



SMS Report

Gillian Sefton appointed as SMS Development Officer

The future growth and development of motor sport in Scotland has been strengthened by the appointment of Gillian Sefton as Development Officer for Scottish Motor Sports.

Gillian, 26, holds a Masters in Sports Management from the University of Stirling. Her professional career began with North Lanarkshire Leisure, where she worked as a Duty Officer before holding development positions with Scottish Swimming and Edinburgh Leisure. Laterally she has broadened her portfolio, working in sales and business development for Enterprise Car rental.

Gillian was appointed after a four-way interview process conducted by a small group of SMS members last month and began working with us on 18th July. Her role will focus on working with member clubs, to support them in all aspects of their development from club governance to membership recruitment initiatives. In conjunction with the SACC, Gillian has already begun working with a handful of clubs.

The full announcement on Gillian's appointment can be found [here](#)

Ignition Festival of Motoring

The weekend of the 5-7th August saw the inaugural Ignition Festival of Motoring event visit the SECC in Glasgow; a motoring festival that included exhibitions, driving displays and Glasgow's first ever street circuit.

Scottish Motor Sports coordinated a variety of activities at Ignition that aimed to encourage new interest and participation in motorsport. This included a large stand in the shows 'Motorsport Hall'. The stand played tribute to Scotland's rich heritage in the sport with displays of classic cars and bikes such as David Leslie's Eig2curie Ecosse Vauxhall Cavalier and Andrew Cowan's, London to Sydney Rally winning Hillman Hunter. More contemporary machinery was also displayed on the stand to highlight the various opportunities to participate in motorsport now.

The stand was manned by a mixture of SMS members and volunteers from two and four wheel motor sport across the two days, who worked hard to encourage members of the public to get involved in the sport; whether as a competitor or volunteer.

In addition, visitors at the show were able to get a first-hand taste for grassroots motorsport with Auto Test passenger rides, courtesy of Scottish Sporting Car Club. Despite some challenges with the wind and the car parks surface – which curtailed running at points across the weekend – the club ran passenger rides for over 250 people! Their efforts were supported by Go Motorsport RDO's, Alison Clark and Steve Johnson, as well as competitors and marshals from a variety of other clubs.

The Scottish Motor Racing Club brought a large contingent of marshals to run the events street circuit. The club's senior Clark of the course, Steve Burns, oversaw the running of the circuit which hosted a variety of displays including David Coulthard in the Red Bull F1 car.

Rally Working Group

At the last SACC meeting, the challenges facing Scottish rallying were debated. In response to this discussion, it was agreed that a Rally Working Group should be established to discuss the future of Scottish rallying. I volunteered to coordinate this group and on the 23rd August a Scottish Rally Working Group meeting was held in Edinburgh.

The working group comprised of: Dave Weston, Gordon Adam, John Fife, Trix Grant, Fergus Gray, Bruce Lyle, myself and Gillian Sefton.

The group concluded that, despite some perceptions, rallying is in quite a healthy state; entries in forest rallies have been on the increase since 2011, with single venue tarmac rallies frequently oversubscribed.

Despite this relatively healthy state, there are clearly still some key challenges facing the sport from both and organisers and competitors perspective. These challenges were discussed in detail and whilst some threats - such as a potential rise in forestry commission charges - were agreed to be beyond the remit of this group, the following challenges and corresponding actions were agreed.

Lack of volunteers for events

It was agreed that the lack of a comprehensive and shared marshalling database hinders organisers ability to effectively communicate upcoming volunteering opportunities. It was proposed that clubs should share their database of volunteers into one central point for the purposes of sending out a specific volunteering bulletin. Some clubs may choose not to (some may be unable to, for data protection reasons). John Fife volunteered to write a short marshalling bulletin each month that highlights upcoming events and could be distributed to all the volunteers on this database, and potentially through the main SACC newsletter also.

High cost of forest rallying is unappealing to newcomers and juniors

There is a need for a lower cost entry point into stage rallying to encourage both newcomers and juniors (j1000). The idea of running half mileage rallies was discussed to cater for this market. There could be a potential permit issue with this idea – the MSA may want events to have two permits, which could make the idea unviable. Dave Weston is going to discuss the idea with MSA and look at feasibility of running such events.

There is a lack of training for SRC/STRC juniors

SRC and STRC agreed that it would be worth collaborating on a training programme for their junior competitors. The first step is to get coaches qualified from each championship. STRC and SRC are to advise SMS on nominated individuals to go through the coaching programme. From there, SMS will support the creation of a joint junior programme for developing competitors.

There is a lack of awareness on how to get involved in rallying

The need to channel people's interest into grassroots disciplines was identified. John Fife previously went into schools to teach pupils about rallying by running a table top with classes. Schools liked this concept as it teaches pupils many skills (Ordinance Survey Map Reading, Time Keeping, Communication, Mathematics, Road Safety etc.) The group agreed that it would be worth looking at running a table top programme in schools. The key will be to run activity in an area where there are active road rally clubs and events.

At this stage a second rally working group meeting has not been proposed; progress with the relevant actions will dictate whether or not there is a requirement

MSA Coaching

As part of our ongoing commitment to developing a positive coaching culture within, we have organised for the MSA Level 2 Coaching qualification to be delivered at Knockhill in Scotland.

Until now, learners have had to travel to Mercedes Benz World, near London, to gain the qualification. Thanks to our partnership with sportscotland we have been able to subsidise each candidate's qualification by £400. This combined with the local delivery at Knockhill, will make the qualification much more accessible to Scottish candidates and at the time of writing, September's course is already on target to be the biggest delivery the MSA have ever had, with 15 people registered to take part.

We have been encouraging clubs and championships to nominate individuals to go through the coaching qualification and at time of writing we have people signed up from racing, rallying and auto test backgrounds. After the qualification is delivered in September, we will be working with the clubs and championships that have nominated the coaches to help them implement coaching programmes.

Student Motorsport

With the new academic year fast approaching, we have been working hard to develop the student club network and to help student clubs to hit the ground running with their membership recruitment drive during fresher's week. Earlier in the summer, we formed a student committee that comprises of members from various student motorsport clubs around the country. We formed this committee with the intention of creating a more unified approach to student motorsport across Scotland.

This committee has agreed on a National calendar of events which is highlighted in a leaflet that we have had specially designed to promote student motorsport. We created this leaflet to help give the clubs a slightly more tangible 'product to sell' to potential members during fresher's week. Kicking the student calendar off will be our 'Student Challenge' event at Knockhill on 1st October, which will allow new members the opportunity to sample Auto Testing, karting, Table Top rallying and Trials bike riding all in one day.

Throughout the year we will be working to build relationships between student clubs and mainstream MSA clubs. It is intended that these will be mutually beneficial relationships, whereby clubs support students with running their own events or entering their club events but also where clubs benefit from the volunteering potential that exist within student motorsport clubs.

Best regards,

Rory Bryant
National Development Manager