

Regional Committee had decided to make a presentation to Colin Hilton to mark his retirement as Chief Executive. The Chairman decided that £25 per Association would be appropriate and I have made that contribution from our funds. The gift was a set of gold steering wheel cufflinks in a presentation box with inscribed label and key ring. After the presentation Colin said “I’ll stay for the Meeting.”

People: Andrea Wren was unwell so Andrea Butt was the substitute minute taker. Kevin Savage deputised for Ronnie Sandham who was in Germany with Malcolm Wilson and David Cooper (AWMMC) and Brian Hemmings (AEMC) were observers.

The lifing of seats was once again mentioned. The reason for the delay was that John Symes was asked to include seats with metal frames. We are reliably informed that the written report will be presented to Council at its September Meeting. We were also promised that Council would reach a decision about the current dispensation for cars log booked before 2009.

[Since the meeting the report has been presented to Council, and it has been decided that there will be no dispensations and lifing will apply to all stage rally car seats.]

Simon Fowler told us about the Fixture List software package and that progress was being made. Testing is currently taking place on a new separate server and the MSA’s servers are due to be replaced in October. This should also help the project. If testing is OK then the new system should be in place for 2014 events. (Fingers Crossed.) 1900 events have been put on the system so far this year.

Ian Davis reported on Club Sport events definition – The proposal had been submitted to Executive Committee and would now be put before Council in September.

Nick Bunting presented his Chief Executives report.

He has been to 4 Association Meetings already and more are planned.

FIA have started an Accident Database to investigate any pattern in accidents. John Ryan is representing the MSA.

HTP (Historic Technical Passport) (log book) there have been changes in the system. It now takes longer so there has been an increase in the registrar’s fee to cover this.

National Court – Looking at what is being brought to the National Court as it is very expensive.

Regulation Changes – Looking at longer periods of rule stability.

Claims Management Company – Need to be careful of the language used, doesn’t want to come under the FSA. Not “self insuring”, more like bearing an excess. Like car insurance, higher excess allows lower premium.

Child Protection – training courses for Child Protection Officers – DBS Disclosure and Barring Service.

Club Development Fund – could support more than the current level of applications.

Noise – we have various tests 0.5m, 1m & 2m. What about ambient noise particularly on circuits.

Interested in having anyone (external) involved not necessarily motor sport orientated.

Road Closure – More contacts made at BGP Maria Miller (DCMS), Patrick McLoughlin (DoT) & Ken Clarke (De-regulation) also Steven Hammond. Also have a caucus of constituency MPs.

The MSA has been promised this parliament. All DoT staff are working on HS2. Nick Bunting has offered the loan of staff if that would help.

GoMotorsport – Jess Fack reported. I have invited Jess to come and see us. She is available for the March 2014 meeting.

National Motorsport Week was the best ever. MIA the MSA's partner was well impressed.

Go Motorsport Live at Silverstone the week after the BGP was also well received. Between 2900 and 3000 people attended. It has been agreed that this should be repeated in 2014. Jess is looking for thoughts on what to do. Regional event? Discuss at Association Meetings and feed back to Jess.

MSA has not had a club questionnaire for several years. Jess is compiling the questions and we have commented. The questionnaire will be on line and require a team effort from Clubs. Mention at Association meeting.

Training and Development – Alan Page reported as Allan Dean-Lewis was away in Guernsey with James Betchley running a training event.

Club and Rescue Development Fund – So far in 2013 28 club applications have been granted £45K for projects worth £363K and 19 Rescue grants worth £34K for projects of £100K. Overall since introductions £1.26M has funded projects worth £5.6M. Make use of it while it is there. The MSA Board have doubled the funding for this year again. Second Frequency for 81 radios should be coming through soon and is a suitable project. Although capital projects for venues should have security of tenure, history of usage accepted. The grants are partnership funding but any source of alternative funding is acceptable. Nick Bunting commented that he is looking at development funding with a view to making the rules more progressive. It was noted that club labour is acceptable for the club's contribution.

Club of the Year (COY) and Volunteer of the Year (VOY) – we were asked to encourage applications. Closing date is 30th September 2013.

Child Protection Officers Training – This is being readied for September to November this year. 9 venues have been selected. Please encourage your CPOs to attend.

[Since the meeting, Scottish date announced 14th November 1900-2200, Motherwell. Mileage expenses will be refunded at 36p per mile. Open to currently licensed CPOs and any intending to apply for appointment. Details and application form distributed with SACC September Agenda]

DBS (Disclosure & Barring Service) – replaces the CRB. This service is free to volunteers – costs the MSA £20.00. RJR is a nominated verifier. So far I haven't been asked to verify anyone's documents.

