



SMS Report

Club Support

Following the appointment of our new Development Officer, Gillian Sefton, four clubs have been selected by the SACC to receive initial Development Officer support. As reported in the last meeting, the selected clubs are: Monklands Car Club, Highland Car Club, Stonehaven and District Motorsport Club and the Mx5 club.

Over the coming months, Gillian's efforts will be focussed on working with these clubs (in addition to commitments working with another four SACU clubs and various student clubs across the country) to offer tailored support that aims to help them to overcome challenges and work towards key aspirations. As mentioned previously, we appreciate the support only impacts a handful of clubs in the short term but this will be reviewed to enable other clubs to benefit from the same support in the future.

Gillian has now met with all her target clubs to discuss key challenges and opportunities, and is now helping each of them to write a mini development plan before supporting its implementation.

It will not be surprising for many of you to hear that the biggest challenges listed in Gillian's encounters so far, are a lack of volunteers within clubs. As we all know this is a major challenge faced not only in motorsport but in most other sports. There is no magic wand to solve the issue but we believe that gritty club development work is a positive step in the right direction.

The approach will be different for every club depending on their specific needs and the local resources around them but inevitably there will be a focus on building partnerships between clubs and local colleges / universities, sports councils and local authority / community groups to help build their volunteering capacity.

This is the sort of work that we will be focussing on over the coming months; it's not particularly glamorous or ground breaking but we believe that it is essential work to secure the long term sustainability of our sport.

MSA Coaching

As reported in the last SACC meeting, we organised Scotland's first ever delivery of the Level 2 coaching qualification in September. The delivery, which took place over four days at Knockhill, was a huge success with 15 learners completing the course; making it the biggest delivery the MSA have ever run.

This was the first stage of our plan to develop coaching practice within Scottish clubs. We encouraged clubs to nominate individuals to go through the qualification, with a view to then developing club coaches that can deliver coaching within clubs in 2017 and beyond.

The Scottish Motor Racing Club, Junior Rally Championship and West of Scotland Kart Club all nominated coaches to go through the qualification. As follow up to this, Greg Symes (MSA Academy Manager) is travelling up to Scotland in November to meet with myself and the clubs to start supporting them - and their newly acquired qualified coaches - to deliver coaching programmes in 2017.

We believe that the successful implementation of coaching programmes within these clubs / championships will demonstrate the value of coaching within the club environment and will lead to more clubs / championships buying into the concept going forward.

Student Motorsport

We ran a student challenge event at Knockhill on October 1st, which attracted 59 students to come along and try motorsport. The full report can be found on the news page of our website but effectively the students took part in three competitive challenges; an Auto Test (courtesy of Brian Cameron of 63 Car Club, with cars courtesy of Bill Crevie and Glenrothes MC), a Table Top Rally (courtesy of Dave Mackintosh and Duncan Cameron of Stonehaven and District Motorsport Club) and karting (courtesy of Knockhill). Overall, the event ran smoothly, with lots of happy students and only a couple of unhappy Auto Test cars!

From our perspective, the event was a particular success; of the 59 participants that took part, 46 of those were completely new to their institutions motorsport club and to the sport! This indicates that our efforts over recent months to create a national student committee have begun to pay off. As I reported in September, this committee created a national calendar of student events and a promotional leaflet for selling motorsport to new students during their fresher's weeks around the country.

In addition, this committee has seen a new motorsport club develop at Dundee University, and we are currently in the process of pulling together an application to gain Scottish Student Sport recognition next year, which – if successful - will see student motorsport clubs gaining more professional support to organise and promote student motorsport championships.

Best regards,

Rory Bryant
National Development Manager