



To all Scottish motor sport participants,

You may have heard discussion about a new group that has recently been established, called Scottish Motor Sport (SMS). The group was formed 18 months ago and I am proud to have been asked to chair it.

*So what is SMS?*

Well firstly it is important to stress that it is not a new governing body or a new association. SMS is a strategic body, designed to speak with one voice to the Scottish Government about all things motor sport. It consists of representatives of two- and four-wheel motor sport – including the car clubs through the Scottish Association of Car Clubs (SACC), the kart clubs through the ASKC, and Knockhill. The Scottish Auto Cycle Union (SACU) represents the interests of the two-wheel community.

*What is SMS going to do?*

SMS is not a 'doing' body; it is a strategic group. The intention is that SMS will provide a channel for motor sport to talk with Scottish Government and its associated agencies (Sport Scotland, Event Scotland, Visit Scotland, etc) distilling a co-ordinated message from the entire motor sport sector.

*What will it achieve?*

We believe that motor sport should be recognised as a sport of National Performance Significance to Scotland and SMS will assist in achieving this recognition. This in turn will lead to the submission of a strategic plan for the sport in Scotland which will give us the basis to be able to open discussions on potential funding streams.

Progress in 2011 was good as we came to understand the opportunities and some will remember the SACC meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> November at which we explained what we were trying to achieve.

Progress has been somewhat delayed this year by the Independence debate. The SACC has rightly sought member clubs' opinions on the matter, which has happily concluded that in the event of an independent vote being successful, the MSA would remain the Governing Body of Motor Sport in Scotland. This will allow the MSA to continue its commitment to the new entity SMS who will move forward to encourage the development of the sport in our country.

In the longer term, we are confident that clubs and competitors will benefit from being part of a Government supported initiative to create higher quality venues, better competition opportunities and stronger career development possibilities for Scottish drivers, marshals and associated individuals, all the way from the grass-roots to international level.

In summary, I believe that SMS represents an exciting opportunity for our sport. As Chairman, I am grateful for the support of the motor sport community and I will do what I can to benefit the interests of both two and four-wheel motor sport in Scotland.

With best wishes,

*Tom Purves*

**Chairman  
Scottish Motor Sport**

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