I have volunteered to check the latest situation in Scotland and let Allan Dean-Lewis know if different from above.

Regional Visits – Alan Page thanked Associations for the welcome extended to guests.

2014 Seminars for Club Officials – Please advertise and encourage non-licensed officials to attend. I have been asked for any dates to avoid. I have told them to avoid the Snowman (16&17 Feb) and Border Counties (23&24 Mar) weekends. If you have other dates on January – March please let me know. The main content will be: Knowledge sharing between leaders and participants, Importance of Secretary of the Meeting, Selection of Club Stewards and Club Development (Go Motorsport).

British Motor Sport Training Trust – Application forms for 2014 have been issued and Associations and Clubs are encouraged to get these back to the MSA as soon as practicable.

Train the Trainers – Now filled all the places and have reserves – to take place in September.

An update of the Marshals Registration was proposed. This has now been put back for consultation. This includes a revision of the Marshal Grading Scheme. This includes various specialisms such as Timing, Radio and Sector. Also included are Senior Marshal and Stage Commander. The scheme provides a path to Senior Official such as Stage Safety Officer and Clerk of the Course.

Club Recognition – Reading between the lines I think we have solved this issue in Scotland during the formation of SACC. Our rules allow clubs not registered with the MSA to become members of the Association. This then allows those clubs applying for first registration to state they are a member of the local Regional Association. This also allows clubs of other disciplines such as Autograss to join the Association when they are already affiliated to their own governing body.

During the discussion the following points were made: Associations should support struggling clubs, mediate in disputes between clubs and look after the welfare of clubs. Some Associations do not charge Marshals Clubs a membership fee. Other Associations have different grades of membership. Why was 25 chosen as the minimum membership? (It used to be 50 but was reduced several years ago.)

Reports from Specialist Committees

Sprint & Hillclimb Sub-Committee – Chin has been plugging the use of “standard cars” for beginners with reduced cost of start up. The sub-committee is split between allowing this and not. At Motorsport Live one stall holder had complete personal safety kit for £200. This may be the best approach now. Look at Consultations in progress.

Cross Country Committee – No formal meeting but an e-mail discussion about Challenge Vehicle weights and the effect on ROPS is in progress.

Rallies Committee – Again there had been no meeting but a request to look at Consultations in progress. I have just checked the MSA website and everything that was out to Consultation is now closed.

Vehicle Safety Working Group of Technical AP – Head Rests – I reported on a topic brought to my attention about making sure that headrests are adjustable when two drivers of dissimilar heights are using one car. It was also noted that someone had been told that headrests should not be used with HANS devices. Also in conjunction with Electric Vehicles ROPS are not defined by Engine Capacity. I mentioned that the proper fixing of the battery was very important and that the ROPS should be designed with this weight in mind.

Election of Regional Committee Members to Specialist Committees

It was agreed that we should stay with the three seats we hold namely, Cross Country, Rallies and Sprint and Hills S/Committee. An election took place and the existing incumbents were re-elected.

Inter- Association Events

It was noted that entries are down for these but we agreed this is probably because of the current economic climate. We agreed to persevere in the hopes that the situation might recover. We then considered this year’s events and then those for 2014. We are hosting the Road/Navigation Rally in November 2013 and we have been asked to put on the Cross Country Event for 2014.

Items from Associations

Stewards Fees on two day events: The response was that this was negotiable particularly where the club provided accommodation.

Yellow Flags in Rallying: MSA Race regulations Q 15.1 and 15.1.1 have been changed. Where a stationary yellow flag was displayed, a waved yellow must now be used. Where formerly a waved yellow flag was used, now two waved yellows will be used. The justification was that drivers don't see flag unless they are waved. It was suggested that Rallies Committee should be asked to reconsider the sentence in R24.4.5 **Yellow Flags must be prominently displayed (held out steady not waved)** but there only minority support for this.

Issue of Permits to Associations: This proposal was firmly pushed into touch.

Any Other Business:

Earlier Notice of Dates of MSA meetings: I have twice had my original choice of flights rejected as too expensive. The MSA have promised to publish the dates earlier especially for meetings in the first three months of the year.

Seminars for Competitors: Although this was probably a bit tongue in the cheek proposal it has some merit. We all know that competitors do not read or know their way around the Blue Book.

Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman for 2014: Nicky Moffitt and John Arnold were re-elected.