

## Chairman's Report

I acknowledged in my report to the last meeting just how busy everybody is and I have seen this more than ever over the past three months as my own endless quest to extend my knowledge has continued. In the 13 weeks since the last SACC General Meeting I have been to 14 MSA permitted events across 5 disciplines stretching from the Solway coast to the Moray Firth. This included my first ever visit to an off road event in Ayrshire. I still have much to learn but I want to express my sincere appreciation to the very patient people who have taken time to explain that there is more to motor sport than rally co-driving!

It will be mentioned elsewhere but I want to call out the great effort by everyone involved in the GoMotorsport Live event at Knockhill in August. I will mention Jess Fack, Alison Clark & Rory Byant but also heap praise on the clubs involved especially 750 Motor Club for running the live autosolo passenger rides and to 63 Car Club, Barons Crew Club, Bo'ness Hillclimb Revival, Disability Motorsport, East of Scotland Kart Club, Saltire Rally Club, Scottish Motor Racing Club, Scottish Motorsport Marshalls Club, Scottish Off Road Club and Ecosse Junior 1000. Also big thank you to the Knockhill Circuit team especially Stewart Gray.

I have been working with Rory Bryant and others to update the SMS Strategic Plan which forms the basis of a funding application on behalf of both two and four wheel motor sport to SportsScotland. It is clear that many other sports rely very heavily on public funding, in some cases, simply to survive. The pitch being made by SMS, representing MSA and SACU, is to help secure additional investment to fund development of our sport in terms of increasing participation (competitors and volunteers), improving performance of talented competitors, and securing the future of the sport in terms of having viable venues and strong clubs. The application will be presented in late October but it may be early next year before we know the result.

The strategic plan is built on the existing sound basis of our sport. It is all too easy for us to see only negatives and to speak doom and gloom but there are parts of motor sport around Scotland that are doing well. Almost in spite of recent challenges, stage rallying is in good heart with full entries for tarmac events and strong, if not full, entry lists for some forest events. The MSA has shown faith on Scotland by naming three of our events in the provisional seven round British championship in 2016.

I want to call out congratulations to the SACC team of Dave Weston Jnr, Ewan Thorburn & Ryan Weston who were joint winners (with the Central Southern Association) of the Inter Association Stage Rally Challenge at the Nicky Grist Stages in July. But for a slight team selection glitch between me and our Secretary, we could have won outright 😊. A mention also for our road rally co-ordinator, Richard Crozier, who was recently selected to join the MSA Academy co-driver programme. He joins fellow Sots Ross Wylie, Ross Martin and Colin Noble who are already part of the Academy squad.

But lest I be accused of favouring one discipline over another, we should not lose sight of Scots performing well in other disciplines at UK level including Gordon Shedden in BTCC, Jonny Adam in GT racing, Callum Lockie in Endurance racing, Andy Scott in rallycross and Wallace Menzies in hillclimb. I am sure there are others that I have not identified but safe to say that Scotland continues to be a strong breeding ground for motor sport talent.

Motorsport safety remains very high on the agenda and you will see from the MSA Regional Committee report that there will be one or more roadshow events in Scotland at some time over the next few months. I urge all SACC member clubs to play a full part in promoting these as widely as possible not only to their membership but to the public at large.

Finally, I want to say thank you to those who have responded to my requests for people to step forward for roles within SACC. It is good to know that there is enthusiasm out there for getting involved in governance at this level. But there is room for more and I make no apology for repeating the invitation to come forward.

Peter Weall

Vice Chair SACC