

## **Chairman's Report to the September General Meeting of SAMSC**

You cannot fail to have noticed that "the nights are fair drawing in". Summer is clearly passed and the 2019 motorsport season is moving towards its closing stages. Some winners are already known.

SAMSC congratulates Wallace Menzies for his consistent top finishes to secure the British Hillclimb Championship title with 6 rounds remaining. Congratulations also to Ewan Thorburn who has won both the Scottish Rally Championship and the BTRDA Championship. With two rounds to go as I write this, Willie Keaning is leading the British Autotest Championship.

Much of the attention over the past few weeks has been on the topic of Stage Rallies and in particular, the level of entries for them. The catalyst for this discussion is that most events in Scotland in 2019 have run with fewer entries than last year culminating in the cancellation of the Solway Coast Rally at the start of August. Organising clubs are looking very closely at the current financial model, especially for forest stage rallies, where the breakeven entry number leads them to make very difficult decisions.

An open meeting was held recently in Stirling attended by more than 130 people at which various views, ideas and options were exposed and explored. An online survey is also being conducted aimed primarily at the tarmac rally fraternity. It's also good to see that Motorsport UK is fully engaged with this activity. The situation leading to this situation is unfortunate but it is good to see that everyone seems to be trying to work together to find a pragmatic and realistic way forward.

One (of many) specific items discussed was the overall number of events and the calendar congestion which impacts not only on competitors trying to manage their time and budgets but also the draw on event officials and marshals. You will know that this was discussed at the last SAMSC General Meeting after which I wrote to all member clubs urging them to put forward their 2020 dates to Raymond by the end of August. I hope you have all done this so that we can identify, and if possible, try to resolve, any major clashes at our September meeting.

**Pete Weall**

Chair Scottish Association of Motor Sport Clubs