

Summary of MSA Regional Committee Meeting 19 August 2015

SACC were represented by Lock Horsburgh & Pete Weall

All member clubs are reminded that nominations for MSA Club of the Year and Volunteer of the Year should be submitted as soon as possible but by 1 October 2015 at the very latest.

The meeting chairman reminded all clubs to remember the various Inter Association events and to put forward teams if possible.

The topic of making Frontal Head Restraints (FHRs) mandatory was again discussed. Specifically, the debate was around the way the decision was made (by MSA Council) and also how it was communicated. While accepting that changes relating to safety are not required to follow the usual consultation route, there was disquiet expressed at the way the decision making process had also ignored the decisions of various specialist MSA Committees. It has since become apparent that simply mandating the use of FHRs is only part of the issue for competitors and further clarification will be drafted and published by the MSA soon.

At another point in the meeting, the subject of rule change consultation was discussed more generally. The MSA position is that all proposed changes are published on the MSA website and that all licence holders are free to feed into the consultation process. However, Regional Committee, speaking on behalf of competitors, asked if consideration could be given to a better way of at least bringing these changes to the attention of licence holders rather than expecting them to go looking for the, The MSA will look into this.

Rob Jones presented his usual Chief Executive report but in doing so, he said that it was his intention to make this brief and to involve relevant members of the MSA staff to expand on specific areas that he might previously have covered. He mentioned the executive level vacancies caused by the retirement of Allan Dean-Lewis and Ben Taylor's move to head up IMS. The intention is to combine these two responsibilities under a new Director of Development with the post expected to be filled for the start of 2016.

Rob has held meetings with government representatives from the Culture Media & Sport department and also with SportEngland. The objective of these meetings is to reinforce the importance of Motor Sport in terms of both economic benefit and sporting achievement. Similar activity is ongoing in Scotland.

He mentioned that the Police Scotland enquiry into the 2014 Jim Clark Rally was ongoing and no further comment on this could be made. He did however go on to say that the MSA were pushing ahead with the 29 recommendations that came out from the Motor Sport Safety Review. He stressed that the key issue remains the need to recruit more officials and volunteers and to ensure they are properly trained.

A question was asked of Rob if there was any update on the Vnuk European Court case relating to vehicle insurance that could have a major potential impact on Motor Sport. He said that the MSA were engaged with UK Government and that a widespread public consultation document is expected to be published in September 2015.

Alan Page spoke to the meeting on the topic of Training & Development. A key focus is getting the online marshal training modules launched. We can expect to see the first three of these rolled out soon covering Spectator Management, Incident Management & Roles and Responsibilities. These modules will lead people towards gaining "Accredited Marshal" status. They will be mandatory for new marshals signing up from 2016 and for existing marshals renewing from 2017. A series of regional roadshows around the UK are planned during Q3 2015 or Q1 2016 to launch this to everyone and SACC is working with MSA to deliver these in Scotland.

Also planned for early 2016 are a series of Child Safeguarding seminars. Clubs are reminded of the new requirements distributed at the June SACC meeting and should look to nominate a club representative to one of these seminars. Radio Communication seminars and un-licensed official seminars are also in plan for 2016. Safety Officer and Safety Car training are already under way and Radio Operator training is in development. Alan also reminded clubs to consider any opportunities to apply for funding through the Club Development Fund. He said that 13 recent applications were being considered. Specifically, this can apply to additional signage and/or tape needed to meet new safety requirements.

Simon Fowler reported to the meeting on the number of 2015 licence and event permit applications. While there are ups and downs across the various licence classes and event disciplines, the overall picture as at the end of July is a 1% increase on the 2014 numbers.

Jess Fack distributed copies of the quarterly Regional Development Officer activity report. This was in response to previous request to see some detail of what the RDOs in each area were doing. Clubs are reminded that the MSA has increased the level of spending on GoMotorsport activity. All clubs in Scotland should liaise with our RDO (Alison Clark) to identify ways to make best use of this valuable support. The key message to all SACC member clubs is that Alison is in post to help promote our sport and all clubs should consider how the resources of GoMotorsport can best be used in their area. Key to this should be trying to engage with any and all interested parties for example classic car clubs and cruise groups. Jess mentioned in the meeting the success of the GoMotorsport Live event at Knockhill that happened just a few days before the Regional Meeting.

Greg Symes updated the meeting on the MSA Academy. He highlighted the Level 2 Coach accreditation process (see separate papers). He also mentioned that an 'Introduction to Coaching' module was being developed with a pilot to be run at the end of September (in Loughborough). If this pilot is successful, the programme will be rolled out wider. SACC member clubs are encouraged to identify promising competitors, at any age or stage, who might benefit from having access to a more formal coaching structure.

Tim Swietochowski briefed the meeting on MSA communication. He drew particular attention to the 'Rally Future' campaign which is the public role out of the Rally Safety Review recommendations. SACC clubs are encouraged to make use of the material coming out of this initiative including the 'Ari needs you' artwork. The MSA is working now with media representatives to create a framework within which they can operate. A key part of this is that all media locations will be agreed in advance with event organisers.

Jaqueline Campbell spoke to the meeting about the ongoing rally safety activity which is moving ahead at pace. There are two working groups: Rally Safety Manual and Rally Marshal. The output from all of this work will be fully communicated to all interested parties. Part of this will be a series of regional roadshows as mentioned above. Details of the Scottish events will follow in due course. Ideas are also being considered on schemes to better reward volunteer marshals.

Regional Committee has the right to appoint representatives on to three specialist committees. This gives a degree of representation on these specialist committees to all MSA member clubs who are represented through Regional Committee. The nominations are reviewed periodically and for the next couple of years will be:

Steve Castle on Volunteer Advisory, Chris Woodcock on Rallies (replacing Phil Foster) and Phil Foster to Historic (first time we have had somebody there). Regional will no longer be represented on Cross Country. Chairman commended Roger Reed for 20 years of good work on Cross Country, instrumental in moving Cross Country to align with rally regulations.

Peter Weall