

Chairman's Report to the September General Meeting of SAMSC

As I sit down to write this report, the news has just come in that the MSA have appointed Hugh Chambers to the role of Chief Executive Officer from 1 November 2018. On behalf of SAMC I welcome this news and look forward to working with him.

On the subject of appointments, I can also inform you that at the recent Regional Committee meeting, Nicky Moffitt was re-elected as chairman but existing vice chair, John Arnold, decided to step down and I was proposed and then elected to replace him.

Still on people matters, Rory will perhaps include in his report the news that Tom Purves has announced his intention to step down as chairman of SMS. Again, on behalf of SAMSC, I want to thank Tom for his leadership of SMS since its early beginning as just an idea to move the sport forward to where it is now with two full time development staff and a series of initiatives that are held out as exemplars in other parts of the UK. The process to appoint a new chair is just getting under way.

It's that time of year for the regular reminder to you all to think about perhaps nomination your own club for the MSA Club of the Year award and also thinking about the army of volunteers without whom events would not run. I know its not easy to single out individuals and clearly there are dozens if not hundreds of worthy candidates but please consider if anyone you know stands out as a 'star'.

I have followed the recent news about the cancelation of the Isle of Man round of the BRC. This then makes me think a little about what goes into running an MSA permitted motorsport event. It is not for me to say who or what has caused the IoM situation but what is very clear is that putting on events is no easy matter.

In almost all cases, it involves people doing, in their 'spare' time, what is in many cases, an almost full-time job especially in the weeks running up to the event itself. The various external authorities and agencies involved expect the same level of competence and professionalism as they do from full time event organisers. With the understandable focus on safety, this will not change any time soon. Our pool of resource is finite and clubs will need to consider this when they put together event calendars for 2019 and beyond.

I follow many SAMSC clubs on social media and also other motorsport and motoring threads including classic cars, drifting, marque days, stock cars etc. I have said before that there are perhaps too many events. Perhaps clubs need to get together and think about quality rather than quantity before we become buried under the barrage of demands on our time.

Rant over

Pete Weall

Chair Scottish Association of Motor Sport Clubs