



## **SMRC REPORT FOR SAMSC November 2019**

### **MEMBERSHIP & ENTRIES**

With our race season now concluded, we have had time to reflect and take stock of our performance over the year.

Overall, we have had a good year with average entries per race meeting up from 88 in 2018 to 102 this year. This is the first time in 4 years that our entries have increased, so we are pleased to have stopped the decline and to be back moving in the right direction.

Our Citroen C1 Cup has been a significant contributor to this growth, where 75% of drivers have been newcomers to the sport. Most of our other championships have remained static, although Formula Ford and Legends have been our Achilles heel with entries down about 30% in both classes; there is no one particular reason given for this decline but we suspect it is a combination of 'empty restaurant syndrome' and not attracting the national championship to Knockhill this year, in the case of Formula Ford.

Our membership has also grown by just over 20%; interestingly, our 'social membership' has grown comparatively more than our racing memberships, which we are attributing to the new member benefit offers we introduced earlier this year. We have also introduced a new marshals fellowship, which offers the benefits associated with club membership for a substantially discounted fee of £15, all of which is channelled into marshal social events and activities.

### **2020 CALENDAR**

Our 2020 calendar was announced last week:

- 5 April – Knockhill
- 3 May – Knockhill
- 6/7 June – Croft (all championships)
- 5 July – Knockhill (Anti-Clockwise)
- 25/26 July – Knockhill
- August – Celtic Speed Scottish MINI Cooper Cup away round (TBC)
- 13 September – Knockhill
- 11 October – Knockhill

The 2020 season sees us retain 6 events at Knockhill as well as an all championship away round to Croft, in June. This is the first time that the club has taken a full weekend hire of an away venue and organised an all championship away round.



There will be one anti-clockwise Knockhill event on 5<sup>th</sup> July which will be followed by a 'Best of Scottish Motorsport Weekend' on 25/26 July; we are working on plans for this event but it is anticipated that it will be a two day race meeting with visiting content and other motorsport activities running in parallel to create a stand out event.

Notably, we are pleased to have invited Super Lap Scotland to join us for our Croft and 25/26 July events. Following discussions with Knockhill, we feel this will be a mutually beneficial move that will help reduce the time commitments on our respective volunteer workforces and also help to create bigger events for competitors and spectators alike. In addition to this, we're working with national clubs to bring some further content to our 2-day croft meeting.

### **SMRC ESPORTS RACING CHAMPIONSHIP**

The semi-final of the inaugural SMRC Esports Racing Championship took place at Knockhill Racing Circuit on 2<sup>nd</sup> November, as competitors fought for a place in the Final and their chance to go from virtual to reality and compete in the opening round of next year's Scottish Legends Cars Championship.

The event saw 12 of the top competitors from the preceding qualifying rounds put through their paces across three challenges; a simulator assessment on the new SMRC Simulator rig, a karting time trial and an interview assessment.

An expert judging panel evaluated the participants over the day and consisted of; Graham Carroll (Red Bull Esports Driver), Malcolm McNab (SMRC Head Coach), Robert Reid (2001 World Rally Champion) and Rory Bryant (SMRC Business Development Manager). Their job was to select the two participants with the promise and potential to succeed in motorsport.

The semi-finalists were not given much in the way of detail on any of the tasks, to keep them on their toes and so that the judges could evaluate their ability to adapt and cope under pressure.

The simulator assessment saw the participant's challenged with driving around a figure of eight track configuration, at Oran Park in Australia, picked specifically for its obscure nature and because it is a track that drivers would most likely be unfamiliar with. They were given some time to familiarise themselves with the car (Skip Barber single seater) and were then asked to give some feedback on the car set-up (which had been deliberately set-up to be difficult to drive), before having the chance to go back out on track with a revised set-up to



set a lap time. Whilst lap time was taken into account in the scoring of this challenge, the judges – Graham and Malcolm – were mostly interested in the feedback the drivers provided and their overall approach to the task.

In the karting challenge, the drivers were all given two 15-minute sessions on a slippery track to set a lap time. Again, as well as lap time across the two sessions, the judges were evaluating the drivers approach to the session.

Finally, in the interview assessment, judges Robert and Rory were seeking to evaluate the participants attitude, levels of preparation and their hunger to progress in motorsport.

At the end of the day, the judges marked the participants across all the challenges, taking qualifying round performance into account also. After a lot of deliberation, they announced Kevin Ellis and Sam Corson as the two drivers who had performed best over the day.

The final of the competition takes place at the SMRC Awards dinner, at the Radisson Blu in Glasgow on 23 November. Tickets can be purchased via the following link: <https://www.smrc.co.uk/calendar/awards-dinner/>

Thanks to Knockhill who provided the media centre and kart track for this event.

## **RISING STARS PROGRAMME**

We have re-launched the SMRC Rising Stars programme for 2020, which aims to support Scottish drivers showing potential to succeed in the sport.

Six up and coming drivers will be selected for the Rising Stars programme, which aims to raise their profile and provide them with some of the tools required to progress within the sport.

The Rising Stars will be selected via an application process and will benefit from the following:

- A masterclass session on Sponsorship and their own development planning.
- Two complimentary coached sessions on the SMRC simulator
- Rising stars merchandise (soft shell and sports top)
- A Rising Stars badge to be worn on their race suit
- A profile under the new Rising stars section of the website



The successfully selected Rising Stars, will be presented with their new kit at the annual Awards Dinner on 23 November.

Applications have now closed but they were open to any current club member, regardless of age, currently competing in an SMRC championship and who are showing potential to progress in motorsport. In addition, we have reserved one place on the programme for an up and coming kart racer (aged 14 or over).

The programme is being funded thanks to entry fee proceeds from the Martin Ramsay Trophy race, on 6<sup>th</sup> October. The race celebrated the life of reigning XR2 Champion, Martin Ramsay. Martin was passionate about both motorsport and developing other people, so the SMRC Rising Stars initiative is a fitting tribute to him.

### **SMRC SIMULATOR**

We have purchased a club simulator for driver training and promotional purposes.

The simulator was used for the first time at the SMRC eSports Semi-final on 2<sup>nd</sup> November and will be used again for the final on 23 November.

Once established, the simulator will be used for coaching days and will be made available for members to hire for recreational or race preparation purposes. We are also happy to look at hiring this out to any clubs if it is of interest for promotional / training events.

**Rory Bryant**  
**SMRC Business Development Manager**