

## **Chairman's Report to the March 2020 AGM of SAMSC**

I have chosen to break with my own tradition of combining my AGM report with the General Meeting missive. I have done this so that I can concentrate on the formal annual review of 2019 and items that I feel are most relevant to the Annual General Meeting thus leaving me free to have my more usual ramble and rant in the less formal General Meeting report.

Up front in my Annual report, I want to record my personal thanks to my fellow Association Officers, Lock, Raymond, Keith and Grahame, for their work throughout the past year. Most of you will know that each of them is a dedicated motorsport volunteer. They attend many events up and down the country doing various roles and their commitment to SAMSC work is on top of that. The same goes for all of the various SAMSC co-ordinators who give their time generously to the work of the Association and my sincere thanks go to all of them and also to the numerous individuals from SAMSC clubs who have put themselves forward to sit on the various Motorsport UK Specialist Committees. The past year saw changes at Scottish Motor Sport (SMS) and my thanks go to Gillian and Shabaz for the work they have done with a number of member clubs. Finally, a personal acknowledgement from me to President, John Cleland; to Vice President, Bruce Lyle and to Motorsport UK Council representative, Sandy Denham on each of whom I rely for wise words when I ask them for input.

In my annual report last year, I shared some insight into the scale of Motorsport UK permitted events in Scotland. I have looked at this data again for 2019 and perhaps unsurprisingly, this shows a slight decline with around 8% fewer events being run. This was shared across all disciplines. Interestingly, the total number of competitors taking part in these events, at 8,000, was down by only 3%. It may be wrong to leap to any conclusions but this does perhaps suggest that there is a stable level of interest from competitors and that adding events does not increase this, rather it dilutes the level of entries across the events.

This time last year we were just coming to terms with some of the major developments at the Governing Body down in Colnbrook and this did not abate through 2019 culminating in some significant changes to licence and permit structures for the 2020 season. At our November 2019 meeting, Motorsport UK Commercial Director, Colin Clark, faced the challenges from SAMSC clubs head on. I intend to revisit this topic in the March General Meeting to get some early feedback on how this might be impacting on us.

Something else to mention from the November General Meeting is the topic of the event calendar congestion. I will pick up on this later but I want to put on record for the AGM that this might require the Association to start to take a harder line since there is some evidence that not all Motorsport UK registered clubs in Scotland are following the correct process as set out in the 'Blue Book'.

It would be remiss not to note that a significant achievement for motorsport in 2019 was the passing into law the appropriate regulations to run closed road events in Scotland. As a result of this, two previous events, the Jim Clark and Mull rallies, were both able to return after a break and both ran successfully. Both are due to return in 2020 when they are expected to be joined by another closed road rally run in the South West corner of Scotland. I also know of several other clubs who are actively looking at this format and who have already found that the work involved in putting on such events is not trivial.

The agenda for the AGM shows that the position of Chair is up for election on the agreed two year cycle along with that of Secretary and Calendar Manager. I confirm to the SAMSC member clubs that I am willing to put myself forward for re-election in line with the Association rules. In doing so, I want to remind everyone of SAMSC rule 5.3.1 that states that “no officer should serve more than four continuous terms in any one position”. My reason for drawing attention to this is not to pressure anyone into stepping down but to highlight to all SAMSC member clubs, the importance of succession planning and to ask everyone to consider how they might put themselves forward to support the ongoing work of SAMSC at all levels up to and including the executive officers.

I want to highlight to the 2020 AGM is that this is the 10<sup>th</sup> such meeting of the Association formally known as SACC following the joining together of ESACC and AWSMC to form a single Association from 1st January 2010. My involvement in the previous set up was limited to my occasional attendance at AWSMC meetings as a representative of the now defunct Lanarkshire Car Club and I was not involved in the joining together process and only became involved when elected to the Vice Chair position at the 2014 AGM and then as Chair in 2016. I get feedback from various sources about the Scottish Association saying that it is seen as being strong and effective and with that in mind, my final thanks go to all of the SAMSC member clubs and especially to those that are active participants in our lively quarterly meetings. Having said that, we should not be complacent and I am always open to ideas and suggestion about how we can improve the running of and develop the work of SAMSC.

**Peter Weall**

Chair Scottish Association of Motor Sports Clubs