

Chairman's Report to the November General Meeting of SAMSC

For many people, the 2019 season is complete but my diary suggests that for others, there is still a lot of competitive miles to cover. Having just missed out on the final round of the tarmac rally championship in favour of a short break in the Canarian sunshine I now have 4 events over the next 5 weeks including the much anticipated return of the Jim Clark rally which will see a rare outing for me competing back reading the notes.

While I was away, there have been some important announcements from Motorsport UK. The first of these was the planned move from Colnbrook and then the news of changes to the competition licence structure and also the 2020 event permit fees. I know that both of these have given rise to discussion within clubs and on social media. I expected this to be the case having been in the privileged position of knowing it was coming.

These announcements should be understood in the context of the investment strategy also announced. What is clear is that the motorsport governing body is moving forward and is starting to do things that people have complained for many years that they were not.

It was always my intention to devote time to discuss all of this at the upcoming SAMC meeting. With so much ground to cover, I hope to see representatives from as many clubs as possible. I may be able to add more around the background to these decisions and might even be able to answer your questions. Any questions I can't answer will be collated and fed back to Motorsport UK. If you have any questions in mind already, please get them to me in advance so that I can do my best to get full answers.

I don't want to keep going over the same ground but the calendar congestion continues to put strain in particular on the volunteer resource. As everyone works on their plans for 2020, I have already been drawn into some contentious discussions around date clashes and I am seeing very little by way of conciliation or compromise from SAMSC member clubs and others. Note for example the recently published Scottish Rally championship calendar which has three rounds in as many weeks.

Clubs in England also run events close to us and in many cases, actually running through Scotland and they too make calls on our volunteers. There is little or no regard for other disciplines never mind though given to the need for any life outside Motorsport. I have been asked to intercede to resolve date clashes. Be very aware that you really don't want me to do that. If I had my way, no more than half of the current planned events would make it.

Come to think of it, unless organising clubs get this sorted, fewer than that might actually get enough competitors and/or marshals to actually run economically or safely.

A quick final call to everyone to consider putting either their club or individual volunteers forward for the various Motorsport UK awards. Full details are on their website and the closing date is 10 November.

Pete Weall

Chair Scottish Association of Motor Sport Clubs