

This year has proved to be one of the most successful ever for motor racing in Scotland with an average entry of 130 cars at each of the 7 meetings run by SMRC this year. The efforts of a small band of Club members and our Club Secretary and Competition Secretary, ably supported by the ever enthusiastic competitors, the MSA Officials and our hardy crew of efficient marshals, has ensured that we go into 2016 in a strong position with 7 established Championships and in the case of the BMW Compact Cup, a full grid of 32 cars. We are looking at updating the regulations for the Mini Cooper Cup as the cars are now 12 years old so we are starting a class for more powerful engines which would give an avenue for the more experienced competitors. It's also great to see that our single seaters in Formula Ford are proving more and more popular with the younger competitors, especially those moving up from karting, as the costs are strictly controlled (only 6 dry tyres per meeting) and simple engines that have been around for 50 years !! The winner of the Scottish Championship in 2016 will qualify for the 'Race to Indy' supported by Mazda and the chance to win a fully funded £200,000 drive in the USA and an opportunity to reach Indycars in the future. Definitely one of the greatest prizes ever offered to a Championship winner in any form of Motor Sport in Scotland.

Overall this year driving standards have improved due to stricter policing by the Clerks of the Course particularly of the track limits regulations imposed by the MSA. There are times when some of the infringements are debatable but the competitors are agreed that as long as the officials are consistent then generally there are no complaints. Competitor's knowledge of the Blue Book is generally minimal and we are forever having people making complaints and having moans about other people's driving and not using the correct channels to get some answers. If some brief notes could be put together by the MSA as an 'Easy Guide' for competitors I think this would help because for some competitors reading the Blue Book would prove to be a challenge well beyond their capabilities !!!.

Plans are now underway to prepare for 2016 with 2 SMRC Club nights arranged at Audi in Aberdeen on the night of this meeting and another in Edinburgh at Pentland Land Rover on Thursday where all classes of car will be on display and anyone interested in racing in 2016 can attend and speak with many individuals involved in the preparation of cars, marshalling and organisational side of racing. These have been run for the last 3 years and have generated a good number of new competitors as well as a few marshals. The support of people like John Clark who lay on the venues free of charge is a great help and some of our members like Dario Franchitti, Gordon Shedden and even the President of the SACC, John Cleland, will I'm sure be in attendance at at least one of the venues.

Our Marshals Training Day will take place at Knockhill on Sunday 13th March and we hope to keep up the standard of around 100 marshals who attend most years.

Finally our Annual Dinner will take place as usual at the Sheraton Hotel in Edinburgh on Saturday 5th December and we are hoping for another full house of around 370 people including a few of the stars plus one of Scotland's newest racing champions, Sir Chris Hoy, who is hoping to race at the Le Mans 24 Hours next year.