

Cross Country Committee

Since the last meeting I have taken up the chairman's post on the Cross Country Committee (as well, as a result, as sitting on Motor Sports Council and the Rules Committee) following the untimely passing of the previous chairman, Dan Evans who will be sorely missed.

We met last week with the meeting focusing on:

- Increasing presence of Hybrid/Electric vehicles, where we are looking at what additional guidance would help clubs running events with EVs (especially production vehicles in, for example, Gymkhanas, trials etc)
- We are looking to press forward with safety guidance (similar to the SRSRs in Rallying) for Cross Country Challenge Events, to support organisers
- There was a discussion about ROPS systems – last year work was undertaken to make sure that any vehicles with a French style “High Cross” ROPS had been inspected, and no further vehicles of this type should be being constructed unless in accordance with the Blue Book. The introduction of the new regulation for Sports UTVs to be fitted with a Homologated ROPS has been delayed until the start of 2023
- The committee is focused this year on looking at ways to reduce the barriers to entry to the sport, including the costs, and in this regard we will be looking at ways to promote consistency of best practice and safety across all clubs. We are also looking at new ways to encourage younger competitors into the sport.
- We noted that the British Cross Country Championship is not running this year, following a lack of responses to the Motorsport UK Invitation to Tender exercise last year. This was disappointing given the strong following that the championship had built up, and Motorsport UK are looking at options for restarting the championship.

Rupert Hine
10 March 2022