



## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION OF EASTERN MOTOR CLUBS 18<sup>th</sup> Nov 2025

Held virtually through a Zoom call  
The meeting commenced at 20.00

### Attendance

#### Members

34 were present representing 29 organisations as follows

Tony Hewitt	Chairman / Kings Lynn MC
Matt Endean	Vice Chairman / CMC / MSUK Committees
Chris Musselle	Treasurer / Cambridge CC
Brian Hemmings	Secretary/Anglia MSC
Mark Banham	Kings Lynn and DMC
Chris Barningham	BRSCC East Anglia
Paul Barrett	Rally Chshp / Chelmsford MC
Simone Birch ALRC/	Leics. Rutland. Land Rover Club
John Boot	West Suffolk MC
Steve Casey	Volunteer Development/ WAC
Rob Cook	Green Belt MC
Ralph Coulson	Essex Land Rover Club
Matty Davidson	Army Motorsport
John Davie	Green Belt MC
Rob Davies	Mogfriends
Chris Deal	Green Belt MC
Len Fowkes	Lindholme Motor Sports Club
Clive Grounds	Cambridge CC
Chris Gwillam	RSR Motorsport Safety
Vincent Hunt	Eastern Counties Motor Club
Stephen Laing	Borough 19
Ian Marshall	Santa Pod Racers Club
Tony Michael	Comp Sec / Website/ Chelmsford MC
Brian Millen	Black Palfrey MC
Mark Pycroft	Breckland Land Rover Club
Suze Rogers	ASEMC / Chelmsford MC
Mark Saunders	Army Motorsport
Abi Tether	Volkswagen Drag Racing Club
Mark Wagstaff	Eastwood and District
Alam Wakeman	Middx. County Auto Club
Pete Walters	Speed Chshp/ Herts Co Auto and Aero
Dave Whyman	Sutton and Cheam
Mike Yates	Yorkshire

### Guest

Ian Smith. Technical Director MotorsportUK

### Welcome

All were welcomed to the meeting with a special thanks to Ian Smith for making his time available

### Apologies

Andrew Bisping ACSMC, Clive Taylor Naylor CC, Liz Jordan Maidstone and Mid Kent /ASEMC, Jon Fry Lotus MC & SCCoN, John Goodman Colne Valley C&VC, Stanley Graham Wickford AC, Stuart Kingham Wickford AC, Phil Foster Lincoln Motorcycle and Light Car Club, Dave Clark Weald MC.

### Previous Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> Aug 2025 were reviewed and unanimously agreed to be a true representation. Proposed West Suffolk MC (John Boot) , Seconded Green Belt MC (Chris Deal)

## **Matters Arising**

Reference the question that had been raised with regard to when a club can “advertise / announce” events the secretary provided an update based on information from Motorsport UK.

A change to the NCR which will clarify the intent behind the regulation was intended to have been in Version 11. Unfortunately, it wasn't included but should be in Version 12.

## **Summary Reports**

### **Chairman**

The Chairman highlighted he felt the association was continuing to develop well with the management team, who are now coming together monthly, progressively building more content into the development plan and initiatives.

### **Treasurer**

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

In opening he congratulated the Development Coordinator for progressing and obtaining the grants connected with the recent training events. He then went on to provide a forecast for 2026 which indicated that additional training / development could result in a reduction in assets by the end of 2026. For convenience the details of the ensuing discussion are combined with the Volunteer Coordinators report for minuting purposes.

The treasurer explained that the current association bank is increasing its charges for the account(s) which would result in annual charges in excess of £200. He indicated that he is in the process of reviewing alternatives and requested agreement from the meeting to move the accounts if a more economic but reliable solution is confirmed. This was agreed and options of Metro Bank and suggestions from the meeting will be investigated and progressed.

### **Secretary**

The secretary indicated to the meeting that the registration with MotorsportUK for 2026 has been completed.

## **Championship updates**

### **Rally**

The coordinator confirmed that 7 of 9 rounds have been completed and with 2 round still to run the title is very close with only 4 points separating the top two.

Plans for 2026 are close to completion with regulations planned to be submitted in the near future. Rounds will be similar to 2025 with the Lincoln Green event run at Fulbeck and organised by Lindholme MC being included as a new round.

Negotiations are ongoing with the 2025 sponsor GTM who it is hoped will continue support into next season.

Although the last round doesn't take place until 28<sup>th</sup> Dec it is planned to present awards at the presentation on 10<sup>th</sup> Jan.

