



SCOTTISH MOTOR SPORTS UPDATE MARCH 2018

SCOTTISH ROAD CAR SERIES TO LAUNCH IN 2018

We are delighted to announce the launch of the Scottish Road Car Series for 2018, which is intended to act as an accessible new entry point into motorsport in Scotland. Anyone with a valid driving licence and a road going vehicle will be eligible to enter the series - which will run over 10 rounds at various locations in Scotland - making it accessible to a broad range of people across the country.

The events will be permitted and insured by the UK governing body for motorsport, the Motor Sports Association (MSA) and will be run by five experienced MSA affiliated clubs, listed in the calendar below.

ROUND	EVENT DATE	VENUE	CLUB
1	14-Apr	Ardeer	Scottish Sporting Car Club
2	28-Apr	Knockhill	Glenrothes Motor Sports Club
3	27-May	TBC	63 Car Club
4	10-Jun	Ardeer	Scottish Sporting Car Club
5	15-Jul	Kames	East Ayrshire Car Club
6	19-Aug	Leuchars	Glenrothes Motor Sports Club
7	2-Sep	Kames	East Ayrshire Car Club
8	22-Sep	Ardeer	Scottish Sporting Car Club
9	6-Oct (TBC)	TBC	Saltire Rally Club
10	21-Oct	Kames	East Ayrshire Car Club

The events will be run in line with the MSA's AutoSolo regulations; competitions will be held at a mixture of tracks and open tarmac spaces, where courses of different configurations will be laid out using markers. Participants will be competing against the clock in these events with the aim of the game being to drive the course in the correct configuration, without hitting any markers. Time penalties will be applied for the length of time completing the course takes plus every time participants hit a marker or take an incorrect turn. The winning competitor is the one who completes the course with the least penalties!

The competition will put emphasis on driver skill. Certain courses will of course suit some cars better than others but it will not necessarily be an advantage to have a high performance car, so you should be as competitive in a Ford Fiesta as in a Ferrari 458!

Registration for the series – which will include club membership – will be £15 and entry fees to each event will be £20. A series website is being developed, which will include an online registration and entry system to make entering events as easy as possible for the participant. The website is expected to go live in early March.





Whilst there are 10 rounds in total, series points will only be awarded for participants best 5 event results. This means that whilst participants are welcome to compete in as many events as they like, they have the flexibility to miss some of the rounds and still be competitive in the series.

In short, the Scottish Road Car Series is all about making motorsport accessible, enjoyable and affordable; there will be no need to decipher complex regulations, spend a fortune on a specialist car or pass a test to compete. Instead, you will be able to enter events with a few clicks of a button from your sofa and turn up in your weekly run around to enjoy some friendly but competitive fun, for less than the cost of an average round of golf!

Rory Bryant, Scottish Motor Sports Development Manager, commented:

"I'm really excited about the launch of this new series. In the modern world we live in, we - as a sport - have to work hard to keep up with ever evolving customer needs. The SRCS will provide our volunteer led clubs with a platform to help meet some of these evolving needs and in turn, it will also provide participants with a cost effective and easy way to enjoy motorsport.

Whilst this announcement reflects a forward thinking and modern approach for grass roots motorsport in Scotland, for me, one of nice things about the series is that it actually captures the spirit of grassroots motorsport from yesteryear, where participants competed in a variety of different motorsport events- rally's, sprints, races - in their everyday road car!

I'm really looking forward to seeing the SRCS grow this year but for now, I would like to say a big thank you to all the contributors and organising clubs for their considerable efforts in getting the series to this stage."

More news will be released about the series in the coming weeks, including announcements on prizes, series partners and the launch of the website.

[In the meantime, you can view the provisional series regulations HERE](#)

Full series regulations will be released by 12th March

If you have any questions about the Scottish Road Car Series, please email:

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SMS ACADEMY

Knockhill played host to session 2 of the SMS Academy programme on Saturday 27th January.

This session focussed in on encouraging the athletes to lead a healthy lifestyle off the bike or out the car / kart, to ensure that they maximise their time when it counts on competition day. The SMS Academy coaches delivered



workshops on nutrition & hydration and fitness for motorsport. The aim of these sessions was not to prescribe what the athletes should be eating or drinking, or what fitness plan they should be following. Instead, the focus – as with all aspects of the Academy syllabus - was to build the athletes understanding on the theories behind nutrition and fitness, in order to help them to make more informed choices about their own diets and training requirements.

