

Chairman's Report "2" to the September 2020 General Meeting of SAMSC

I did promise/warn you that I might have more to add before the meeting. Ordinarily, I might leave most of this to be done verbally but I am also conscious of the need to try to keep control of the meeting running time and it would be disingenuous of me to cut anyone else short if I had spent too long on my comments from the chair.

Motorsport events under Covid19 restrictions

Firstly, an update on the latest Covid19 restrictions. Subsequent to my last note, the Greater Glasgow restrictions have been extended to include East Dunbartonshire so I am not allowed to host anyone in my home at all or visit in any other house anywhere. Outside of this area, as of today, the "rule of six" applies to social gatherings both inside and outside. I can confirm however that these limits do not apply to organised sporting events and that these are still covered by the agreed Motorsport UK protocols and subject to the prevailing Scottish Government guidelines (please use this link to see the latest):

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-events-sector-guidance/>

Remember that if your club is planning to run an event using a Motorsport UK permit, you must appoint a Covid19 Officer who should take responsibility for being fully familiar with the requirements. Everyone needs to keep in mind that these local restrictions are dynamic and can be varied right up to the day an event is due to take place. It is also the case that individual landowners may also have their own requirements and/or restrictions, as is currently the case with the English Forestry Commission. Also, a reminder to ALL Marshals and Officials that social distancing remains at two metres, unless you are following the one metre guidance and wearing suitable PPE.

Communication with event participants, including competitors and any of their support crew, is vital. Motorsport UK are aware that penalties are being imposed due to officials having to constantly remind some participants of the need to wear face coverings or comply with other COVID-19 provisions. If this happens, officials should initially remind participants of the need and the requirements to wear a face mask. These will have been clearly set out in advance either in the Final Instructions and/or Drivers Briefing. If a participant needs to be reminded a number of times, the issue should be brought to the attention of the Clerk of the Course (and Motorsport UK Steward if present) who will impose appropriate penalties. This may result in the participant being asked to leave the venue and would be considered "Refusal to obey the instructions of an Official".

2021 Licence Renewals

You may have noticed that the 2021 Officials' licence renewal and marshal registration forms have not been sent out during July/August in the normal way, due to the ongoing situation with COVID-19. Motorsport UK have confirmed that all 2020 Officials' licences and marshal registrations will be extended by 12 months and will remain valid for 2021. Licences/ID cards will not be replaced for 2021 and everyone should retain their 2020 card until 31 December 2021. This applies to all Officials' grades. I know that some competitors have also asked about the cost of unused 2020 competition licences and this is a matter that is under consideration at Motorsport UK.

2021 Stage Rally Dates

Calendar management remains one of the key functions for the Regional Association and you will hear Raymond make the usual plea for clubs to get their 2021 event dates to him as soon as possible. This remain important for everyone if we want to be realistic in managing the available volunteer resource. In the case of stage rallies however, there is an additional layer in that Motorsport UK have a sub committee that has oversight of event dates, especially those that require a Safety Delegate. Everyone involved, including this sub group, is well aware of the challenges faced when fixing dates, especially when these involve MOD venues, but can I very strongly encourage all clubs to put in their best estimate as early as possible to give everyone a chance to avoid unnecessary clashes.

Pete Weall

Chair Scottish Association of Motor Sports Clubs