### **Speed**

The 2025 season has been completed with 22 qualifying rounds run. The championship regulations specify that 8 rounds “count” which provides a lot of scope for entries. Despite this the number of registrations has continued to decline and while not yet at a critical point it does indicate that a change in approach or marketing has to be considered.

Awards will be presented alongside the rally results at the Brooklands presentation on the 10th Jan.

Plans for 2026 are coming together and once a draft is complete this will be shared with the ACSMC championship coordinator in order to achieve complimentary but not identical championships.

In order to encourage additional competitors, in conjunction with ACSMC, the possibility of reviewing technical regulations to make registration more attractive is being considered. Ian Smith agreed to contribute to this process if required.

The discussions with GTM regarding sponsorship for 2026 includes both championships as in 2025.

### **Volunteer Development**

The Volunteer Coordinator reported on the marshals development day held at Mildenhall Stadium. The day was well received by the 50 attendees with very positive feedback. A deliberate attempt had been made to widen the overall scope from rally only and this had been successful with attendees from a wide range of disciplines including rally, race and cross country. Costs had been contained with the fire extinguishers being donated bringing the event in under budget. Statistics from the event are shown in the accompanying Appendix A.

A report on plans for 2026 was presented. Plans are progressing with an intention to provide an increased number of events including marshalling, event organising and first aid. A cross discipline approach will be adopted where appropriate with consideration of events at all levels.

A request for financial support from BMT had been submitted with approval having been very recently received.

A consequence of an increase in activity level, as well as the general trend for increasing costs, will be higher levels of expenditure as indicated earlier by the treasurer. The amount of cost to the association could be in excess of £4000 even with the BMT support netted out. Previous meetings have confirmed the principle that the association should fund training. The treasurer highlighted that this amount would significantly exceed income and therefore association assets would be depleted. It was pointed out that the current level of funds would cover 2026 but would not be a model that would be viable for the future. The meeting was asked to confirm backing for the plans for 2026 which was unanimously agreed.

The management group will continue to review ways in which costs can be controlled and will share plans and costs with delegates as a better understanding develops.

### **Regional Committee Update**

The following were reported as the main points from the Regional Committee held on 4<sup>th</sup> Nov.

#### **Association Development topics**

The top items that associations had identified as challenges in their development plans were presented which showed a high degree of commonality. It was therefore agreed that opportunities for associations to co-operate on common items should be progressed to share thoughts and ideas.

The top 3 topics identified in association development plans are Venue support, Social Media Promotion and Club Engagement.

#### **Specialist committee reports**

Autotest - In order to ensure that all divisions of the discipline are receiving appropriate focus, independent attention is being given to aspects of autotest and autosolo.

Rallies committee – Road rallying and how to manage its future is a main focus with a general agreement that road rallying needs to evolve to remain acceptable within the community. A process to support road rally clerks in obtaining a licence before the start of 2026 has been initiated focused on current individuals fulfilling that role.

A second update message has been circulated, and a consultation on the future of road rallying, has been issued. All with an interest are encouraged to respond to the consultation.

Trials - Consultation responses to the requirement for fire extinguishers on events is being considered. It was also confirmed that while Fire sticks are useful, they are not a viable alternative as mandatory devices.

Volunteer Officials – Work is ongoing to improve and bring up to date various officials and marshals pathway modules and materials.

### **MSUK Strategy Update**

A presentation was made detailing MotorsportUK's 2030 strategic approach.

While in the period 2018 to 2025 the sports governance and sustainability position has been strengthened, there is evidence that while membership is relatively stable overall, participant frequency is in gradual decline. Recognising this the strategy has a "people" based focus .

The main theme is to "get more people enjoying motorsport more often".

The strategy is split into 3 topics Retain: Renew: Recruit: with actions targeted in five focus areas (Competitors, Volunteers, Clubs, Venues, and Vehicles)

Also recognised in the strategy is the importance of how the governing body is perceived by participants and how easy it is to work with. To address this a Customer Service Agreement is being developed and implemented which will involve service level targets and be supported by improved technology

### **Volunteers Audit**

Statistics from the volunteers audit were presented which showed

Individual volunteers as being a total of 10,800. When individuals with more than one role are included this climbs to 14,000 licenses / registrations.

Encouraging news is that female participation in some areas is increasing and the median age in some areas has decreased over recent years although this isn't true throughout. Plans to use this data to underpin planning will be progressed.