Fittingly, the Academy athletes were joined for part of the day by the Minister for Public Health and Sport, Aileen Campbell. Ms Campbell not only took part in the morning’s nutrition workshop – she was also given a first-hand introduction to the sport with a Trials bike balance challenge and a passenger lap around the undulating Knockhill Racing Circuit!

Commenting off the back of her eventful visit, Aileen said:



“ It’s great to be here today at Knockhill to see in action Scottish Motorsports’ Academy system to see how well the young people are responding to the hints, the tips, the tuition, and the nurturing and the care that clearly the governing body is putting into the next generation of motorsport stars. We do have a rich history of motorsports in Scotland and that’s why it’s so important to preserve that history and that legacy but also that we make sure we look to the future and support our sporting stars of the future and this is a great example of how important the academy is in achieving that aim.”

All in all, the day was deemed a success by the athletes who not only took a lot from the workshops but also enjoyed the experience of the minister's visit and hearing of her support for the Academy programme. SMS Academy athlete and Scottish sprint competitor, James Coltart, commented:

"On Saturday we had our second session of the Scottish Motor Sports Academy, and once again it did not disappoint. We looked at health and nutrition, which was not only helpful for our careers in motorsport but also for improving our personal lives as well. We also had the privilege of meeting Aileen Campbell - the Scottish Minister for Public Health and Sport - and were able to give her a slight insight into our world of motorsport. I'm looking forward to our third session and what else will be in store for us."



The next session is due to take place on the 11th April, where the Academy athletes will be getting technical, taking part in a session on vehicle dynamics and riding theory.



SMS Academy Photo Credit: JSHPix

SMS MEMBERSHIP SURVEY

The annual SMS membership survey has been completed for the 2017 year end. The survey highlighted a continued increase in combined SACU and MSA club membership in Scotland, with membership up 3% from 8962 in 2016 to 9223 in 2017.

Thank you to all the clubs who responded to the survey for your assistance in helping us to gather this important data.

SACU COACHING DEVELOPMENT

The SACU Coach Renewal Day, organised by SACU Office Manager Charles Mackenzie, was held on 3rd February 2018. The day – which is mandatory for SACU coaches looking to renew their coach certificate - is run every three years to ensure coaches are up to date with best practice in areas such as child protection and risk assessing.

SMS Development Manager, Rory Bryant, attended the day for the first time and delivered sessions on youth rider development and working with elite athletes. In addition, Rory delivered a presentation on the future SACU coaching structure. This followed the approval in December 2017 - from the SACU board - of a new SACU Coaching structure proposal, which has been developed by SMS over the past year.

This proposal outlines a new three tier coaching structure for the SACU that is set for full implementation by 2020. The structure makes use of the experience that the MSA have gained in the development of their coaching structure and is intended to develop a coaching workforce that can appropriately support riders of all levels in Scotland.

Following the presentation, SACU coaches will be invited to attend one of the MSA's 'Introduction to coaching courses' to provide feedback on the course from an SACU perspective to allow us to start creating the first step of the new structure. In addition, two Kingdom Off Road Motorcycle coaches - Kevin Murray and David Bryce – recently completed the MSA Level 2 coaching qualification and their experience will provide some useful feedback for the development of the SACU Level 2 coaching equivalent.

SACU COACHING STRUCTURE

INTRODUCTION TO COACHING



SACU LEVEL 1 COACHING AWARD



SACU LEVEL 2 COACHING AWARD

WEST OF SCOTLAND KART CLUB SCHOOL PROGRAMME LAUNCH

On 5th February, West of Scotland Kart Club and SMS Development Officer, Gillian Sefton, visited Trinity High School and spoke to their assembly about the launch of the club's new school programme.

The initiative, which is running in partnership with Active Schools South Lanarkshire, will see 12 selected pupils from S2 attend four sessions at the club's Larkhall track. Interested pupils have been invited to apply for the 12 available places and so far there has been a strong response.



The programme, which will start in March, will provide students with a comprehensive introduction to the sport of karting; the club's MSA qualified coaches, Iain Brown and Chris McLean, will teach the students about karting techniques, initially on a simulator before graduating to a corporate kart and finally a race kart. In addition, club officials will teach the participants about the basics of kart maintenance and marshalling. The programme will culminate in a practical assessment of the students driving, mechanical skills and marshalling knowledge, with WSKC certificates awarded to successful participants.

