shortly after the meeting, three clubs volunteered to use their events as trials for the new NCR project. The NCR team had offered to convert the SRs for the clubs, but the chair suggested the clubs should go through the exercise before sending them to the NCR team, so they can use the exercise to appreciate the new NCRs.

Venues

An annual review with regional MoD venues has been carried out by the MLO. This has confirmed that relations with the venues remains good although there are still a number of challenges (inc. local complaints and costs) that are being worked on collectively.

One issue that an AEMC organising club was not fully aware of on a recent event was identified. The club involved engaged with the issue and the MLO and committed to a resolution. As a consequence of the approach the relationship has been strengthened.

Claire Kirkpatrick provided an update confirming that the whole topic of Venues is a strategic focus for Motorsport UK and progress is continuing on the project which is mapping venues, identifying gaps reviewing the challenges of losing and retaining, and understanding the opportunities for finding new venues.

Once from the review of the information gathered by the survey late in 2023 is completed its planned that a number of “focus” groups will be set up to connect with “local” knowledge to be able to better identify in detail the processes and support which will be most effective for clubs.

Support tools, guidance documents and additions to the Tool Kit are planned.

Regional Training

Steve Casey as the incoming Training Coordinator provided an update outlining that a sub group has been established to develop plans and organise appropriate regional training courses. The group has met, and work is progressing on developing a plan with 2 to 3 events intended for this year.

The success of “interactive” style events is recognised and is being factored in along with consideration of funding.

MSUK’s plans for training courses in 2024 are also being included as part of the planning to create a complementary, integrated approach.

The growth in scope of the member clubs is creating both a challenge and an opportunity and this is being factored into the plans which also include consideration of options to span disciplines where appropriate in delivery of “courses”.

The course for Club Safeguarding Officers had been held successfully at Cambridge in Feb. with over 20 attendees.

The cooperation with BRMC is continuing providing access to the rally marshals modules being presented by the British Rally Marshals Club.

During the meeting two requirement areas were identified by delegates, being

- Organising “club level” events for key Officials for a range of primarily club sport event types
- Working with the NCR

Association

The chair provided an update indicating that the work to evolve the association has continued although it’s also now recognised that as with training the increase in scope of the member clubs will require additional considerations. These include: -

- The scope of activities may be a limitation on effectively working with them within the association generally. Possible forming of discipline oriented sub groups in order to be able to effectively focus on any specific issues could be an approach to resolving this. Any such group would work within the scope of the main association and have representatives within the association management. General topics would continue to be covered within the association as a whole
- Update of the association image/ redevelopment website content. The website was developed to cover the activities of the previous clubs which centred around the rally and speed championships and the topic areas identified in the “petal” diagram on the website.
 - This will need to be evolved to include the disciplines of Cross country, karting and drag racing.
- Club event calendars. In order to provide a complete picture of events being run by member clubs need be able to include any events they wish to publish. There are two ways of achieving this currently.

- Forward dates and details to the webmaster (Tony Michael) for inclusion in the AEMC calendar. The website includes “filtering” functionality to enable easier tracking of types of event, club events and distance from home.
- If a club is already managing a calendar and feels its more effective to keep some degree of segregation, then a link can be built into the website although this approach will limit visibility.
- Processes and approaches for holding and managing contact and club data that is effective, efficient and GDPR compliant are being reviewed and its intended that a solution proposal will be available soon.
 - A delegate suggested that it could be beneficial if AEMC, ASEMC and ACSMC had a similar approach.
 - Claire indicated that the MSUK solution which is planned for end 2024 / 2025 is likely to include a “log in” capability for regional associations although it isn’t clear yet what functionality that would provide.

Meeting Format - The type of meetings was discussed and while the advantages of face to face meetings was agreed the counter advantages of virtual meetings in reduced travel, cost and time commitments is still thought to outweigh them currently. The idea of running hybrid meetings was also discussed but the general conclusion was that these aren’t yet effective in being affordable and in ensuring all attendees can participate equally. Available functionality to continue to be monitored.

Cross club awareness - The representative of one of the newly joined cross country clubs commented that their impression from the meeting was that many problems and challenges being experienced by clubs were shared across all clubs a conclusion being that greater awareness of each club and their activities would be beneficial. A suggestion was made that a 5min slot for a club to update generally on their activities and status could be built into the agenda. This could be built around volunteer clubs or on a form of rota basis in order to be manageable.

Any Other Business

Safeguarding Officers Liz Jordan explained that one of the requests that had come form the Club Safeguarding Officers course was for support /support networks to be established for CSOs.

Motorsport UK is implementing an information process on the SPOND app as a part solution. AEMC and ASEMC have volunteered to trial the approach.

Event information

A proposal has been put forward that the Rixy Stages be run on a 30th Dec date. Involved clubs to consider.

The Hughes Rally has marshals but would benefit from more entries. Clubs to share the information with potential entries.

ACTIONS

TOPIC	ACTION	BY
Club Renewals for 2024	2023 member clubs who haven't yet renewed to be contacted	Treasurer Secretary
MSUK support for club graphics	Clubs advised to review the MSUK offer of graphics support for club identity	Clubs
Member club lists	A list of current member clubs to be sent to the championship coordinators	Secretary
Discipline inclusivity	The association to consider how to ensure all disciplines are effectively supported in their region	AEMC Management Member clubs
Road rally insurance	Events running road events to check their insurance offering is valid	Road rally events
Motorsport Week 11 th to 21 st July	Clubs to review whether they want events included	Clubs
NCR awareness and preparation	All to consider their plans for becoming aware of, trialling and being prepared for the implementation of the NCR in Jan 2025	All
Training	Plans for regional training to be progressed	Training team
Association structure	Potential organisational ways of covering the scope of association activities effectively to be reviewed	AEMC Management
Association web site	Content to be reviewed to ensure coverage of all activities	AEMC Management supported by clubs.
Association event calendar	Clubs to confirm that the appropriate event information is being provided .	Clubs
Meeting Format	Potential inclusion of club status engagement to be reviewed.	AEMC Management

Next Meeting

The next delegates meeting will be on the 28th May 2024