### **General**

#### **NCR Update**

An update on the maintenance process for the NCR was provided. Ongoing it is planned that there will be maximum of 5 updates to the NCR in any year. It is planned, however, that significant changes will be timed to be made effective on the 1<sup>st</sup> Jan of each year whenever practical.

The next version of the NCR will be released on the 1<sup>st</sup> Dec 2025

#### **2026 Renewals**

An update on progress with renewals for 2026 was provided.

Marshals renewal numbers is 50% ahead of the same date last year which is encouraging.

Renewal for clubs has recently opened. Clubs are reminded of the required criteria which include having a licensed CSO, which means the club CSO will need to have renewed before the club applies.

Late permit request fees are likely to be reapplied in 2026

Some changes to Officials fees under is consideration.

## **BMT**

Following on from the presentation at the previous Regional Committee an update was provided.

The need to increase awareness and relevance of BMT to the sport generally in order to promote support from clubs and competitors was highlighted. Support from clubs and associations in passing on the message and explaining how possible methods of providing support was explained as being very beneficial to assuring the future of the fund.

## **MLO**

The MLO provided information that within the geographical area, agreements in principle have been reached with the current venues to continue use in 2026.

Approaches to two other possible venues are in progress.

An update was also provided that at the National level the contact (Mjr. Sean Caine) within the Army Training Assets group has changed role with a replacement not being in place until April 2026 thus leaving a gap in what has been a supportive process

## **EVs and Opportunities to include them in regional motorsport**

Ian Smith provided an insight into EVs and how they are now included in regional motorsport and may be further included, by explaining opportunities and providing examples of events that have been run. These events can hopefully be a basis from which ideas can be taken.

As an introduction, Ian made a point in respect of how the inclusion of EVs could be seen by the sport.

“The introduction of EVs is not part of a plan to transition the sport away from traditional ICEs but should be considered as an opportunity to introduce new participants”.

Details of a number of events that have been successfully run using EVs were presented.

Two notable examples are the Scottish Eco Rally and a 24 hr circuit race (held off season in order to fit in to the circuits commercial model).

Both were examples of how a slightly different approach was used to provide a competitive environment for EVs. The Scottish rally was based on a “regularity style” concept and was extremely successful in attracting 25, new to motorsport, competitors with manufacturer interest and significant PR benefits.

The race was based around a task of maximising range within a controlled refuel or charging environment. (teams of 2 cars with one “non high speed” charger available).

The “take away” is that while EVs may not always fit readily into traditional formats there are a number of ways that they can be included into motorsport.

Delegates highlighted a number of areas where EVs are already involved in associations club events including Borough 19 sprints, Streetcar events and 12 car rallies. The Association championship has included the option of EVs for a number of years but with relatively little take up to date.

It was generally considered that additional support in highlighting opportunities and clarifying “regulations” involving EVs would be very helpful in encouraging clubs to embrace EVs in their events.

Focus on “standard” vehicles was highlighted as the easiest low risk approach currently, as such vehicles will normally have a more established safety regime . Training for marshals at

events where EVs are included is available through the learning hub. Training for Rescue crews has been approached with at least one member in a crew having been through a formal course. Organisers were advised that if a rescue crew is involved in an event with EVs they should be notified before the event to ensure they are carrying the appropriate equipment.

### **Association Development**

The meeting was reminded that the current focus areas for the association are Volunteer Development and Communication and Marketing.

An update was provided by the Comms. and Marketing group who reported that progress is continuing. The group has now expanded to include additional members/clubs and are continuing to develop practical ways in which they can support clubs and events. An initiative to provide support for both the Rixy and Brands Hatch Stages has been agreed with the event organisers.

The initial focus has been on rallies but now that a number of basic principles have been developed, this is being widened with an intent of eventually encompassing all disciplines. Clubs not yet involved are encouraged to connect with the group.

### **Future Topics / Focus areas**

The meeting was asked to consider whether the use of in meeting Zoom polls during the next meeting would be worth trying. This would be used to help establish a view of areas considered by delegates for the association to prioritise. A list of options would be provided that delegates could select as being relevant/important to their clubs, thus providing a view on general priorities. The view of the meeting was that this was a good idea and worth trialling.

### **Motorsport Awareness Event**

The meeting was updated that discussions were continuing with MSV with a view to holding a Motorsport “show” at Snetterton during 2026. The idea is being supported by MSV staff with the task of finding a suitable date and exploring commercial possibilities being the next steps.

### **Next Meeting**

The next delegates meeting will be on the 17<sup>th</sup> March 2026.

This meeting will follow immediately after the AGM which will commence at 20.00