The aim of the initiative is to raise the profile of the sport and club within the local community. Through introducing young people to the thrill of karting, with proper coaching and support, it is of course hoped that this will result in some of the participants continuing their involvement within the club after the programme is complete; be that in the driving seat, as a marshal or as a mechanic. However, the programme is equally about helping young people to develop by giving them the opportunity to acquire new skill sets that can't necessarily be learned within the classroom environment.

Paul Wright, Active Schools co-ordinator for South Lanarkshire, commented:

"Active Schools are delighted to be working with West of Scotland Karting Club and Scottish Motor Sports to bring this fantastic opportunity to the pupils of Trinity High School. We are excited to contribute to the development of the school karting programme, which promises to deliver an extremely valuable learning experience for our young people. The recent visit from WSKC captured the imagination of both staff and pupils. We are keen to track the progress of the pupils selected to participate, as they complete modules covering race craft, marshalling and maintenance. We hope also, given the nature of the sport, that this unique experience will awaken interest in scientific, mechanical and technical studies - perhaps even shaping the career ambitions of those taking part."

Providing the first delivery of the programme is successful, it is the intention to develop it into a more regular and comprehensive part of the clubs future activities.

FOCUS CLUB SELECTION

Following the launch of the Focus Club selection process at the SMS Club Development day last November, applications for clubs to receive SMS Focus Club support closed on 12th January. This new approach to club support will see SMS Development Officer, Gillian Sefton, work with eight clubs to deliver their individual objectives in 2018.

Off the back of the application process, we have committed to supporting the following SACU and MSA clubs:

- Kingdom Off Road Motorcycle Club
- MX Scotland
- Dunfermline & District MC
- Galloway Motorcycle Club
- East Ayrshire Car Club
- West of Scotland Kart Club
- Monklands Sporting Car Club
- Highland Car Club

SMS Development Officer, Gillian Sefton, commented:

"I'm delighted to be working with each of these clubs as individually they are all very different but share the common traits of having strong core values, drive to succeed and clear plans for the future. Although I've only been working with the clubs for a month at this point, we have already begun to make significant progress and there are a few exciting projects in the pipeline. Watch this space!"

Whilst development work will be focussed in on supporting these clubs, it is not to say that we cannot support other clubs throughout the year and would still encourage clubs to get in touch if you have any challenges or ideas that you would like assistance with in 2018.

LEVEL 2 COACHING QUALIFICATION



12 coaches successfully completed the MSA Level 2 Coaching Qualification, which was delivered by experienced tutors, James Wozencroft and Brian Cameron, at Knockhill Racing circuit across the weekends of 3rd & 4th February (Block 1) and 17th & 18th February (Block 2).

Participants in the qualification came from a variety of clubs and disciplines, from those with sprinting backgrounds to those with experience in rallying and racing. Two coaches from Kingdom Off Road Motorcycle club also took part; whilst

the course is designed with 4 wheel coaches in mind, the majority of the course content is focussed

on the art of coaching, over building technical knowledge, so, according to Kevin Murray, it was still a valuable experience:

After nearly 20 years coaching on motorcycles, which can be very sport specific, the level 2 course allowed me to see a more generic approach. Nicely delivered with group participation adding lots of different perspectives it was fun to see techniques I regularly use being applied in different ways and working out the best ways to apply new techniques learned on the course. It encouraged me to work out new methods for my next session so I can't wait to try them out on the track!

Super Lap Scotland driver and Disability Motorsport Scotland Trustee, Colin Duthie, also completed the level 2 and in doing so made history in becoming the first ever disabled person to do so. Colin and his colleague, Robert Jobson – who also completed the qualification – will now use the knowledge gained to enhance the fantastic work they do delivering motorsport taster session to those with a disability across Scotland.



"I am extremely humbled and delighted to have been given the opportunity to attend the course and qualify, especially as the first disabled MSA Level 2 motorsport coach in the UK. The course has given me the knowledge and confidence to coach for Disability Motorsport Scotland. Hopefully more disabled people will be inspired to apply for a motorsport coaching qualification. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Scottish Motor Sports and the Motorsports Association for all their support". Colin Duthie

Following on from the last level 2 delivery in 2016, this recent delivery now means that there are 30 qualified level 2 coaches in Scotland, coaching in a range of different motorsport settings, which is a significant step forwards towards developing a positive coaching culture within Scottish motorsport.